



## 7th Annual Bowls for Hope Event to Benefit Assistance and Resource Center (ARC)

January 22, 2016 -- Each March the University of Wisconsin-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through the Bowls for Hope event where proceeds raised help a worthy organization make a difference in the St. Croix Valley. Assistance and Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) has been selected as the benefiting organization this year.

The 2016 Bowls for Hope event is Tuesday, March 8, from 5-7 p.m. at UW-River Falls. Tickets are on sale now.

For an entrance fee of \$25/adult and \$5/children age 12 and under, participants at the event may select and keep a bowl created in ceramic, pottery, fibers, wood and glass studio classes at UW-River Falls, River Falls High School, Meyer Middle School, the Renaissance Academy, or by area artists. Attendees may also sample, at no extra charge, soups donated and served by area restaurants. Guests have the opportunity to vote for their favorite soup. This year, a "Chefs' Choice Award" will also be awarded to the soup favored by the chefs participating in the event.

ARC provides short-term financial assistance to members of the community to help meet basic needs and provide access to additional resources. ARC believes that we are a community of neighbors who should care for one another in times of need.

"The board members of ARC are incredibly honored and humbled to be this year's Bowls for Hope recipient," said Paige Miller, a grant writer and ARC board member. "More than the provision of financial assistance to families and individuals in need, ARC's vision is to create, at some small level, both a greater sense of dignity and hope for those we directly serve and also solidarity in the community at large. We know, however, that we couldn't do the work we do without the support of a

variety of agencies and fundraisers--like Bowls for Hope."

For more information on Assistance & Resource Center, Inc., visit <http://www.arcriverfalls.org>.

**Participating restaurants are:** Belle Vinez, Bo's 'N Mine, Copper Kettle, Dish and the Spoon Café, Kilkarney Hills, Perkins Family Restaurant & Bakery, River Falls Hospital Sodexo Dining Services, Riverwalk Event Room & Kitchen, South Fork Café, UWRF Chartwells Dining Services, West Wind Supper Club, and Whole Earth Grocery.

**Artists contributing bowls are:** Marilyn Anderson, Ingrid Bjerstedt-Rogers, Katie Burce, Cathi Herriman, Jay Jensen, Doug Johnson, Randy Johnston, Jennifer King, Michael Luethmers, Pat McCardle, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Wendy Olson, Doug Peterson, S.C. Rolf, Scott Zeinert, Rhonda Willers, Randy Johnston's ceramic classes at UWRF, Eoin Breadon's Glass Studio Class, Renaissance Academy classes taught by Anne Buchholz and Kyle Stapleton, River Falls High School pottery classes taught by Gina Pedriana-Basche, and Kelyn King's class at Meyer Middle School.

Live piano music will be provided throughout the evening.

### **Tickets**

Tickets can be purchased at the River Falls Chamber of Commerce located at 215 West Maple Street or at the UWRF Chancellor's Office located in 116 North Hall. For questions about advanced ticket sales, call 715-425-3201. Tickets will also be available at the door. Purchasing tickets in advance will guarantee a bowl.

## More Than \$800,000 in Grants Awarded to UW-River Falls Plant and Earth Science Faculty

January 22, 2016 -- Faculty in the Plant and Earth Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls were recently awarded three separate grants from the USDA, totaling more than \$800,000. The projects will not only enhance UW-River Falls student learning but will also engage and benefit growers, producers, area residents and youth.

Under the direction of Brian Smith, UWRF professor of horticulture/commercial small fruit extension specialist, the first project will support the development of new cold-hardy seedless table, juice, and raisin grape cultivars.

The Wisconsin winery and grape growing industries, while still in their infancy, contributed more than \$119.8 million in economic impact to the state in 2011. Much of their success can be attributed to recent releases of cold-hardy wine grape cultivars from university breeding programs in the upper Midwest. The table or dessert grape segment of the industry is underserved. Currently, 46 percent of table grapes come from sources outside the U.S., but the past decade has seen a resurgence in diversified fresh market fruit production, driven by consumer demand for more locally produced foods. Wine grape growers, tree fruit, and small fruit producers have most of the equipment, knowledge and marketing strategies to incorporate table grapes into their production systems. With new cold-hardy, high yielding, superior quality cultivars for fresh grape production, and the existing wine grape industry, grapes would be a value-added fruit crop that could rival the cranberry industry for economic importance in Wisconsin.

The second project will fill a need in the Crops and Soils program for forage/soil quality and grazing management field instrumentation. Yoana Newman, UWRF assistant professor of crop science/forage extension specialist, and Natasha Macnack, UWRF assistant professor of soil science, collaborated on the proposal that will fund the purchase of two field instruments with sophisticated optical sensor technology.

One instrument will measure and quantify the variability of the crop in the field and create a targeted prescription for fertilizer applications to address the variability. The second instrument will use near infrared (NIR) technology to quantify the moisture, starch, protein, fiber, ash and fat in forages and grains, in a matter of seconds.

Students will use the new technology in the classroom, in laboratory and field exercises, and for undergraduate research. In her Extension work as a forage specialist, Newman will capitalize on the existing on-farm grazing workshops, and use the instrumentation in field demonstrations to increase awareness among producers of the importance of forage and soil testing for production and profitability.

The third project addresses "A Multigenerational Approach to Increasing the Resilience of Agricultural, Natural and Social Landscapes." It is a collaborative effort between Jill Coleman-Wasik, UWRF assistant professor of environmental science, Jarod Blades, UWRF assistant professor of conservation, and Veronica Justen, UWRF assistant professor of crop science.

The average citizen recognizes the need for agricultural production, but also the challenges such production can create to maintaining environmental quality. Increasing community awareness about these competing issues and improving communication among stakeholders and land managers would ideally result in effective, inclusive policy development and

on-the-ground changes to land management. The overarching goal of this project is to create a regional model of community sustainability. By fostering a broad community land use discussion around meaningful incorporation of ecological services into agricultural landscapes within the Kinnickinnic River watershed, this project seeks to protect environmental quality while maintaining regional economic productivity and strengthening social institutions.

Information and expertise from regional stakeholders will be integrated into a new experiential-based, transdisciplinary course focused on holistic approaches to land management. Undergraduate research internships, developed with stakeholder input, will help inform the discussion and guide the land management decision-making process.

The knowledge gained through the stakeholder workshops and research internships will form the core content of summer camps and workforce development programs for middle school, high school and college youth under-represented in STEM and agriculture, that will be developed by partners at the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center and the Science Museum of Minnesota. This project builds upon a UW-System Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant that Blades and Coleman-Wasik were awarded in 2014 to create the Kinni Watershed Consortium.

Financial support for the development of fresh grape cultivars is being provided through a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection with funds from the USDA. The other two projects are supported by grants from the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture through their Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program.

For more information, contact Laura Walsh in the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science at 715-425-4714 or [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).

## New Federal Perkins Loan Extension Act of 2015 Will Positively Impact Hundreds of UW-River Falls Students

January 11, 2016 --Since Sept. 30, 2015, many students who had relied on the Perkins Loan Program were left empty handed. The program's September lapse cut off the ability of approximately 1,500 colleges and universities across the country to make low interest loans to students just starting college. But, with the passing of the Federal Perkins Loan Extension Act of 2015 on Dec. 18, 2015, it looks like these students are going to get a second chance.

Since 2012, almost 3,000 UW-River Falls students have taken advantage of the Perkins Loan Program providing a critical way to pay for college expenses. With the program's end, these students were left with limited options and increasing costs. The new two-year program extension will allow current and new undergraduate borrowers to complete the 2017-18 academic year with support of Perkins Loans. Graduate students will also receive an additional year of eligibility through Sept. 30, 2016.

The much celebrated passing of the Federal Perkins Loan Extension Act will allow colleges and universities to once again offer low-interest, federally subsidized loans as well as a variety of forgiveness and cancellation options to students with exceptional financial need. Although the program will expire in two years for undergraduates and will not be renewed again, it is a welcome relief to its borrowers who are predominantly from lower income families and are often the first in their family to attend college.

For more information, contact the UW-River Falls Financial Aid Office at 715-425-3141.



## University of Wisconsin-River Falls Reaches \$20 Million Fundraising Milestone Six Months Early

January 19, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen announced today that the university has met its \$20 million campaign goal much sooner than anticipated.

The Rising to Distinction Campaign, which is the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, was launched in 2011 to help UW-River Falls pursue the goals of its new strategic plan. Private support provides increased funding for student scholarships, improved and enhanced learning opportunities, and new facilities. With a goal of reaching \$20 million by June 30, 2016 – the campaign fundraising effort well exceeded expectations, reaching that milestone six months early.

"The success of the Rising to Distinction Campaign, made possible by the generous support of our alumni and friends through the UWRF Foundation, represents a milestone in the university's history," said Chancellor Van Galen. "The impact of the campaign will be great, providing support for our strategic goals and helping us to provide high-quality, affordable educational opportunities to current and future students. I am deeply grateful to those who helped make this moment possible."

"When we started this journey we weren't sure where or when it would end," explained Campaign Chair Bill Boehm, '70. "Surpassing the original goal is an accomplishment to be celebrated. Plus we've begun to build a base and developed a degree of confidence that private support can be an increasingly important part of the future for UWRF."

### Ten Thousand Donors

To date 10,153 unique donors have paid and pledged \$20.2 million to bring the university's vision to fruition. It is only through these generous gifts that UW-River Falls will be able to pursue the goals of its new strategic plan, Pathway to Distinction,

which includes:

- Attaining distinctive academic excellence
- Promoting global education and engagement
- Fostering innovation and partnerships

Perhaps most incredibly, more than 91 percent of pledges, which is well beyond the national average, have already been paid.

"Not only is reaching the goal a monumental accomplishment, but having so many pledges fulfilled has already had tremendous impact on the university," said Chris Mueller, UWRF assistant chancellor of University Advancement and president of the UWRF Foundation. "This is a clear sign of the importance of the university to those who support it."

### **Widespread Impact**

From student scholarships to academic program and faculty support to infrastructure improvements throughout campus, the \$20 million that has been committed supports very specific initiatives across the university.

A few of the many highlights of the initial campaign to date include:

- Increasing privately funded scholarships from \$588,000 in 2011-12 to \$1,235,000 in 2015-16.
- Creation of the Falcon Scholars program that competitively awards 80 four-year scholarships to entering freshmen and, through student matching funds, offers the Falcon Scholars additional funding for study abroad or undergraduate research.
- Renovation of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field that was rededicated on Sept. 19, 2015.
- Construction of the Falcon Center, a \$63 million state-funded project supported by \$2 million in private gifts, which will conclude in 2017.
- Renovation of the Dairy Pilot Plant, where UWRF students make ice cream and cheese, expected in 2017.
- Inauguration of the Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professorships in Art and History, supported by a gift from Dr. John Bryant Wyman, the university's first living million-dollar donor.
- Annual Scholarship Benefit dinners to support the Falcon Scholars program which featured speakers Bart Starr, Bob Woodward, and Daymond John.

### **More to Accomplish**

While pausing to celebrate and acknowledge this stellar accomplishment, university and campaign leaders also emphasized that much remains to be done before the official June 2016 close of the campaign, and beyond.

In the final six months of the Rising to Distinction Campaign, active fundraising will continue on a wide variety of priorities, with special attention given to increased funding for the Falcon Scholars program and completing fundraising for the Falcon Center project.

"Whenever a campaign goal is met, there is the tendency to feel that the work is accomplished," said Mueller. "In reality, while we have surpassed the original goal, we still have priorities and commitments that need to be met. The campaign has raised

the bar on what we can accomplish through fundraising at UW-River Falls, and we must continue to achieve this level of funding for the university to be successful."

### **Generous Gifts**

An influx of gifts at the end of 2015 enabled UWRF to cross the \$20 million threshold six months before the June 30 campaign conclusion. One of those commitments is from the RCU Foundation for the RCU Foundation Community Room in the soon-to-be-completed Falcon Center.

"The RCU Foundation's purpose is to create a positive impact in the lives we touch and the communities we serve," said John Sackett, president of the RCU Foundation. "The Rising to Distinction Campaign offered, with its wide-spread impact on UW-River Falls and the community, an opportunity for the RCU Foundation to contribute to the strategic planning goals of the university and fulfill our purpose."

Other notable gifts include:

- Commitments from Greg and Donnette Wheelock, Arlin and Marilyn Albrecht, and the estate of Wayne Peterson to create the Falcon Scholars Million Dollar Match.
- Commitments from Associated Milk Producers Inc.; FOSS, North America, Inc.; and Kwik-Trip for the Dairy Pilot Plant renovation.
- A gift from the Mary Ella Jerome Family Foundation to name the Frances Cohler Coffee Concert Series.
- A commitment from Jeff and Kristi Cernohous to fund the feasibility study for new science facilities.
- An IRA rollover contribution from Dr. John Butler for the J.E. Butler Upper Class Cellular and Molecular Biology Scholarship, the J.E. Butler Sophomore Cellular and Molecular Biology Scholarship, and the John E. Butler International Research Endowment.
- An estate gift from Annette Blanchette for the Sally Margis University Staff Development Award and the Irene L. Blanchette Endowed Scholarship.

### **Campaign Celebration Planned**

A campaign celebration event scheduled for Sept. 23 is already in the initial planning stages. All those who contribute to the Rising to Distinction Campaign will be invited to attend. The event will highlight the many ways that private philanthropy has had an impact on the UW-River Falls campus.

For more details about the campaign, visit [www.uwrf.edu/RisingToDistinction](http://www.uwrf.edu/RisingToDistinction).



## UW-River Falls Offers Engineering Camp for Teens

January 13, 2016 -- Wisconsin and Minnesota teenagers with an interest in math and science can explore engineering when they attend a week-long summer camp on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus. The UW-River Falls and University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Engineering will host Camp Badger Exploring Engineering® on June 19-25 for students entering eighth grade in the fall and who apply by March 7.

The camp provides an introduction to the jobs and careers of various engineers with the goal of sparking an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines (STEM). Participants live in the UWRF residence halls and eat in the campus cafeteria.

"Experience has taught us that this is the best way to help young people understand engineering," said Camp Director Phillip O'Leary, a professor of engineering professional development at UW-Madison. "Campers are directly involved in the learning process and they leave with a better idea of what engineers do in real-life situations."

Each day campers follow a 12-hour schedule of activities, all facilitated and chaperoned by university faculty and college students. Popular activities are field trips to local companies and engineering facilities. Activities also include project-based exploration, hands-on exercises, team-building projects and small-group discussions. All campers receive a workbook with questions designed to guide journaling and discussion of their experiences. There are no tests.

"Through hands-on problem solving and working in teams students act like real-life engineers," said Dean Olson, associate dean of the UWRF College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science. Olson serves as the faculty coordinator for the camp on the River Falls campus. "Exposing campers to a wide range of careers in engineering is a great way to spark their interest, whether their passion is computers, bridge building, medicine or the environment."

This summer marks 18 years of successful camp sessions in Madison and the sixth summer on the UWRF campus. In addition to the camp session held in River Falls, there are five sessions held on the UW-Madison campus, and one at UW-Oshkosh. Interested students should submit their application materials no later than March 7 to be considered for the limited spots available in each camp session. Successful applicants will demonstrate determination, creativity, problem solving and time management skills, as well as the ability to get along well with others in a team environment. Cost for the full week, including lodging, meals and field trips, is \$595 per student. Campers are responsible for transportation from their homes to campus and back. Need-based scholarships are also available.

For additional information, including application forms, visit the [website](#) or contact Angela Whitaker in the UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education Office at 715-425-3261 or email to [angela.whitaker@uwrf.edu](mailto:angela.whitaker@uwrf.edu).

UWRF provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available [here](#).



## UW-River Falls Crop and Soil Science Student Graduates on the Fast Track

January 22, 2016 -- Joseph Markgraf came to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF) from his hometown of Antigo in August 2013, and left in December 2015 with his diploma in hand and a full-time position. Markgraf is one of only five students in the past 15 years who entered UW-River Falls with fewer than 10 credits and graduated in 2.5 years or less.

Markgraf first connected with UWRF at World Dairy Expo in 2012, when he stopped by the UWRF booth staffed by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). He ultimately chose to major in Crop and Soil Science with an emphasis in crop science.

It wasn't until his second semester at UWRF that he thought he might be able to graduate in less than four years. In order to pay for college, Markgraf had to work full-time, which left him with little time to himself. This difficult situation motivated him to complete his degree as soon as he could.

"Keep focused and stay determined," was his constant reminder to himself when his goal didn't seem possible.

His last semester at UWRF may have been his most challenging, he said. In August, he accepted a position with DuPont Pioneer, to partner with Cropping Central LLC, to be a sales agronomist based in Antigo. While completing his last 23 credits of coursework this past fall, Markgraf headed home every weekend to handle his new responsibilities, which included serving as a crop consultant and selling seed and crop insurance.

Despite spending less time at UWRF than most students, Markgraf said, "It opened my eyes to many different backgrounds, and with that different views and opinions."

"Joe was not only a hard-working and dedicated student, he was also a pleasure to have in class," said Don Taylor, UWRF professor of crop science and Markgraf's academic adviser. "He was more willing than most to question ideas and to find practical applications to the course materials. His comments and questions increased the interest for students and instructor."

Although he now has more control over his time, don't expect Markgraf to slow down too much. He intends to devote significant time to growing his business and also plans to be very active in the Antigo FFA Alumni and county Farm Bureau organizations. In addition, last May, Markgraf took another unusual step for someone so young when he purchased a home just north of Antigo.

Markgraf noted how the connections he made at UWRF are already showing up in his career.

"I believe I will run into many of the friends I made at UWRF quite often in the years to come," he said.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.



Ken Ecker, professor of Health and Human Performance at UW-River Falls, monitors a student on the treadmill.

## UW-River Falls Professor Ecker Honored for Sports Medicine Efforts

January 4, 2016--One of the nation's premiere sports medicine organizations has honored a University of Wisconsin-River Falls professor for his work in the field. Kenneth Ecker, a professor in the Health and Human Performance Department and a Fellow member of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), has received the 2015 Clinical Exercise Physiology Professional Achievement Award from the Midwest American College of Sports Medicine (MWACSM) for his efforts throughout the year.

"When I received the award, I was caught completely off-guard and very surprised," Ecker said. "Looking at all the qualified professionals from the six state region of MWACSM that could have been selected for this award, made it a truly humbling and honorable experience to be recognized by my professional peers."

The organization lauded Ecker's research, including an ongoing study into the health of UWRF's faculty and staff. Ecker has received several grants to understand the health status of university employees compared to other occupations.

"In the majority of higher education settings, the health of university employees has largely been overlooked," he said.

Ecker was also recognized for the development of a novel, multi-disciplinary phase 3-4 cardiac rehabilitation program on campus. Developed with the support of Hudson Hospital, the Heart Plus Wellness (HPW) program will allow students in the Clinical Exercise Physiology program to gain practical experience while helping cardiac-rehab patients regain and improve

their fitness and heart health.

In addition, Ecker has played an integral role in enhancing the clinical focus at the MWACSM annual meeting by facilitating a partnership with the Clinical Exercise Physiology Association (CEPA), an affiliate of ACSM.

The MWACSM chapter is composed of six states in the region. Their Professional Achievement Award recognizes the achievements of professionals from that region. Recipients must have at least one significant achievement in the past calendar year in areas like research, publications, philanthropy or patient/client-related successes.

For more information, call Ecker at 715-425-0635 or email [kenneth.ecker@uwrf.edu](mailto:kenneth.ecker@uwrf.edu).



Black Student Union's African Night (2013) featured students participating in a fashion show of African dress.

## Black History Month Celebrated at UW-River Falls

February 5, 2016 — The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is celebrating Black History Month by offering three public events hosted by the Black Student Union.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, the 14th Annual Soul Food Dinner features Bubba's Chicken, black-eyed peas, mac and cheese, collard greens, peach cobbler, and corn bread from 5-7 p.m. in Room 201 Rodli Hall. Pre-sale tickets are available in the University Center lobby from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through the event date. Pre-sale tickets are \$8; \$10 at the door. UWRF student pre-sale tickets are \$6; \$8 at the door. Takeout is \$10. Open to all.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, a representative from Black Lives Matter (BLM), Twin Cities, will speak about the history of BLM, where it started and what they stand for. Free and open to the public, the talk is from 6-8 p.m. in the St. Croix River Room in the University Center.

On Friday, Feb. 26, African Night features performances, a fashion show, and authentic food. Enjoy African cultural performances from 6-8 p.m. and authentic African cuisine from 8-9 p.m., all in Abbott Concert Hall in Kleinpell Fine Arts. The event is free and open to all.

For more information, email [mariemorella.kponou@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:mariemorella.kponou@my.uwrf.edu).



On the way to the conference, UW-River Falls Dairy Club students gathered at Sunrose Holsteins in Millersburg, Ind., for a tour of the Holstein operation. The farm also breeds St. Bernards.

## Dairy Club Students Take Second Place at Regional ADSA-SAD Conference

February 17, 2016 – University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Club students took home a second place finish in the junior division of the quiz bowl competition at the Midwest Regional American Dairy Science Association – Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD), Feb. 5-7 in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Fifty-five members of the UW-River Falls Dairy Club attended the meeting accompanied by Dennis Cooper, professor of dairy science, and one of the club's advisers. Twelve universities attended the conference that offered industry tours, educational sessions, intercollegiate competitions and networking opportunities.

UWRF fielded teams in both the junior and senior divisions of the quiz bowl competition. The junior team consisted of Trent Miller of Spring Valley; Charles Moore of Fennimore; Joel Olke of Manitowoc; and Andy Helmer of Plymouth. The senior team was made up of Cole Mark of Elmwood; Alex Huibregtse of Plymouth; Jacob Pintens of Dallas; and Sierra Solum of Rice Lake.

The Saturday program included industry tours and educational sessions. Attendees toured Kuehnert Dairy, a family-owned 6th generation dairy, and Blessing Farms, featuring registered Brown Swiss since 1936. In the afternoon, students chose three of five educational workshops: Dairy Marketing, Animal Welfare, Being an Entrepreneur, Employer and Employee Relationships, and Consumer Relations.

The formal program concluded with a banquet Saturday evening, followed by a dance. UW-River Falls was the smallest campus present in terms of total enrollment, but had the largest delegation at the conference and was honored at the banquet for that accomplishment. UWRF was also recognized for having the best participation in the educational workshops. A new officer team for the Midwest Regional Division was also installed that evening. Eryn Orth of Winona, Minn., retired as secretary/treasurer, while Moore was elected as 1st Vice President.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4714.

## Graduate Studies Scholarship Recipients Named at UW-River Falls

February 3, 2016 -- A University of Wisconsin-River Falls scholarship established to honor a Minnesota legislator has been awarded for the first time. Mike Collins of St. Paul, Minn. and Chelsey Turner of Spring Valley, both graduate students seeking teaching licensure at UW-River Falls, each received \$5,000 from the Bruce F. Vento Science Educator Scholarship.

The scholarship, which was established last year to honor the memory of U.S. Representative Vento, is targeted to support students pursuing a science education degree, a cause close to Vento's heart, according to Susan Vento, his widow. Before entering Congress, Vento was both a science and social studies teacher in a junior high school and a UW-River Falls graduate.

The scholarship recipients, both enrolled in the STEM*teach* program at UW-River Falls, were selected based upon academic standings and demonstrated financial need.

Turner said she was grateful to the Vento family for establishing the scholarship. Having worked several jobs to support her undergraduate education at UWRF, Turner said the scholarship enables her to focus solely on her graduate degree.

"I've always been scrambling to get enough money to get through school," Turner said. "When I learned I got the scholarship, I breathed a huge sigh of relief."

In addition to the Vento scholarship, several other STEM*teach* students were awarded \$3,000 scholarships funded by the National Science Foundation grant awarded to UW-River Falls in 2014 to establish the STEM*teach* program. These recipients are Nichelle Wollberg of Colfax, Erica Frear of Burnsville, Minn., Stephen Klebs of Hastings, Minn., Sheri White of Stillwater, Minn., and Alex Jones of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

All STEM*teach* candidates in good academic standing and enrolled in the winter term of the program are eligible to receive this scholarship, which is intended to provide financial support during the apprentice teaching requirement of the program.

The STEM*teach* graduate program began last June. It provides a pathway for candidates who majored in math or science as an undergraduate or have work experience in math and science fields, to obtain their Wisconsin teaching license for middle or high schools in one year. The program of study includes early hands-on experience in teaching and the option to continue studies to earn a master of science in education degree.

Applications are being accepted now for the second cohort of the STEM*teach* program that begins this summer. For more information about STEM*teach* or the scholarships, email [diane.bennett@uwrf.edu](mailto:diane.bennett@uwrf.edu) or visit <http://go.uwrf.edu/STEMteach>.



Matt Vonk, associate professor of physics, left, watches as Mark Timper, center, and Sarah Kapsner, right, both from Boyceville, prepare to test the wind power of the fan blades they built during their Science Olympiad session.

## More than 900 High School Students Compete in Science Olympiad Hosted by UW-River Falls

February 2, 2016 -- More than 900 students representing 34 high schools from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota competed in the fifth annual Science Olympiad competition at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Jan. 23.

The event featured 61 teams competing in all 23 National Science Olympiad events as well as five trial events specific to Wisconsin.

Team trophies were awarded to the top four teams in both the large and small school division (based on school size).

A team from Menomonie High School took top honors in the large team competition with teams from Mounds View (Minn.) High School, Wayzata (Minn.) High School and Eden Prairie (Minn.) High School placing second, third and fourth, respectively.

Medford Area Senior High School won the small team competition, followed by teams from Boyceville, Delano (Minn.), and Orono (Minn.) high schools, respectively.

Medals were awarded to the top four finishers in both divisions in all 28 events in the tournament.

**Top ten overall team scorers in the large school division were:**

1. Menomonie High School Maroon Team
2. Mounds View (Minn.) High School B Team
3. Mounds View (Minn.) High School A Team
4. Mounds View (Minn.) High School C Team
5. Wayzata (Minn.) High School Cuttlefish Team
6. Menomonie High School White Team
7. Eden Prairie (Minn.) High School A Team
8. Wausau West High School Gold Team
9. Eastview (Minn.) High School Lightning Team
10. Wayzata (Minn.) High School Chili Peppers Team

**Top ten overall team scorers in the small school division were:**

1. Medford Area High School Red Team
2. Boyceville High School Varsity Purple Team
3. Delano (Minn.) High School Team
4. Orono (Minn.) High School Team
5. Belleville High School Team
6. Lakeland Union High School Team
7. New Richmond High School Black Team
8. Denmark High School A Team
9. Shell Lake High School Gold Team
10. Waseca (Minn.) High School Team

UW-River Falls hosts the tournament to provide an opportunity for the students to hone their skills before they compete in Science Olympiad regional tournaments.

"We want to encourage and support enthusiasm for studying science, as well as showcase UW-River Falls as a destination location for studying STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)," said Earl Blodgett, tournament director and physics professor at UW-River Falls.

UWRF faculty, staff, alumni and current students supervised tournament events.

Information about the tournament and a list of the participating schools is available on the [Science Olympiad website](#). Full results of the tournament will be posted to the same site.

For further information on the UW-River Falls Science Olympiad tournament, contact Blodgett at 715-425-4056 or [earl.d.blodgett@uwrf.edu](mailto:earl.d.blodgett@uwrf.edu).

# UWRF's Summer Scholars Program Links Students, Faculty Mentors in Research

By Hayden Bosch

Falcon News Service

Posted February 24, 2016

This summer, up to 30 UW-River Falls students will be able to pair up with faculty — referred to as "mentors" — to conduct research projects related to their studies and earn a leg up in their futures.

The Summer Scholars program began in 2010, granting students the opportunity to "do" — rather than only read or learn about — their areas of study and to receive a stipend of \$3,000 in the process, with an additional \$500 available for relevant supplies and other expenses.

According to the program's website, "Undergraduates may propose to assist a faculty member in an on-going research, scholarly or creative project, or they may elect to work collaboratively with a mentor by designing a new project of mutual interest."

While the program has been competitive in past years, with an acceptance rate of around 25 percent, students will now have greater opportunities to take part. This summer, the program's sixth iteration will see its capacity triple from 10 to 30 student-faculty teams.

The program used to be attached to the campus Grants and Research office. It has since become a part of the Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (URSCA) office, which opened in 2013's spring semester.

A further change for the program is the broadening of its geographic scope, said as URSCA Director Lissa Schneider-Rebozo.

"In the past, we wanted an on-campus cohort, and because there were only 10 spots, the rule was that they had to do their research basically on campus," she said. "This summer... they can do their research on campus, or at a regional, national or even international location."

A "cohort" in this situation refers to the group of summer scholars for a given year.

The Summer Scholars program is open to students of all fields.

"Sometimes, if a student is from a program other than a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) area, they think something like this wouldn't be a program for which they would qualify," said Schneider-Rebozo, "and that isn't the case at all."

Schneider-Rebozo stressed that students should not worry about having an exceptionally high academic standing.

"We don't even ask (applicants) what their GPA is, and we don't ask to see their transcripts or DAR," she said. The only requirements for consideration are that the applicants be full-time students in good standing — holding a grade point average

equal to or greater than 2.0 — in the spring of their applications; that they remain full-time students in the fall after the program, graduating in December of the same year at the earliest; and that the student has a faculty member to work with.

Faculty mentors earn \$1,000, either as a stipend or for expenses. Each mentor is allowed to work with as many as three students on their respective research projects.

Schneider-Rebozo described the work between faculty mentors and students as "wonderful. And there can be a learning curve, depending. As a mentor the situation works best if you can be available to the student — ideally face-to-face — weekly." Skype is a good alternative, she said, if location or circumstance prevents a meeting in person. While the two work closely, she pointed out that students should in no way expect their mentors to hold their hands or do their assigned work for them.

The work expected from summer scholars has shifted since its inception. In the past, students were required to take part in full-time research for 10 weeks, and were not to take classes or other jobs. Now, because, as Schneider-Rebozo said with a laugh, "\$3,000 plus \$500 in expenses doesn't go quite as far as it used to," the expectation is for roughly 30 hours per week for nine weeks. Regardless of the change, "Typically, our best undergraduate researchers are working way more hours than the traditional 40," she said.

Schneider-Rebozo stressed the importance of knowing one's subject and plan of attack before applying. The application process is especially rigorous and must be filled out thoroughly. Involved are an introductory statement, background, statement of the problem to be addressed, significance of the problem and a discussion of existing research on the subject, objectives, methodology, timeline, detailed budget, and a detailed plan on spreading and informing others of one's work (not just on the UWRF campus).

"The first time a student writes a proposal like this, it can be really new for them," she explained. "We actually consider the proposal writing process almost as important for their professional development as the research project itself. They'll learn as much from writing this proposal — if they write it up well — as they will from pursuing that research."

The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. on March 10. Students can find the online application on the program's website, [www.uwrf.edu/URSCA/SummerScholarsProgram.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/URSCA/SummerScholarsProgram.cfm).

## UW-River Falls Art Faculty To Exhibit at The Phipps

Art Department faculty at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will present their artwork and research in a special exhibition partnership with The Phipps Center for the Arts, 109 Locust St., Hudson, from March 4-April 10.

Faculty artwork on view will include ceramics, printmaking, drawing, installation, fibers, sculpture, photography, glass and painting.

Artwork by UWRF Bachelor of Fine Arts students will also be on view at The Phipps as demonstrated in the department's mission. The mission of the UWRF Art Department is to provide in-depth and comprehensive exposure to and expertise in the visual arts, while providing a creative environment in which students develop aesthetic skills, conceptual thinking, visual awareness and technical expertise.

Faculty exhibiting their work are Randy Johnston, Bernice Ficek-Swenson, Brett Kallusky, Dan Paulus, Peter Mak, Lyz Wendland, Tracy Krumm, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Jeannine Kitzhaber, Ann Lawton, Eoin Breadon, Jeffrey Stenbom, Mary Rohl, Rhonda Willers and Heather Delisle.

An opening reception is Friday, March 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Phipps.

In addition to the exhibition in The Phipps galleries, UW-River Falls instructors and art historians Laura Sivert and Kaylee Spencer will present slide lectures on their recent research on Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theater at The Phipps. The talks are free and open to the public.

Sivert's talk will focus on representations of waterways in modern American art and visual depictions of the New Deal's hydroelectric project of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Spencer will share her investigations of Maya art and architecture in a presentation titled "Activating Architecture: Performance and Experience in the Ancient Maya World." High school students, college students, and lifelong learners are encouraged to attend.

Phipps Gallery hours are Sunday from noon-4:30 p.m. and Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Galleries are also open one hour prior to performances.

For more information, call the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## UW-River Falls Counseling Program Receives National Accreditation



February 18, 2016 -- The national Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) recently announced a full, eight-year accreditation for the Master of Science in Education program in the College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Mark Gillen, chair of the UWRF Counseling and School Psychology Department, said the accreditation is the result of more than six years of hard work from the program's faculty and staff to improve the program. It is the first time the program has received the national accreditation.

"We're very happy," Gillen said. "We knew we were making a better program."

For the last two years, Gillen said students have experienced new elective courses, practicum opportunities and a refurbished "flow" of classes as faculty collected data on the changes for the accreditation body.

"Students are excited about it," he said. "I've had students say they are proud to be a part of a program with such a rigorous curriculum."

CACREP sets the standards for the education of professional counselors, and this accreditation recognizes that the program substantially meets those national standards.

Obtaining the accreditation is a thorough and exhaustive process. It involved detailed examinations of the program's courses, and a site visit by an external peer-review team who scrutinized the program and the way it prepares future counselors.

Larry Solberg, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, said he was proud of the efforts made by the faculty and staff.

"This is a testament to the strength of our counseling program," Solberg said. "It recognizes the outstanding work of our faculty and the quality education we provide to our students."

The UWRF Counseling program's mission is to prepare school counselors who exhibit excellence in counseling practice and leadership, respect human dignity and cultural diversity in the broadest sense, and commit to lifelong personal and professional growth.

For more information, call Gillen at 715-425-3890.



## UW-River Falls MBA Program Moves Up in Listing of Top Programs

February 12, 2016 -- Moving up two spaces from 15 to 13, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Master of Business Administration program has once again landed a prestigious spot on Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's list of top MBA programs in the state.

The UW-River Falls MBA program is characterized by its flexibility for working adults, with evening classes offered at the Hudson Center in Hudson just 20 minutes from the central Twin Cities. The program's location in Hudson is an easy commute for MBA-seeking students from both Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Of the 17 universities receiving accolades, UW-River Falls is the only university located in the eastern metro area.

"We are excited about the growth of our AACSB accredited MBA program, one of only three AACSB accredited programs in the metropolitan area," said Michael Fronmueller, dean of the UWRF College of Business and Economics. "UW-River Falls has offered a high-quality program for over fifteen years and many of our graduates have benefited from their MBA experience and education. The program continues to grow with new students from the region as well as international students. We see a strong interest in our program, characterized by small class sizes, convenient scheduling, and high value for our students."

Students can complete the program in as few as 18 months. The program develops leadership, change management, global competence, and ethical decision-making skills.

For more information about the UW-River Falls MBA program, email Leanne Van Allen at [leanne.vanallen@uwrf.edu](mailto:leanne.vanallen@uwrf.edu) or visit [www.uwrf.edu/mba](http://www.uwrf.edu/mba).

# UW-River Falls Montessori Program Receives State Grant

February 1, 2016 -- Several Milwaukee-area Montessori schools will soon get professional training thanks to a state grant to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Montessori Program.

Melina Papadimitriou, the Montessori Program coordinator for UWRF's College of Education and Professional Studies, said the \$124,933 grant will fund highly interactive, hands-on workshops that models the Montessori philosophy and pedagogy. The grant will enable teachers in schools serving a high-need population — Lloyd Barbee Montessori, Craig Montessori, Highland Community School and MacDowell Montessori — to learn and practice new skills and techniques for addressing areas in math and literacy. The city of Milwaukee has the most public Montessori schools in the nation.

Beginning in April, 40 teachers, under the guidance of ten university instructors and eight specially trained mentors, will work to develop skills in Montessori teaching methods, with an emphasis on literacy and mathematics. The mentors will support the teachers throughout the year as they work to implement the new teaching strategies into their classrooms.

"Our goal is to impact education in Wisconsin and beyond in a significant way," Papadimitriou said. "Helping such large schools can serve as the beginning of us going into other school districts and supporting them."

The Montessori method is based on the research of Italian educator, anthropologist and physician Maria Montessori in the early 20th century. She developed her methods after observing children in learning environments.

Funding for the workshops was awarded through the Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality Program in a competitive application process. The program has the potential to receive a total of \$323,000 over a three-year period.

The Montessori graduate program is supported through the Office of Outreach and Continuing Education.

For more information, contact Papadimitriou in the UW-River Falls College of Education and Professional Studies at 715-425-0601 or [melina.papa@uwrf.edu](mailto:melina.papa@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls Music Department Hosts March Concerts

February 23, 2016—The Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting four public concerts in March.

\* The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert on Friday, March 4, is a noon event featuring Nataia Moiseeva, violin, and Layton "Skip" James, harpsichord, in "Music of the Baroque: Bach, Vivaldi and Mozart," in the William Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Parking can be found in pay lots behind the University Center and on the west side of North Hall. Coffee and refreshments follow the concert in the lobby. Free and open to all.

\* The St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra will present "Classics of Europe" on Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m. in the William Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UW-River Falls. Join Director Kristin Tjornehoj, and special guests Layton "Skip" James, harpsichord, and Natalia Moiseeva, violin, in Vivaldi's "Four Season: Winter and Spring." The musicians will also perform J.S. Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3," and "L'Arlésienne" by George Bizet. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/seniors, and \$2/students.

\* The UW-River Falls Music Department will present "Classics of the Band World" on Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the William Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Kristin Tjornehoj, director of the Symphony Band, and Gary Bird, director of the University Band, join forces to share music representing Sousa, Grainger, Persichetti, Beibel and more. Selections include "Foshay Tower March" by John Philip Sousa; "Fanfare and Allegro" by Clifton Williams; "Ave Maria" by Franz Beibl; "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" by Elliot del Borgo; "Alla Barocco" by Cesar Giovannini, and Persichetti's "Pageant." Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/seniors, and \$2/students.

\* The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert on Friday, March 25, is a noon event featuring Natalia Moiseeva, violin, Tanya Remenikova, cello, and Ivan Konev, piano, in the William Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Parking can

be found in pay lots behind the University Center and on the west side of North Hall. Coffee and refreshments follow the concert in the lobby. Free and open to all.

For further information, contact the UWRF Music Department at 715-425-3183, [kristin.tjernehoj@uwrf.edu](mailto:kristin.tjernehoj@uwrf.edu), or visit [www.uwrf.edu/music/events](http://www.uwrf.edu/music/events).

# UW-River Falls Student One of Three New Members Appointed to UW Board of Regents

February 15, 2016 - Gov. Scott Walker announced on Friday the appointment of University of Wisconsin-River Falls student Lisa Erickson to the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents. Erickson will replace Regent Nic Harsy as the non-traditional student on the Board whose term ends in May.

Erickson is in the Honors Program at UW-River Falls and is pursuing a degree in journalism with a food science minor. She previously owned a private, gourmet catering company called Wild Chow Catering and has also been a blog and television cooking segment host in Osceola. As a mother of four, Erickson writes a food column in the Osceola Sun newspaper and works as a counselor at the Tri-County Life Care Center.

"It is wonderful that a student from our campus has been selected to serve in this role," said Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "It is a tremendous opportunity and responsibility for Lisa, and an honor for which UW-River Falls is very proud."

One of 18 members on the Board of Regents, Erickson will help establish the policies and rules that govern the UW System, which is made up of 26 campuses and the statewide UW-Extension. The Board also plans how best to meet future state needs for collegiate education, sets admission standards, and approves university budgets.

"I have been quite impressed with Lisa's initiative and drive. When I saw the notice for a non-traditional student position opening on the UW System Board of Regents, I immediately thought of Lisa and encouraged her to apply. Obviously, Governor Walker saw that same thing!" said Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Tricia Davis. "I am very excited for Lisa and this amazing opportunity and experience that she will have representing UW System students on the board."

The other two new citizen members appointed Friday by the Governor are Tracey Klein and Bryan Steil. In his press release, Gov. Walker stated, "We look forward to the leadership of Tracey, Bryan, and Lisa and thank them for their willingness to serve in this capacity."

Sixteen of the 18 members of the Board of Regents are appointed by the Governor, and all serve without pay. Fourteen of the Regents are citizens who serve staggered seven-year terms and two UW System students are appointed for two-year terms. One of the two student members must be a non-traditional student, at least 24 years of age and who represents the views of non-traditional students, such as those who are employed or who are parents.

The three new appointees are considered Regent-designates until a final Senate confirmation. Their appointments are expected to be effective May 1.

For more information, email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu).



Madsen, Moon, and Zill at the South Pole, ready to head home on the C-130 plane in the background. Photo by Delia Tosi.

## UW-River Falls Student Part of NSF Antarctic Research Team

February 11, 2016 -- While many students dream of heading south for a break from the long, cold dark Wisconsin winters, University of Wisconsin-River Falls physics student Laura Moon, of River Falls, and Northern Illinois University College of Engineering student Robert Zill got the opportunity to trade it for the continuous sunlight of an Antarctic summer.

They joined UW-River Falls Physics Department chair and Professor Jim Madsen for a month-long research adventure that included nearly three weeks in Antarctica. The group was part of a National Science Foundation project studying solar storms using detectors at McMurdo Station on the coast of Antarctica, and the Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole.

The UW-River Falls project counts neutrons using detectors based on designs that go back more than 50 years. The neutron monitor at McMurdo is the longest continuously running experiment in Antarctica. It started collecting data in 1961, and hasn't stopped since. Occasionally, the sun goes into spasms and produces a burst of high energy particles. These extreme solar storms create continuous, invisible streams of high-energy particles, known as cosmic rays and can damage electronics, and even disable the electrical grid. The Antarctic research team is trying to understand how this happens, and if they can determine a way to provide an early alert.

The trip, that began January 1, lasted nearly four weeks. Madsen, who works on the Antarctic research with UWRF colleague and Assistant Professor Suruj Seunarine and University of Delaware Professor Paul Evenson, was excited to bring students to the "ice," the nickname for the frozen continent.

"We experienced almost every delay possible for Antarctica air travel, including the dreaded boomerang, a weather change during the flight that required us to return to New Zealand," said Madsen. "Despite the travel trials, the students kept a firm focus on the goals for the trip."

"What an amazing research experience in such an incredible place! It might be cold, windy, and dry, but it's really the people and the culture that makes it so special," Moon said, summing up the trip.

Zill, who decided to stay another month in New Zealand after returning from the ice, said "I knew we were going to a different continent, but it was more like going to a different planet!"

This is the fourth deployment for Madsen, who also took a student to the Antarctic's McMurdo Station last season. The Antarctic project is expected to continue for at least two more years. For more information, email [james.madsen@uwrf.edu](mailto:james.madsen@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls to Host Girls in SCIENCE Event

February 15, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host a Girls in SCIENCE: Seeing, Creating, Inventing, Exploring, Naming, Cooperating, and Experimenting event on campus Saturday, April 16. The program aims to encourage and promote girls' full participation in a wide range of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields.

Participants will meet scientists, professors, and UWRF students while cycling through several 40-minute fun, engaging activities. Morning topics will include astronomy and a planetarium show, chemistry, ecology and environmental studies, and DNA extraction. Afternoon topics will include computer science, aviation, biology and medicine, forensic science, and physics.

Girls in grades 4 and 5 will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on science activities from 8 a.m. to noon for a program fee of \$12. Girls in grades 6 through 8 will have a similar opportunity from 1-5:30 p.m. for a program fee of \$14. All participants will receive an event t-shirt and items to take home.

Registration is available online via [River Falls Community Education](#), or registration forms are available in the River Falls Community Education Winter/Spring 2016 Catalog. Please register by March 1. Please indicate the preferred t-shirt size when registering. Limited scholarships are available through a grant from Allina Health.

The event is sponsored by the UWRF Physics Department, UWRF College of Arts & Sciences, UWRF Women's & Gender Studies Program, and the River Falls Branch of AAUW.

Email [rellen.hardtke@uwrf.edu](mailto:rellen.hardtke@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4230 for more information.

# UW-River Falls to Host Open House for St. Croix Valley Bull Test March 12

February 15, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Department of Animal and Food Science, St. Croix Valley Bull Test, UW-River Falls Beef Management Team and UW-Extension will host an educational program and open house on Saturday, March 12, at the UW-River Falls Dairy Learning Center on the Mann Valley Farm, 129 South Glover Road, River Falls. As beef producers approach this spring and consider purchasing a replacement bull, this program will help in the decision-making process.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The program runs from 10 a.m. to noon and will feature two presentations related to purchasing a bull:

- EPD 101 – What do all these numbers mean and how do I use them in selection?
- What visually should I consider when selecting a bull?

Following the presentations, the UW-River Falls Beef Management Team will offer lunch for \$6 per person. After lunch, attendees will be able to preview the bulls for the sale. Consignors will also be available to answer questions.

For more information, email Amy Radunz, assistant professor of Animal Science, at [amy.radunz@uwrf.edu](mailto:amy.radunz@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls to Host TEDx Event Feb. 27

February 11, 2016 -- A free public event, TEDxUWRiverFalls, is being hosted Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1-5 p.m. in the University Center at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The independently organized event, licensed by TED, will feature UW-River Falls student and distinguished alumni voices and TED Talks videos under the theme of "Ideas Worth Spreading."

The free event requires pre-registration to attend and includes refreshments and networking opportunities.

Distinguished UW-River Falls alumni scheduled to speak include Mark Lacek and Cathy Wurzer.

Lacek, '79, is co-founder of BidPal Technologies, which specializes in wireless devices for charitable and silent auctions. He is also current managing partner of Denali Marketing, and cofounder of Bonfire Partners, a full service loyalty and brand-marketing agency.

Wurzer, '92, hosts Almanac on Twin Cities Public Television as well as Minnesota Public Radio's Morning Edition. Her book, "Tales of the Road: Highway 61," was published in 2008 by Minnesota Historical Society Press.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x=independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. Some of the best talks from TEDx events have gone on to be featured on TED.com and garnered millions of views from audiences across the globe.

For more information, including a list of speakers and event schedule updates, and to register to attend TEDxUWRiverFalls, visit [www.tedxuwriverriverfalls.com](http://www.tedxuwriverriverfalls.com).

Registration is now available [here](#). The event will also be live streamed for those who cannot attend.

For questions or necessary accommodations, email [studentinvolvement@uwrf.edu](mailto:studentinvolvement@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4444.

# UW-River Falls University Theatre Presents 'The White Snake'

February 12, 2016 -- The University Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will present "The White Snake" in the Blanche Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25-27 and March 3-5.

"The White Snake," by Tony Award-winning Mary Zimmerman, is a lively reimagining of an ancient Chinese legend. In the story, two learned snakes, White Snake and Green Snake, who have been cloistered on a mountaintop for centuries, begin to imagine what it would be like to join the two-legged creatures below. They transform themselves into maidens and descend the mountain to enjoy all the "music and fine food and wine" of humankind.

White Snake soon meets and falls in love with the poor but charming Xu Xian. The courtship of the couple is sweet, their subsequent marriage is blissful, and all seems well until Fa Hai, a holy man, schemes to sabotage their happiness. The ensuing conflicts set White Snake on a journey to a faraway forest and ultimately leads to a clash that pits sea against sky.

The cast, made up entirely of UW-River Falls students, includes Emma P. Johnson of Shoreview, Minn., as White Snake; Phelan Patten of Wausau as Green Snake; Karsten Halverson of Menomonie as Xu Xian; Josh Gustafson of Minocqua as Fa Hai; Mady Davis of Bayport, Minn., as Doubt, Moon, and others; Kat Rokenbrodt of Chippewa Falls as Crane Spirit, Guan Yin, and others; Katie Kolakowski of Hammond as Master Lin and others; Jessica Strabel of Siren as Madame Lin, Sister, and others; Nic Persoon of White Bear Lake, Minn., as Brother-in-law and others; Francisco Grande of Cusco, Peru, as Boatman and others; Ben Heer of Rice Lake as Canopus and others; and Emily Leonard of Ellsworth as Stag Spirit and others. Theatre Professor Robin Murray is directing the play. Tiffany Schwichtenberg of Chaska, Minn., is the stage manager.

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors (60+), and \$5/UWRF students with ID and children 12 and under. The Box Office, located in Kleinpell Fine Arts, will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 18-19, Feb. 22-24, Feb. 29, and March 1-2. On performance days, the Box Office opens at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person, by phone at 715-425-3114, or [online](#).

For more information, email [robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu](mailto:robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3097.

## 2016 St. Croix Summit to take place at UW-River Falls

March 4, 2016---Hosted by the St. Croix Basin Team and the St. Croix River Association, the 2016 St. Croix Summit will take place at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on March 22-23. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival will show 10 short films focused on environmental issues and the outdoors in conjunction with the summit on the evening of March 22.

This year's theme is Resiliency in Action: Communities and Resources. Speakers will share their expertise and insight on everything St. Croix from K-12 education to phosphorus reduction strategies, from growth development planning to invasive species management.

A community engagement workshop, "Getting Down to the Nitty Gritty: A Candid Discussion about Sediment Issues and Research within the Lake George and Lake Louise Impoundments along the Kinnickinnic River," will include a presentation of the Kinnickinnic watershed's current research findings and small and large group discussions about the research methodology and relevance as well as the direction of future research. The workshop will be led by UWRF students in the Community Decision Making and Collaboration class.

The summit is open to the public and to UWRF students. Registration is \$75 for March 22, \$60 for March 23 and \$120 for both days. UWRF students may apply for a scholarship to attend one or both days by emailing Monica Zachay at [monicaz@scramail.com](mailto:monicaz@scramail.com) or calling 715-483-3300.

For details and to register, visit [www.stcroixriverassociation.org](http://www.stcroixriverassociation.org).



The RED camera was used to film for the "I Am" campaign at UW-River Falls. Students working with the camera are, from left to right: Misturat Amode, Sydney Howell, Travis Kronk, and Mark Rolseth.

## Blockbuster film technology available to students at UW-River Falls

March 21, 2016 — Blockbuster film camera technology is available to students in the Stage in Screen Arts program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Erik Johnson, UW-River Falls assistant professor for Digital Film & Television, through a partnership with RED Digital Cinema, has obtained access to a rare Red camera for use within the Stage and Screen Arts program. The RED camera is the same technology used to shoot such Hollywood movies as "The Hobbit," "Avengers," "Robocop" and many other blockbuster films.

Standard daily rental rates for a RED camera would normally be about \$1,200 per day, so the use of the camera stands as an extremely generous donation from RED Digital Cinema and one that is attracting Stage and Screen Arts students from all over the area.

According to Johnson, the relationship with RED Digital Cinema started about four years ago after he introduced himself as a Digital Film & Television professor to Eoin Breadon, a professor from the UW-River Falls Art Department. Breadon shared that his father-in-law did some work for RED Digital Cinema, and Johnson used those connections to pitch the idea of a demo for UW-River Falls students.

"To my surprise the representative from RED, Nick Watkins, proposed that we could borrow a RED ONE Mysterium X camera

for 90 days," said Johnson. "The students were thrilled to gain valuable experience with a top-level camera and produced a series of projects with it."

The relationship with RED continued with Watkins visiting campus to conduct a demonstration with a new "RED Dragon" camera. Johnson then had the opportunity to visit RED Studios in 2013 in Hollywood as part of the Academy of Television Faculty Seminar. He and his students also visited the RED booth at the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas.

The partnership continued as Johnson and his students were once again able to borrow the RED ONE camera last year resulting in a series of short films that were a partnership with UWRF English Professor Joe Rein and his scriptwriting class. The continuation of the partnership was almost derailed when Watkins was reassigned from the Midwest to South America and the policies of "loaning" RED camera equipment were thought to be no longer available to Johnson and his class. However, RED Digital Cinema surprised Johnson by referring him to another representative who not only said they could use the camera again, but offered a newer and even higher end model in the Scarlet Mysterium X.

"The RED Scarlet recently arrived and the students and I are thrilled!" said Johnson. "We have been testing it out and just recently shot a high frame rate sequence of breaking glass that will be used in an upcoming Dance Theatre performance."

Plans are for the RED Scarlet camera to be used in the upcoming collaborative "I AM" campaign, a project created by the UWRF Fashion Team. The Fashion Team is a student club promoting positive representation of diverse individuals. This semester they are working on their "I AM" campaign showcasing students appearing in photographs and videos in traditional cultural garb including messages crafted with the intent of revealing more about whom each of the students is beyond solely their appearance.

The "I AM" live event is set for Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. Students from three UWRF classes (SASA Senior Capstone led by Johnson, Graphic Design taught by Dan Paulus and Photography with Brett Kallusky) will pitch ideas and then create a series of materials to help support the campaign in the form of videos, photos and graphic design projects that will serve to promote the event.

"It is a rare opportunity for students to be able to use state-of-the-art technology such as the Red and Scarlet cameras," said Johnson "To the best of my knowledge we are the only university in the UW-System that has access to this kind of equipment for use by our students and that's drawing a lot of positive attention."

For more information about the Scarlet and Red cameras or the UW-River Falls Stage & Screen Arts program, email [erik.johnson@uwrf.edu](mailto:erik.johnson@uwrf.edu).

# Bowls for Hope Event Brings Artists, Soup Chefs Together to Help Charity

By Ryan Funes

Falcon News Service

March 2, 2016

Artisans in River Falls and on the university campus are preparing clay vessels and soup for the upcoming Bowls for Hope charity event on Tuesday, March 8.

The event will continue what it has done in previous years, allowing people to donate money to a selected charity and in return pick their own handmade bowl and fill it with soup from local restaurants. Donations this year will go to Assistance & Resource Center, Inc., which gives short-term assistance to those who need help funding daily necessities. Almost all of the proceeds will be used to help the community at the center.

Bowls Coordinator Mary Van Galen said more than 200 people are involved in the event.

"The event would not be possible without everyone doing their part," Van Galen said. "That is what makes this event and community so special. We have middle school artists, high school artists, UW-River Falls students, and community artists that donate the bowls."

"There is just a tremendous amount of positive energy, generosity, and good will that surrounds this event," she added.

The past two years saw \$12,825 earned in the St. Croix Valley from the event. The sale of tickets to the event contributes the most.

According to Van Galen, the bowls for the event are donated through local schools, UWRF and community artists. Students at UWRF make anywhere between 125-175 bowls for the event.

One of the people who helps supervise those who make the bowls is Eoin Breadon, assistant professor of art and the faculty adviser to the Glass Club. This is the second year club members will donate their creations to Bowls for Hope.

"It's all done on their outside class time, coming in on weekends during open studio time to make bowls," Breadon said.

"They've been very excited, happy to do it, happy to be helpful, and happy to make a difference."

Making one bowl out of blown glass takes two people and about 30 minutes to two hours and depends on the shape and size of the bowl, Breadon said. It's hard enough to get glass to be shaped and curved like a bowl as it is, he said.

One of the new things being added this year is the Chef's Choice Award that will be given to the restaurant providing the best soup to the event as judged by all the other restaurants. All restaurants are local.

The Dish and Spoon Café is one such eatery and co-owner Abbie Testaberg was ecstatic at the thought of contributing another year to the charity.

"That's part of what we need to do to be present in our community and let people know who we are, and see that we are as committed to the community as they are committed to us," she said.

Bowls for Hope will run from 5-7 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. Tickets are \$25/adults and \$5/children ages 12 and younger. Tickets are available at the River Falls Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Maple St., or in the UWRF Chancellor's Office, 116 North Hall. Tickets also will be available at the door, but purchasing them in advance guarantees a bowl.

# Climate Summit set for April 9 at UW-River Falls

By Paul Langfellow

Falcon News Service

February 24, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host a Regional Climate Summit on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. The summit will feature a variety of distinguished speakers, roundtables and workshops focused on case studies of environmental issues.

The attendees at the summit will include student leaders of all 26 UW institutions as well as student leaders from Minnesota and the surrounding region, elected officials, nonprofit organizations, and businesses that have been involved with environmental sustainability.

In addition to having a variety of keynote speakers, the climate summit also will work with campus environmental groups such as the Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS) and the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture (SALSA).

Veronica Justen, assistant professor of crop science and SALSA adviser, is pleased about student involvement in the summit.

"I'm always happy when students are engaged and they plan these events primarily independent of faculty members," Justen said. "I love when they take the initiative to develop these types of activities for students on their own."

UWRF leaders are hoping that the summit will spike interest in the climate and the issues that surround it.

"I would like to see that it would just get a couple individuals more interested in or thinking more about how they impact the environment around them," said Jason Hubing, president of SALSA.

The summit originated after the Campus National Leadership Council, Defend our Future Foundation, and the Environmental Defense Fund approached UWRF to host the event.

The major undertaking of the project was started by Student Senate, which filed the application to host the summit. Student Senate President Chris Morgan outlined some of the aspects of the summit, which will address topics such as sustainability, environmental awareness, and how businesses can use environmentally beneficial practices.

"It's our hope that the majority of the events will happen April 9 in the Ballroom but also on April 9 we will be reserving rooms throughout the University Center to have workshops in, so there will be a local workshop, a federal workshop and a state workshop and in each one of those rooms they will have a case study," Morgan said. "For instance we could have (the city of) River Falls in to talk about their solar garden."

In addition to the climate summit on April 9, groups such as SALSA and ECOS will be hosting events, including a film series, for the entire month of April leading up to Earth Day on April 22.

For more information, email Morgan at [christopher.morgan@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:christopher.morgan@my.uwrf.edu).





## Falcon women's hockey team wins O'Brien Cup

March 5, 2016 (uwrfsports.com)--The Falcons got a pair of goals from the conference player of the year Chloe Kinsel, and Dani Sibley had a 4 point game with a goal and 3 assists as the Falcon women's hockey team won the O'Brien Cup 4-1 over visiting UW-Stevens Point at Hunt Arena Saturday afternoon.

The Falcons come out flying in the first period controlling the pace of the game and sustaining offensive pressure. The fast start by the Falcons lead to the Pointers taking a penalty at the 2:35 mark of the period. On the ensuing power play, the Falcons generated a couple of quality scoring chances but were unable to get on the board.

After the power play, the Falcons once again controlled the pace of the game generating a few more great scoring chances including a couple of shots that went past the Pointer goalie but just trickled wide of the net.

The Falcons would break the scoreless tie at the 11:07 mark of the period. Carina Randazoo took a shot from the point that the Pointer goaltender blocked up in the air and when it came down Kinsel slammed it into the back of the net. The goal was Kinsel's 23<sup>rd</sup> of the season.

The Falcon penalty killers would be tested at the 15:00 minute mark of the period when Amy Auran was called for checking. The Falcons would be up to the challenge as the defense blocked a couple of shots and Angie Hall made 2 big stops to keep the Falcons ahead 1-0.

After the power play, the Falcons would go on the offensive again generating a 2 on 1 scoring chance and a breakaway, but the Pointer netminder would make both saves and get a little luck, to keep the Pointers only down 1.

The period ended with the Falcons up 1-0. The shots in the first period were even with both teams registering 8.

The second period began much like the first with the Falcons controlling the game. The Falcons spent most of the first 3 shifts of the period in the offensive zone firing shots at the Pointer net looking for a 2 goal lead. The Falcons forced the Pointers to ice the puck twice within the first 3 minutes of the period.

The sustained pressure finally paid off for the Falcons at the 5:39 mark of the period. The Falcons set up a 2 on 1 odd man rush and Chloe Kinsel made a perfect saucer pass to Dani Sibley, who buried it into the back of the net putting the Falcons up 2-0. The goal was Sibley's 20<sup>th</sup> on the season and the assist by Kinsel was her 19<sup>th</sup> on the season.

After the goal, the Falcons would again sustain pressure in the offensive end but could not get the third goal. The Pointers got on the scoreboard at the 8:29 mark of the period when a shot from the point appeared to hit a high stick and go into the back of the net. The officials ruled it a good goal and getting credit it for it was Logan Harper. The goal made it a 2-1 hockey game.

Over the next ten minutes, the Falcons would control the game and the scoring chances. At the 15:26 mark of the period the Falcons would get a golden opportunity when the Pointers were called for tripping.

On the ensuing power play the Falcons were buzzing around the Point net, peppering the goalie with numerous shots and had a few shots go just wide. The Falcons were unable to add to their lead on the power play, but still had a 1 goal lead as the period ended with the Falcons up 2-1. The Falcons out shot the Pointers 10-8 in the second period.

The Falcons came out flying once again in the third period. The Falcons dominated the third period from start to finish. The Falcons generated scoring chances and controlled the puck most of the period. The Falcons kept the Pointers from sustaining any type of pressure in the offensive end.

The Falcons would get an opportunity to take a 2 goal lead at the 14:21 mark of the period when the Pointers were called for a cross checking penalty. The Falcons would need only 22 seconds on the power play to take a 3-1 lead. Paige Johnson took a shot from the point, Dani Sibley redirected it and Chloe Kinsel buried it into the back of the net. The goal was Kinsel's second of the game and 24<sup>th</sup> on the season.

After the power play, the Falcons really ramped up the intensity and looked to take a three goal lead and ice the game. Two minutes later at the 16:21 mark of the period the Falcons went up 4-1, when Carly Moran took a rebound from a Dani Sibley shot and fired it into the back of the net. The goal was Carly's 20<sup>th</sup> of the season and the assist was Sibley's third of the game and 18<sup>th</sup> on the season.

The Falcons began to feel it after the goal, but the excitement was put on hold when Carina Randazzo was called for tripping at the 18:10 mark of the period. The Pointers would pull their goalie on the power play, giving them a 2 man advantage. The Falcon penalty killers and netminder were up to the challenge turning away multiple shots and keeping the Falcons up 3.

The third period ended with Falcons winning the O'Brien cup 4-1. The shots on the day were dead even at 26, but Angie Hall's 25 saves helped seal the victory for the Falcons.



## Falcons fall in national title game; cap season with runner-up finish

March 19, 2016--PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. --The UW-River Falls women's hockey team battled two-time defending national champion SUNY Plattsburgh Saturday in the NCAA National Championship game. The Falcons took an early 1-0 lead over the host Cardinals before Plattsburgh scored five unanswered goals to take home the national title with a 5-1 victory on their home ice. UWRF finishes their season with a 23-6-2 overall record and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place national finish, the best finish in program history.

The Falcons came out in the first period and proved they belonged in the national title game, controlling the pace of play and the puck possession for the first part of the period. The Falcons generated a couple of scoring chances early in the game but were turned away by Cardinal goaltender Camille Leonard.

UWRF would take the lead on the host Cardinals at the 10:39 mark of the period. Senior Chloe Kinsel, who scored Friday's game winner to put the Falcons in the title game, led a rush into the offensive end and took a shot that hit off the post and trickled into the slot. Sophomore teammate Carly Moran took possession and fired a shot past Leonard and into the back of the net. The goal was Moran's 22<sup>nd</sup> of the season and put the Falcons ahead 1-0.

Forty-three seconds after the Falcons took the lead, they were called for their first penalty. Junior Carina Randazzo was called for tripping at the 11:22 mark of the first stanza. Just eight seconds into the Plattsburgh power play, Kinsel chased after a loose puck in the neutral zone and drew an interference penalty that negated the power play.

Four-on-four hockey ensued for only 27 seconds before the Falcons were called for their second penalty. Freshman Haley Nielsen was called for holding, which resulted in a 4-on-3 power play for the home team.

Plattsburgh took advantage of the open ice on the 4-on-3 man advantage and off a scramble in front of Falcons goalie Angie

Hall, Jordan Lipson picked up a loose puck and beat the Hall to tie the game at 1-1.

Plattsburgh took the momentum from the extended power plays and continued to sustain pressure in the Falcon end. The Cardinals would strike again late in the period at the 18:09 mark, when Melissa Sheeran would find the back of the net to put the hosts up 2-1. The first period ended with Plattsburgh out shooting the Falcons 15-5.

The second period began much like the first, with the Falcons controlling most of the action and getting some sustained pressure in the offensive end early, forcing the Plattsburgh goalie to make a couple of sprawling saves, but they could not tie the game up.

The Falcons would get a great opportunity at the 4:49 mark of the second period when Courtney Moriarty was called for hooking. UWRF would not be able to sustain any pressure on the power play as the Cardinal penalty killers did a good job getting into the shooting lanes and not allowing the Falcons to get set up in the offensive end.

River Falls got another opportunity to tie the game at the 7:42 mark of the second period when Sheeran was called for body checking. The Falcons generated a couple of quality scoring chances on the power play, but could not capitalize on the scoring opportunities.

UWRF's penalty killing was put to the test at the 10:05 mark when freshman Jillayne Gilbert was called for cross-checking. The Falcons did a good job on the penalty kill and Angie Hall made a couple of huge saves to keep the deficit at one.

15 seconds after the penalty to Gilbert ended, the Falcons were unable to get the puck out of their end, and Plattsburgh took advantage when Ashley Songin beat Hall to put the Cardinals up 3-1.

UWRF pushed back hard after going down two goals. River Falls once again controlled the pace and spent most of the next 5 minutes in the offensive end trying to pull within one. They generated a couple of quality chances but could not get their second goal of the game.

At the 18:37 mark of the period, the Cardinals struck again when Giovanna Senese got a rebound off a shot that deflected high in the air and she put it in the back of the net, putting Plattsburgh up 4-1. The second period ended with the Falcons being outshot 13-7.

River Falls came out with great energy in the third period as they tried to get back into the game. The sustained pressure paid off for the Falcons at the 2:04 mark when Plattsburgh's Muna Fadel was called for cross-checking. The Falcons would generate a few scoring chances during the man advantage, with shots from the point by Paige Johnson, but could not find the back of the net on the power play.

Not long after the power play ended, the home team struck for the final goal of the game at the 6:05 mark of the period. Katelyn Turk scored for the Cardinals putting them up 5-1.

The Falcons would get another chance on the power play at the 7:12 mark of the period when Megan Delay was called for cross-checking. The Falcons generated a couple of shots on the power play, but the Cardinal net minder stopped them, to keep her team up by 4.

The Falcon penalty kill was tested again at the 12:02 mark of the period when Randazzo was called for interference. UWRF

did a great job keeping the home team to the outside, allowing Hall to see and stop all four shots during the power play.

The momentum the Falcons gained from the penalty kill was quickly negated just 12 seconds after the power play for the home team was over. Wagner was called for hooking and the Cardinals went up 5-1 on the power play. Hall stopped three more shots on the power play to keep UWRF in the game.

UWRF's penalty-killing capabilities were tested for the third consecutive time in the third period, this time just 1:12 after the end of the penalty to Wagner, Randazzo was called for slashing. Plattsburgh hit the post with a shot on the power play but could not score another goal, as the game ended with a 5-1 victory for the Cardinals.

The Falcons were called for six penalties on the evening, including three straight in the third period. Plattsburgh out shot the Falcons 40-15. UWRF controlled 21 of 59 faceoffs.

The title game wraps up an outstanding season for the UW-River Falls women's hockey team. On their way to a 23-6-2 overall record, the Falcons earned regular season and WIAC tournament championships. UWRF will lose Chloe Kinsel and Dani Buehrer to graduation. Earlier this week, three team members were named to the AHCA/CCM Division III All-American team: Kinsel, Sibley, and Paige Johnson.



## Five UW-River Falls Men's Basketball Players Named To All-WIAC Team

March 2, 2016 -- Five members of the UW-River Falls men's basketball team were selected to the 2016 All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Men's Basketball Team.

Senior forward Jon Christensen and junior forward Garret Pearson were both named All-WIAC first team. Junior guard Grant Erickson was named Honorable mention and senior forward Jack Herum was named to the All-Defensive Team. Senior center Connor Goodwin was the Falcon's representative on the All-Sportsmanship team.

Christensen led the Falcons in scoring with 501 points on the season, averaging 17.9 points per game. He hit a team high 66, 3 pointers on the season, and also led the Falcons in Free Throws made with 79. Christensen led the Falcons in rebounds as well with 237 on the season, averaging 8.5 per game.

Pearson was second on the Falcons in scoring averaging 14.5 per game. Pearson is tied for second on the team in total rebounds with 143, averaging 5.5 per game.

Erickson led the Falcons in assists with 62 on the season, averaging 3.3 per game. Erickson is tied for third on the team in steals with 17 on the season.

Herum led the Falcons in offensive rebounds with 51 on the season. Herum was second on the team in steals, with 22 and assists with 54.

**2016 All-WIAC Men's Basketball Team**

Name, School, Year, Position, Hometown (High School)

Jon Christensen, River Falls, Senior, Forward, Elko, Minn.

George Diekelman, Eau Claire, Sophomore, Guard, Stevens Point (SPASH)

Boston Johnson, Platteville, Senior, Guard, Oshkosh (North)

Sean McGann, Stevens Point, Senior, Guard/Forward, Baraboo

Alex Olson, Oshkosh, Senior, Guard, Brookfield (Central)

Garret Pearson, River Falls, Junior, Forward, Rush City, Minn.

Stephen Pelkofer, Stevens Point, Senior, Guard, Hales Corners (Whitnall)

Jared Staeger, La Crosse, Senior, Guard, Waunakee

Trinson White, Whitewater, Senior, Forward, Milwaukee (Riverside)

Devin Yurk, La Crosse, Junior, Guard, Sheboygan (North)

### **Honorable Mention**

Grant Erickson, River Falls, Junior, Guard, Lakeville, Minn. (North)

Austin Fritz, La Crosse, Junior, Forward, New Berlin (West)

John Keefe, Stout, Sophomore, Guard, Medford

Jack Martinek, Eau Claire, Junior, Guard, New Brighton, Minn. (Irondale)

Ben Meinholz, La Crosse, Freshman, Forward, Oconomowoc (Marquette Univ.)

Charlie Noone, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Guard, Oshkosh (Lourdes Academy)

Haki Stamply, Whitewater, Senior, Guard, Milwaukee (Hamilton)

Cory Vaassen, Platteville, Junior, Forward, Dickeyville (Cuba City)

Cole Van Schyndel, Whitewater, Junior, Forward, Kaukauna (Wrightstown)

### **All-Defensive Team**

Kyle Bolger, Oshkosh, Junior, Guard, Schaumburg, Ill.

Jack Herum, River Falls, Senior, Forward, River Falls

Stephen Pelkofer, Stevens Point, Senior, Guard, Hales Corners (Whitnall)

Jared Schneidermann, Eau Claire, Junior, Forward, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (Concordia Academy)

Jared Staeger, La Crosse, Senior, Guard, Waunakee

### **All-Sportsmanship Team**

Lucas Collom, La Crosse, Senior, Forward, Galesville (G-E-T)

Sean Dwyer, Oshkosh, Junior, Forward, Palos Park, Ill. (Stagg)

Isaac Elliott, Stout, Sophomore, Guard, Stevens Point (Pacelli)

Connor Goodwin, River Falls, Senior, Center, Brooten, Minn. (Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa)

Dylan Graf, Whitewater, Senior, Guard, Racine (Lutheran)

Jared Miller, Eau Claire, Junior, Forward, Colfax

Bill Patterson, Stevens Point, Senior, Center, Alsip, Ill. (Mount Carmel)

Peyton River, Platteville, Senior, Guard, Maquoketa, Iowa

**Player of the Year:** Jared Staeger of La Crosse

**Coach of the Year:** Ken Koelbl of La Crosse

**Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete (sponsored by Badgerland Financial):** Stephen Pelkofer of Stevens Point

For more information about Falcon Athletics, visit [www.uwrfsports.com](http://www.uwrfsports.com).



## Four UW-River Falls Women's Basketball Players Named All-WIAC; Holbrook Named WIAC Coach of the Year

March 1, 2016 -- Four members of the UW-River Falls women's basketball team were selected to the 2016 All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Women's Basketball Team. In addition, UW-River Falls head coach Cindy Holbrook was chosen as WIAC Coach of the Year.

Sophomore forward Taylor Karge and junior guard Brynn Liljander were both named to the All-WIAC First Team. Junior forward Kate Theisen and senior guard Richell Mehus both received Honorable Mention nods. Mehus was also named to the All-Sportsmanship Team and All-Defensive Team.

Karge leads the Falcons in scoring with 357 points on the season, averaging 14.9 points per game. She also leads the Falcons with a 5.5 rebounds per game average.

Liljander leads UWRF in free throw percentage, making 81% of her free throws on the year. She also leads the Falcons in 3-point shots made, with 43 on the season. Liljander is second on the team in scoring, averaging 13.4 points per game.

Theisen's 54% field goal percentage leads the Falcons this season. She is the team's second leading rebounder, grabbing 4.8 boards per game.

Mehus, the team's lone senior, leads the Falcons in steals, assists and offensive rebounds. She averages 3.3 steals, 3.4 assists and 2.1 offensive rebounds per game. Mehus is also the third leading scorer for the Falcons, averaging 11 points per game.

Coach Holbrook directed the Falcons to their third WIAC regular-season title - and first since 1989 - and a spot in the NCAA Division III Championship this season. UW-River Falls 22 wins this season are the most since the 1988-89 campaign. Holbrook also won the coaching honor in 2001.

UW-River Falls looks to extend their season this weekend when they host the NCAA Division III Women's First and Second Round games Friday and Saturday, March 4-5. The Falcons will tip off against Wheaton College at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Karges.

### **2016 All-WIAC Women's Basketball Team**

Name, School, Year, Position, Hometown (High School)

Lauren Anklam, Stevens Point, Junior, Guard, Ringle (D.C. Everest)

Eliza Campbell, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Forward, Green Bay (Notre Dame Academy)

Kyleigh Hebert, Stout, Senior, Guard, Spencer

Taylor Karge, River Falls, Sophomore, Forward, Mankato, Minn. (East)

Teenie Lichtfuss, Eau Claire, Senior, Guard, Oshkosh (Lourdes)

Brynn Liljander, River Falls, Junior, Guard, Isanti, Minn. (Cambridge-Isanti)

Allie Miceli, Stevens Point, Senior, Forward, Marseilles, Ill. (Ottawa Township)

Erin O'Toole, Eau Claire, Sophomore, Center, Plymouth, Minn. (Hopkins)

Lisa Palmer, Whitewater, Senior, Forward, Barlett, Ill.

Taylor Schmidt, Oshkosh, Junior, Guard, Algoma

### **Honorable Mention**

Elisa Bilderback, Platteville, Junior, Center, Platteville

Elise DeNoyer, La Crosse, Sophomore, Guard, Waukesha (Wisconsin Lutheran)

Jenna Goldsmith, Stout, Junior, Forward, St. Anthony, Minn. (Village)

Madison Johnson, Eau Claire, Senior, Forward, Osceola

Richell Mehus, River Falls, Senior, Guard, Spring Grove, Minn.

MaKenzie Miller, La Crosse, Junior, Center, Chatfield, Minn.

Ashley Neustifter, Oshkosh, Senior, Guard, Oshkosh (West)

Abbie Reeves, Whitewater, Senior, Guard, Salem (Westosha Central)

Alex Richard, Oshkosh, Junior, Forward, Kewaunee

Malia Smith, Whitewater, Sophomore, Guard, Bolingbrook, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)

Kate Theisen, River Falls, Junior, Forward, Minnetrista, Minn. (Watertown-Mayer)

### **All-Defensive Team**

Richell Mehus, River Falls, Senior, Guard, Spring Grove, Minn.

Allie Miceli, Stevens Point, Senior, Forward, Marseilles, Ill. (Ottawa Township)

Ashley Neustifter, Oshkosh, Senior, Guard, Oshkosh (West)

Erin O'Toole, Eau Claire, Sophomore, Center, Plymouth, Minn. (Hopkins)

Malia Smith, Whitewater, Sophomore, Guard, Bolingbrook, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)

### **All-Sportsmanship Team**

Maggie Bishop, La Crosse, Senior, Guard/Forward, Westby  
Taylor Douglas, Stevens Point, Junior, Guard, Brodhead  
Morgan Hartman, Platteville, Junior, Guard, Rochester, Minn. (Century)  
Emily Jensen, Whitewater, Senior, Center, Wauwatosa (East)  
Madison Johnson, Eau Claire, Senior, Forward, Osceola  
Stephanie Kastens, Stout, Senior, Forward, Wausau (D.C. Everest)  
Richell Mehus, River Falls, Senior, Guard, Spring Grove, Minn.  
Kendell Truttman, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Guard, Denmark

**Player of the Year:** Erin O'Toole of Eau Claire

**Coach of the Year:** Cindy Holbrook of River Falls

**Judy Kruckman Scholar-Athlete (sponsored by Badgerland Financial):** Teenie Lichtfuss of Eau Claire

For more information about Falcon Athletics, visit [www.uwrfsports.com](http://www.uwrfsports.com).



## Paynotta finishes 4th at NCAA indoor track and field championships

March 12, 2016--Grinnell, Iowa (uwrfsports.com) – University of Wisconsin-River Falls senior David Paynotta competed in the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championships March 11-12 at Grinnell College. After posting a qualifying time of 6.82 seconds, which broke his own school record set earlier this season, Paynotta ran a 6.88 in the final heat to earn a 4th place finish.

Paynotta, winner of the WIAC indoor 60-meter dash title last month, turned in the fifth best qualifying time on Friday, March 11, securing his spot for Saturday's finals. Alex Koenen of UW-LaCrosse took home the title with a time of 6.73 seconds. Birmingham Southern's Jamal Watkins finished second with a time of 6.76 seconds. Third place went to Manni Egbujor of Augsburg, who finished in 6.86 seconds, edging Paynotta by just .02 seconds.

Paynotta also competed in the 200-meter dash at the national championship meet. He finished 11th in Friday's prelims in the event, turning in a time of 22.29 seconds. The top eight qualifiers advanced to Saturday's finals that were won by Parker Witt of UW-Whitewater with a time of 21.76 seconds.

UW-Eau Claire took home the men's team title, scoring a team total of 53 points. UWEC edged UW-Whitewater (49 points) and UW-LaCrosse (40 points), who finished second and third, respectively, for the national title.

Full results from the championships can be found [here](#).

# Researchers at UWRF study brain stimulation to help those with aphasia

By Katie Galarno

Falcon News Service

March 9, 2016--Two UW-River Falls professors are testing whether electrical brain stimulation can improve the communication skills of people with aphasia, a disorder that impairs one's ability to process language.

Speech-language pathologists Naomi Hashimoto and Sharyl Samargia have combined their areas of interest and are working with a participant who they asked be identified only as "G." G's abilities to name objects accurately and say the right words became limited after she had a stroke that affected the left hemisphere of her brain, where the language section is held. Hashimoto said that G can understand most of what is said to her but struggles to respond coherently, which has been a challenge for her.

"She was a nurse, so this is a big loss for her because she was a really very verbal, very educated person," Hashimoto said. "I think she feels keenly that she doesn't get perceived that way anymore."

Approximately 1 million Americans have aphasia, according to the National Aphasia Association, and nearly 180,000 Americans acquire it every year, most often as the result of a stroke.

For 20 minutes Monday through Friday, G receives an electric current of two milliamps from a transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) unit, administered by Samargia. The current is of low power and has had no adverse effects associated with it except for the occasional itching or tingling sensation reported by the participant. G then sits down with Hashimoto for traditional behavioral therapy, where Hashimoto talks to G and asks her to describe what is happening in an image. The idea behind this approach is that the brain will still be excited from the electrical current and improve G's working memory, allowing her to remember and say the correct words.

The research is ongoing and the professors are looking for more participants.

The process of filing the paperwork, applying for grants, getting approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to use the tDCS for aphasia research, finding a place to do the research and finding participants for the study took almost two years. The research is happening without any grant funding, and Hashimoto and Samargia are working out of a University of Minnesota's laboratory and using its equipment for free.

Hashimoto and Samargia said that they plan to work with three people for the current study and then use the data to request grant funding for a larger study, because getting grant funding is easier when the researchers can prove that their work is feasible or effective. Hashimoto said that the real challenge is going to be finding participants who meet the specific qualifications.

"The thing is that the folks cannot have defibrillators, they can't have metal implants of any sort and they can't have had seizures recently," Hashimoto said. "People who have had strokes and who have aphasia typically will have defibrillators or pacemakers, so that's ruling out a lot of people."

Samargia said that, for this kind of study, they're looking for people who can understand what is said to them but who struggle to communicate, which limits the range of candidates even more.

"We need them to be cognitively able to make decisions and follow directions and that kind of stuff," Samargia said.

"Sometimes if their stroke is pretty large or has impacted their cognition, that puts them out of the pool, too."

Hashimoto and Samargia said that they currently have a second participant interested in the study, and they hope to have the third by the summer of 2016.

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*Photo: Mel, the service dog-in-training, sits at attention in one of Beth Rausch's classes at UW-River Falls.*

## Service dog training program initiated at UW-River Falls

March 7, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has initiated a service dog training program under the umbrella of the Animal Science - Companion Animal emphasis program. Similar programs are offered on at least 12 major campuses across the U.S., but this is the first of its kind within the University of Wisconsin System.

The primary goal of the program is to provide hands-on educational opportunities for students in the companion animal emphasis, comparable to what UW-River Falls offers for students in the meat animal or equine emphases in animal science.

UW-River Falls is partnering with Coco's Heart Dog Rescue of Hudson in this effort. All dogs entering the program will be evaluated and must be socially mature, free from illness or health issues, and have a good temperament.

The first dog was accepted into the program last month. A group of four students will be providing socialization, habituation and foundational training for this service dog-in-training, with the hope that the dog will be able to enter an advanced level service dog training program. Dogs that do not enter service will be available for adoption as a quality companion animal.

Service dogs are different from therapy dogs or emotional support dogs. They are individually trained to perform specific tasks as required by a disabled person. Examples of tasks include guiding a blind person, alerting a deaf person, or calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack. Service dogs are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and are allowed to accompany the disabled individual anywhere the general public is normally allowed. It is up to individual states to set the guidelines for a service dog-in-training; both Wisconsin and Minnesota allow dogs-in-training full access as if they were a service dog.

"We see this program as a bridge between dogs facing euthanasia and entering service. Even though great care is taken in selecting the dogs to enter the training program, approximately 70% will not qualify to go on to the advanced level of service dog training," said Beth Rausch, assistant professor of animal science. "I compare this to the training to becoming an astronaut. A lot of individuals enter the training program, but very few actually end up at NASA on a space flight."

The program itself fits within the curriculum of the companion animal emphasis, however, financial support for the care of the dog while in the program will be covered through donations. A service dog fund has been set up with the UWRF Foundation specifically for this need.

Questions about the program should be emailed to [beth.rausch@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.rausch@uwrf.edu).



## Three women's hockey players named to All-American team

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. – The 2016 AHCA/CCM Division III All-Americans were unveiled at the Frozen Four banquet on Thursday night. Three Falcons were named to the All-American team.

Senior Chloe Kinsel headlined the Falcon selections with first team honors. Junior forward Dani Sibley and junior defenseman Paige Johnson were named to the second team. Kinsel and Johnson are both repeat selections to the All-American team as both were also named in 2015.

Chloe Kinsel was named WIAC player of the year earlier this month and was the first player in program history to earn that honor. Kinsel has broken school records in goals and points scored. She currently ranks 4th in the nation with .86 goals per game and 10th in the nation in points per game. Kinsel has scored 24 goals this season and has recorded 43 points.

Dani Sibley was named first team All-WIAC earlier this month. Sibley ranks 15th in the nation in points per game and 12th in goals per game. Sibley has scored 20 goals this season and is tied for 2nd in the nation with 3 shorthanded goals on the year. She has scored 7 goals and tallied 2 assists in her last 5 games.

Paige Johnson was named first team All-WIAC earlier this month. Johnson leads the Falcons in plus/minus with a +33 rating on the season. Paige ranks 13th in the nation in points by a defenseman with 17.

The Falcons play Elmira in the Frozen Four on Friday night at 7 p.m. EST.

Watch the game live: [UW-River Falls vs Elmira College](#)

The full list of All-Americans can be found here: [2016 ACHA/CCM DII All-American release.](#)

## UW-River Falls alumni receive teaching awards

March 28, 2016 -- Two graduates of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls teaching programs have been honored as outstanding educators.

Sara L'Allier, a third grade teacher at Glenwood City Elementary School in Glenwood City, and Greg Kier, a fifth grade teacher at Starr Elementary School in New Richmond, will be recognized at an awards tea sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (WACTE) on March 13 in Madison. Both were notified of their award during a surprise visit to their classrooms by Larry Solberg, dean of the UW-River Falls College of Education and Professional Studies.



L'Allier will receive the Early Career Educator Award, which is presented to educators within the first three years of their career. It is based on their positive effect on schools or communities, their innovation in designing learning experiences and their advocacy for students. Betsy Haltinner, principal of Glenwood City Elementary School, called L'Allier "solution-focused and responsive to meeting her student's individual and collective needs."

"Sara is driven to help students find success," Haltinner said. "She is focused on continuous improvement, jumping at opportunities to build her instructional practice."

Greg Kier will receive the Pre-Service Educator Award. This award is presented to educators who have demonstrated a sustained pattern of mentoring pre-service educators for at least five years. They are selected based on abilities like modeling professional responsibility and effective classroom management.



"Greg has devoted his whole life to education, and his commitment is obvious through the daily interactions he has with the students, staff, and families of Starr Elementary, as well as his many endeavors as a lifelong learner," said Starr Elementary School Principal Dan McGuire. "Mr. Kier is seen as someone who is an important leader at Starr Elementary, both formally and informally. His positive attitude, outgoing personality, and willingness to do anything for the good of our kids, school or community is commendable."

This is the third year that WACTE has sponsored the Early Career and Pre-Service Educator Awards. The awards ceremony continues to grow each year, with more than 175 people attending in 2015. Fifty teachers from across the state will be

honored this year for their professional excellence. The Meemic Foundation is sponsoring the awards ceremony as well as the keynote speakers this year.

WACTE is a professional organization composed of the Wisconsin institutions that prepare individuals for teacher licensure. WACTE educator preparation programs offer diversity in size, focus, and delivery, but all are designed to prepare quality teachers for Wisconsin's schools.

WACTE is an affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).

For more information, email [larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu](mailto:larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3774.



## UW-River Falls Bowls for Hope event raises \$6,000 for ARC

March 30, 2016 -- The seventh annual Bowls for Hope event held March 8 raised \$6,000 for the Assistance and Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) of River Falls. Each year, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through Bowls for Hope for a worthy organization that makes a difference in the St. Croix Valley.

At the event, guests voted for their favorite soup of the evening and the winner of the People's Choice Award was the Roasted Red Pepper and Pumpkin Bisque from The West Wind Supper Club. Restaurant owners and chefs also voted for their favorite soup of the evening. The winner of the Chef's Choice Award was the Spicy Sausage and Potato Soup from Kilkarney Hills.

"The board members of ARC are incredibly honored and humbled to be this year's Bowls for Hope recipient," said Paige Miller, a grant writer and ARC board member. "More than the provision of financial assistance to families and individuals in need, ARC's vision is to create, at some small level, both a greater sense of dignity and hope for those we directly serve and also solidarity in the community at large. We know, however, that we couldn't do the work we do without the support of a variety of agencies and fundraisers--like Bowls for Hope."

ARC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2008 to provide short-term financial assistance to families of the River Falls and Ellsworth school districts to help meet basic needs and provide access to additional resources. ARC believes that "we are a community of neighbors who should care for one another in times of need." Out of every dollar raised, 96 cents goes to serve those in need.

To date, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$40,000 for local charitable organizations.

For more information about the event, email [mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu](mailto:mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu) or visit [www.uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope](http://www.uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope).

# UW-River Falls Campus Media Win Newspaper, Broadcast Awards

March 2, 2016 -- Student journalists for the campus newspaper and radio station at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls once again have been recognized for their work by Wisconsin's two leading professional media organizations.

Both the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) held their annual conventions at the end of February. Among events at the conventions were ceremonies awarding the best in professional and student journalism in the state.

In the Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the WNA Foundation, the UW-River Falls student newspaper, "The Student Voice," won a second place award for best editorial. The staff-written editorial, published in May, provided context after the campus learned of a student's death.

"Great editorials can take sensitive topics and in a compassionate way use the issue to call for a needed change," a judge wrote. "This column achieved that."

In the WBA Student Awards for Excellence, two students earned first place honors for their work on WRFW, the campus radio station. The contest saw more than 290 entries from colleges and universities across the state.

Sophia Koch, a journalism major from Spring Valley, won in the category Long-Form Storytelling (Radio, Non-News). Her story was about the Asian Culture Fest that occurred on campus last semester.

Ian Martin, a communication studies major from Siren, won in the Radio Public Affairs category. His story was about The Gunnar Project, based in St. Paul. Gunnar died in a skateboarding accident and his father began the project soon after.

The Student Voice and WRFW are student-run campus media organizations supported primarily by student fees and advised by faculty in the Communication and Media Studies Department.

## UW-River Falls celebrates 50th anniversary of Commissioned Composer Project



March 17, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is celebrating the 50th year of the Commissioned Composer Project by hosting Guggenheim award-winning composer Amy Williams for a four-day residency April 5-8. A 50th Anniversary Concert is Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The public is invited to attend this free concert.

Each year, UW-River Falls commissions a composer to write a piece of music for the student body, and arranges for that composer to come to the campus in the spring to interact with the students, and take part in the premier performance of that work.

The Commissioned Composer Project was began in 1967 by Professor Emeritus Conrad De Jong and is the longest standing program of its kind in the United States, putting a national spotlight on the UW-River Falls Music Department.

Compositions by Williams have been presented at renowned contemporary music venues in the United States, Australia, Asia and Europe. Her works have been performed by leading contemporary soloists and ensembles and her pieces appear on the Albany, Parma, VDM (Italy), Blue Griffin, Centaur and New Ariel labels. As a member of the Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo, Williams has performed at new music festivals and series throughout Europe and the Americas. The Duo has recorded four critically-acclaimed CDs.

Williams was the recipient of a Howard Foundation Fellowship for 2008-09, a Fromm Music Foundation Commission in 2009, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2015-16 and the 2016 Goddard Lieberman Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Williams is an associate professor of music composition and theory at the University of Pittsburgh. More information about Williams can be found at [www.amywilliamsmusic.com](http://www.amywilliamsmusic.com).

Williams will discuss her commission on Thursday, April 7, at 3 p.m. in Abbott Concert Hall. She will conclude her visit on Friday, April 8, by performing a variety of compositions at the Frances Cohler Coffee Concert at noon in Abbott Concert Hall. Conrad De Jong will speak about the history of the Commissioned Composer project on Friday, April 8, at 11 a.m. in Room 129 of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. All Commissioned Composer events are free and open to the public.

For more information about the Commissioned Composer Project, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/MUS/CommissionedComposers.cfm>, email [patti.cudd@uwrf.edu](mailto:patti.cudd@uwrf.edu) or call the UW-River Falls Music Department at 715-425-3183.

## UW-River Falls English professor set to publish his third book



March 24, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls Assistant English Professor Joe Rein has two books under his belt and a third on its way. This busy educator and father of three published his first book in graduate school on creative writing pedagogy and then another in January 2015 on creative writing in the digital age. His third and newest book, "Creative Writing Innovations: Breaking Boundaries in the Classroom," is set to be out in late 2016.

"In graduate school, I realized that studying creative writing needed to be more than simply reading and writing a lot," said Rein. "These books try to expand the definition of what is possible in the classroom."

While UW-River Falls is no stranger to a professor who pursues scholarly activity beyond the classroom, Rein's accomplishments in a relatively short amount of time are phenomenal.

A prolific writer, Rein, of River Falls, has had one of his short stories nominated for a Pushcart Prize, honoring the best work in literary magazines and he has also had two screenplays, titled "15 Minutes with Jacob" and "Restitution," made into short films.

"Dr. Rein is a superb colleague who was recognized for his efforts with a 2014 college award for research, scholarship and creative activities," said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Brad Caskey. "His most recent publication is especially exciting as it focuses on methods of improving the educational experiences of students."

In addition to teaching creative writing and workshop courses in the English Department, Rein also collaborates with the university's Stage and Screen Arts Department in his screenwriting course. He also co-teaches a course which produces the university's Falcon Web Series. For more information about Rein, or the programs offered through the UW-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/cas/>

## UW-River Falls offers Praxis Preparation workshop, info session for aspiring teachers

March 7, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is offering a half-day workshop to prepare aspiring teachers for exams required to obtain their Wisconsin teaching licenses.

The free Praxis Preparation workshop, held at the UWRF Hudson Center, 2501 Hanley Rd., Hudson, on Saturday, April 9, is open to current students, alumni and community members interested in a science or math teaching career.

"Participants will learn how to create a study plan and prepare for taking their Praxis II exams," said Diane Bennett, associate director of the UWRF STEMteach graduate program. The Praxis II is one of the exams students may take to demonstrate knowledge in their desired teaching area, she added. A qualifying score on the Praxis II or a similar content area test is a requirement to obtain teaching licenses in Wisconsin and some other states.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. Prior to the workshop, participants can attend an informational session at 9 a.m. to learn more about UW-River Falls new STEMteach program. This graduate initial licensure and optional master's degree program is designed for recent graduates, career changers, and veterans who wish to teach science and math in middle or high schools. Faculty and current students from the STEMteach graduate program will provide information about courses and answer general questions about the application process.

Participants may register in advance for this free event by visiting the website at [go.uwrf.edu/stemteach](http://go.uwrf.edu/stemteach). Individuals unable to attend but ready to pursue a career in teaching should send an email to [diane.bennett@uwrf.edu](mailto:diane.bennett@uwrf.edu) to schedule a personal consultation.

The STEMteach program is based on the UTeach model of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teacher preparation developed at the University of Texas at Austin and replicated at 44 universities across the country. UW-River Falls accepts candidates who already have expertise or training in mathematics, engineering, biology, physics, geology, chemistry, or other STEM-related discipline and provides them with the preparation and hands-on experience to be licensed to teach in secondary education classrooms. More information about the STEMteach program, including a list of classes and admissions criteria, is available at [go.uwrf.edu/stemteach](http://go.uwrf.edu/stemteach).

UW-River Falls is an accredited institution offering a variety of degree and certificate programs designed to meet personal and professional educational goals. The UWRF graduate programs provide intensive, reality-based learning experiences, which often serve as a steppingstone to professional and career advancement. Browse the complete list of graduate programs online at [www.uwrf.edu](http://www.uwrf.edu).



UW-River Falls Professor Jim Madsen and UWRF student Laura Moon along with Robert Zill of Northern Illinois University are ready to board a plane at the South Pole. Photo by Delia Tosi, WIPAC.

## UW-River Falls part of NSF renewal of Antarctic IceCube collaboration

March 30, 2016 -- The National Science Foundation announced today that it has renewed a cooperative agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to operate IceCube. The five-year, \$35 million award entails the continued operation and management of the observatory located at NSF's Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. UW-River Falls is an integral part of this collaboration overseeing the education and outreach program of this long-standing research effort.

Headquartered at UW-Madison, IceCube includes a staff of nearly 60 scientists, engineers and technicians.

In 2013, the IceCube Collaboration reported the first detection of high-energy cosmic neutrinos, opening a new astronomical vista on the universe and on some of its most violent phenomena. Since its inception 15 years ago, IceCube—centered around a detector array consisting of 5,000 optical sensors frozen in the ice a mile beneath the South Pole—has been administered through UW-Madison, in recent years under the auspices of the Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center (WIPAC).

"This is extremely good news," says Francis Halzen, a UW-Madison professor of physics and the principal investigator for the project. "Over the years, we have come to know what it takes to successfully operate the detector."

Funding for IceCube comes from the Division of Polar Programs in NSF's Geosciences Directorate and from the Division of Physics in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS). Through the Division of Polar Programs, NSF manages the U.S. Antarctic Program, which supports researchers at universities throughout the country and provides infrastructure to support those researchers in the field.

"NSF is excited to support the science made possible by the IceCube Observatory because it's at the cutting edge of discovery," says Scott Borg, head of Polar Programs' Antarctic sciences section. "But to make ambitious research of this kind a reality requires cooperation within the agency, which is why we're delighted that IceCube is in partnership with MPS. It's also science on a global scale, relying on strong international cooperation to be successful."

IceCube was the first scientific instrument to detect very high energy neutrinos from beyond our solar system, neutrinos with up to a billion times more energy than those observed in conjunction with the 1987 supernova in the Large Magellanic Cloud. Recent reports from the IceCube Collaboration have confirmed the detection of neutrinos from beyond our galaxy.

"All over the world, IceCube is considered the flagship of neutrino astronomy," notes Olga Botner, the IceCube Collaboration spokesperson and a professor of physics and astronomy at Uppsala University. "IceCube's discovery of extraterrestrial neutrinos is a major breakthrough and a crucial first step into as yet unexplored parts of our violent universe. It also represents a step towards the realization of a 50-year-old dream—to uncover the cosmic upheavals that create ultra-high-energy cosmic rays, detected at Earth with energies millions of times greater than those achievable by even the most powerful human-made accelerators."

Neutrinos are nearly massless particles created in nuclear reactions, including some of the most energetic events in the universe. Colliding black holes, the violent cores of galaxies, supernovas, and pulsars are believed by scientists to be accelerating these high-energy particles, many billions of which pass through the Earth every second. Because they have almost no mass and rarely interact with matter, they are excruciatingly difficult to detect and require detectors the size of IceCube, which occupies a cubic kilometer of Antarctic ice, to capture the fleeting bursts of light created when the occasional neutrino crashes into another particle.

But the elusive qualities that make neutrinos so hard to detect are also of significant interest to science. Since the particles glide through space unhindered by stars, planets, and the powerful magnetic fields that punctuate the universe, it means they are virtually pristine and harbor valuable clues about their sources.

"Five years ago it was about discovering cosmic neutrinos. Now it's about doing astronomy and particle physics with them," notes Halzen of the quest to follow the particles' tracks back to their sources, a feat yet to be accomplished.

IceCube has proven to be a workhorse telescope. It is operational 99 percent of the time and has so far detected more than a million neutrinos; among them, only a few hundred are astronomically interesting.

"There are many technical challenges underlying the operation of a large neutrino observatory at the South Pole, many that would be hard to anticipate," says Kael Hanson, IceCube's director of operations and a UW–Madison professor of physics. IceCube, among the world's frontline astrophysical detectors, gathers large data sets from one of the most remote places on Earth and contributes to emerging computational technologies for managing and analyzing novel scientific information.

The collaboration that operates the IceCube observatory is composed of more than 300 researchers from 47 institutions in 12 countries. The NSF cooperative agreement includes subawards to seven U.S. institutions that contribute to core activities of the maintenance and operation of IceCube: the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has major responsibilities in the data acquisition maintenance and computing infrastructure as well as in the long-term data archive at the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center; Penn State's efforts focus on simulation production and data acquisition firmware support; the University of Delaware is the principal institution in the maintenance of IceTop, the surface component of the IceCube observatory; the University of Maryland coordinates IceCube software, including online filtering and simulation; the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa leads the calibration efforts as well as the reconstruction and analysis tools; Michigan State is a main contributor to the simulation software and production; and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls oversees the IceCube education and outreach program.

But every institution contributes to the outstanding performance of the Antarctic neutrino detector, either with monetary or in-kind contributions. Data centers at DESY Zeuthen preserve a second copy of raw data and the simulation production is a distributed effort that includes computing facilities in Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and the US.

The performance of the IceCube detector has steadily improved and a key goal will be to speed up the analysis of neutrinos of interest in order to quickly alert other observatories. For example, because neutrinos for something like a supernova explosion can arrive at the IceCube detector a few hours before photons, alerts can be quickly sent to other types of observatories. "With an early warning from neutrino and possibly gravitational wave detectors to all other telescopes, we might have the astronomical event of the 21st century," says Halzen.

The five-year cooperative agreement begins April 1 and may be renewed for another five-year period if the detector and collaboration continue to operate successfully.



## UW-River Falls Pathways Program has 100% retention success for first-year English language learners

March 17, 2016 -- The number of English Language Learners (ELLs) in west central Wisconsin, the Twin Cities, and the world, is on the rise. It is no surprise then that the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus population is changing and the university is changing with it. As new programs are developed to help support ELLs by providing strategic support and opportunities for academic success, one program, with a current retention rate of 100 percent, rises to the top.

The UWRF Pathways Program is designed to support first-year students for whom English is not their first language and who have a lower ACT score due to developing English proficiency. The Pathways Program assists students as they adjust to university academic expectations, while taking into consideration their emerging English language proficiencies. In the two-semester program, students take three general education courses and two academic support courses each semester. The credits earned in the academic support courses count toward a student's cumulative GPA but not toward his/her degree.

The Pathways Program highlights an inclusive classroom model providing students with extensive academic support enabling them to be successful within their general education classes.

"The general education professors, Bradley Caskey (Psychology 101) and Angela Siwik (Journalism 101), do not modify or adapt the material based on the presence of the Pathways students," said Diane Jacobson, director of the Pathways Program. "They are able to teach the classes as they normally would and there are non-Pathways students in those general education classes, too."

"Although the content in the course was virtually identical to general psychology classes that I have taught over the course of my 31 year career, the presence of the Pathways students in the classes added something quite meaningful to many

discussions because of the diversity of their life experiences and cultural heritage when compared to many of the non-Pathways students," Caskey said.

As part of the Pathways Program plan for success, ESL instructors meet weekly with the professors to plan for the upcoming content and to discuss any student issues or concerns.

"I think the Pathways program set-up is something that contributed to the students success and the retention rate," said Jacobson. "If they needed more time to understand something or needed someone to explain something in a different way, they had more professors and more time to address that."

Students in the program currently represent seven different cultures/nationalities, including Hmong, Filipino, Latvian, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Somali, and Karen. Some were born in the United States, while others had been in the U.S. less than two years. Student majors vary in scope, too, with everything from social work, psychology, and exercise and sports sciences to biology, music education, business administration, sociology, and international studies.

To help ensure the students success, Jacobson works closely with different offices on campus to be sure that the students are addressing issues before they became problems - problems that could potentially cause a student to become frustrated and eventually drop out.

"Working closely with the Financial Aid Office was critical," said Jacobson. "Most of the Pathways students are first generation students whose parents may or may not be able to help them understand the financial aid process both because the parents never attended college in the U.S. and because often they do not speak English."

"I am not only their adviser," she said. "I am also their instructor, so I see them daily and know exactly what their grades are or what they are struggling with. I can immediately connect them to the proper office on campus so that they can get the support they need before an issue becomes a problem. If it does become a problem, I am there to assure them that it is not an insurmountable issue."

Jacobson is convinced that it is the thoughtful and strategic framework of the Pathways Program along with its unique in-classroom model, problem-solving focus, and personalized student advising that has allowed this program to realize an unprecedented 100 percent retention rate.

"The Pathways Program helped me with my psychology class – how to prepare for tests, memorize vocabulary, and use different study methods," said Wade Saw, a student enrolled in the Pathways Program, who is originally from Thailand and has been in the U.S. for 11 years living in East St. Paul. Saw knew that the Pathways Program was instrumental to his success at the university and chose UWRF specifically because of this program.

Long Vue is also a student in the Pathways Program and although he has lived in the U.S. his entire life, English is not his first language.

"Both of my brothers came here and graduated with biology degrees," said Long Vue. "I wanted to be in the biology program, too."

Vue credits the Pathways Program for helping him to develop better study habits allowing him to succeed in his chosen biology major.

There is a combination of factors that allow a student access to the Pathways Program. True to the program plan, the personalized advising starts right away with all qualified potential applicants receiving a phone call from the UWRF Multicultural Admission Officer Pedro Renta to inform them about the program and how it will help them achieve their academic goals. Prospective students can then indicate their desire to pursue admissions to UWRF through the Pathways Program.

For more information about the Pathways Program at UW-River Falls, email Pathways Program Director Diane Jacobson at [diane.jacobson@uwrf.edu](mailto:diane.jacobson@uwrf.edu).

# UW-River Falls seniors hold art thesis exhibition in Gallery 101

March 25, 2016—University of Wisconsin-River Falls seniors Jeremy Nordin-Berghuis, Taylor Moeller-Roy, Zachariah Jacobs and Hollie Garry will present their bachelor degree art thesis exhibitions in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building April 4-11. On display will be fibers, ceramic, photography and glass art works.

Hollie Marie Garry of Brainerd, Minn., is a bachelor of fine arts candidate with a major emphasis in fiber arts and a minor emphasis in photography. Her work is inspired by her interpretation of African animals, as well as the progression of life and death. On exhibit will be a combination of Krokbragd and tapestry weavings of African animals that reference various patterns, techniques, and color arrangements.

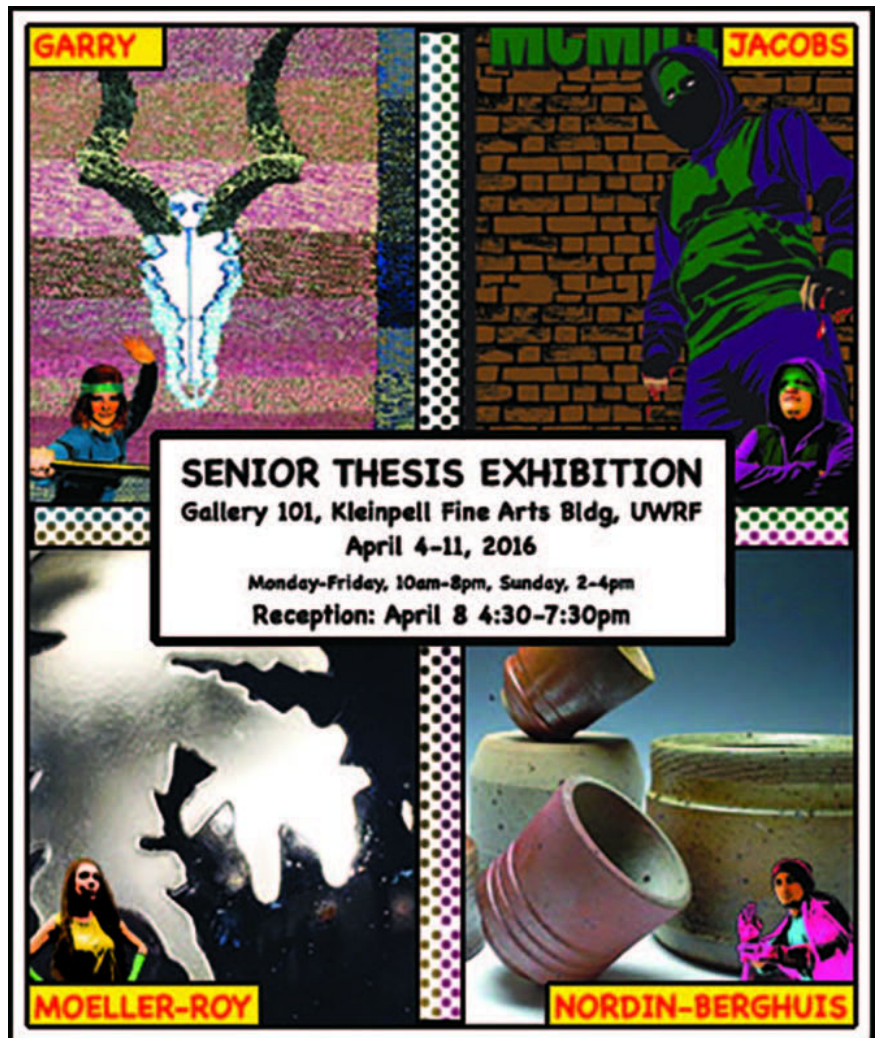
BFA candidate Zachariah Jacobs of Lakeland, Minn., has a primary emphasis in graphic design and a minor emphasis in fibers. On display will be a living room

installation comprised of various fibers and graphic design works. Included in this installation will be a crocheted couch and a rug with a shibori lampshade. Jacobs created graphic design pieces, including popular books with redesigned covers and an original comic book that are included in his tactile and interactive exhibition.

Taylor Moeller-Roy of Shoreview, Minn., is a BFA candidate with a major emphasis in art history and a minor emphasis in glass. Moeller-Roy will be exhibiting glass sculptures that narrate her written thesis on the American studio glass movement. Her work is heavily inspired by the origins of glass itself and the artists who originated the movement.

Jeremy Nordin-Berghuis, originally from Spooner, is an art education major. His love for art and people has led him to pursue a career where he can guide people toward developing a respect and understanding for the fine arts. In addition, his passion for fishing and art has inspired and motivated him to explore ways to blend the two seemingly different worlds together. Nordin-Berghuis will exhibit a series of photographs and ceramic vessels.

An exhibition reception will be held Friday, April 8, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Gallery 101. This event is free and open to the



public. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sundays from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, contact the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

# SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION

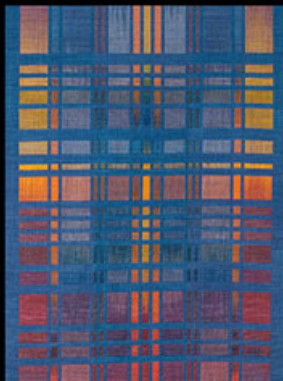
MARCH 23 - 31, 2016

## OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY MARCH 25, 4:30 - 7:30PM



ROSENOW



HILES



ZOLLER

UWRF, KLEINPELL FINE ARTS, GALLERY 101

M-F 10am-8pm SUN 2-4pm SAT CLOSED

## UW-River Falls seniors to hold art thesis exhibition

March 10, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls seniors Amie Hiles, Kayla Rosenow, and Sydney Zoller will present their Art Thesis Exhibition in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UW-River Falls from March 23-31.

Hiles will show fiber works that represent each of her family members, including herself, through abstract portraiture.

Rosenow will present large charcoal drawings that reflect the harmony of people and nature. Zoller will display a collection of drawings and prints that depict topics related to racial disparities.

Amie Hiles, of Stillwater, Minn., is a BFA candidate with an emphasis in fibers and a minor emphasis in ceramics. On display will be portraits of Hiles' father, mother, brother and herself. Using hand-dyed, perle cotton that is threaded through a floor loom, her work is meant to focus on the colors that she associates with memories of each person in her family.

Kayla Rosenow, of Grove City, Minn., is a bachelor of science in art candidate, working mainly in drawing. On exhibit will be charcoal works displayed with the natural elements utilized through her handcrafted materials and unique drawing process.

Sydney Zoller, of Nassau, N.Y., is a broad area art major with a psychology minor. On exhibit will include drawings and prints that focus on varying topics identified with racial disparities in our society.

An exhibition reception is Friday, March 25, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, call the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## UW-River Falls staff member receives Board of Regents award



March 31, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents has awarded a University of Wisconsin-River Falls employee with their highest honor for academic staff.

Michael Martin, senior adviser and administrative specialist for the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS), will be honored at the Regent's board meeting April 8 in Green Bay.

"My reaction to finding out about this was - to be blunt - shocked," Martin said. "I was flattered to have been nominated knowing the level of expertise and the number of high-impact professionals who work with students throughout the entire system. I never thought my contributions would even compare with my colleagues on other campuses."

Martin, of New Richmond, is also the recipient of the 2015 Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Academic Staff.

In nominating Martin, CEPS Dean Larry Solberg noted Martin's ability to do the work of two people and his eagerness to take on additional responsibilities for the college.

"I want to emphasize Mike's commitment to the College of Education and Professional Studies, the university, and most importantly to current, past and prospective students," Solberg said. "He truly is an outstanding academic staff member."

Martin began working at UW-River Falls in 1997 as an adviser in CEPS. Since then, Martin has assumed a host of different positions. Some of his many responsibilities include advising nearly 300 elementary education majors and the university's teacher certification officer. Each year, he completes documentation for 500 educator licenses, and he is responsible for reviewing add-on educator licenses. Martin also acts as a recruiter. Four years ago, Martin developed a living-learning community called TEACH, which now draws more students than it can accommodate.

For more information, email [larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu](mailto:larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3774.

## UW-River Falls students move on to Collegiate DECA International Conference

March 28, 2016 -- For the first time, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls new DECA chapter competed at the Collegiate DECA State Career Development Conference, sending 14 DECA student members to Madison for the March 3-6 competition. Because of their impressive showing, the students are now eligible to compete at the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference in Washington D.C. April 16-19.

UW-River Falls DECA members had a strong finish with Brooke Amann and Miranda VanDell, both of River Falls, taking first place in the event planning competition; Alfonso Tolbert of Rogers, Minn., and Sarah Crowe of Chisago City, Minn., taking first place in the business-to-business competition; and Megan Beasley of Lakeville, Minn., and Courtney Kanipes of White Bear Lake, Minn., taking third place in the business-to-business competition. In addition, Brianna Ahrndt of Benson, Minn., Amanda Bauer of Hastings, Minn., Andrew Davies of Elk River, Minn., Logan Lennertz, of Elk River, Minn., Teresa McCullen of Cannon Falls, Minn., Victoria Mohr of Mound, Minn., Katie Grymala of Superior, Angela Duherty of Prior Lake, Minn., and Cody Vander Heyden of Monticello, Minn., attained scores that allowed them to advance in their events as well.

"They've worked incredibly hard and I am extremely proud of them," said Stacy Vollmers, assistant dean in the College of Business and Economics and faculty adviser for DECA.

DECA is an organization that prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas. The Collegiate Division of DECA includes more than 15,000 members in 275 colleges and universities. DECA is open to all students who have an interest in developing leadership and entrepreneurial skills and competing in events in the areas of business management and administration, marketing and communications, hospitality and tourism, and finance and accounting.

For more information about the UW-River Falls DECA program, email [stacy.vollmers@uwrf.edu](mailto:stacy.vollmers@uwrf.edu).

# UW-River Falls to host 56<sup>th</sup> annual Agricultural Technology Contest

March 10, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Agricultural Technology Contest on campus Saturday, April 2.

The Agricultural Technology Contest includes a series of career development events hosted by the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) that allow Wisconsin and Minnesota FFA members to showcase their knowledge by participating in a variety of contests. The contests focus on agricultural communications, agricultural mechanics, agronomy, dairy cattle evaluation, farm business management, floriculture, food science and technology, forestry, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, middle school agriscience, nursery/landscape, soils, veterinary science and wildlife.

CAFES expects nearly 1,000 students this year to compete in 18 different contest area. UW-River Falls coordinates the Wisconsin FFA state contests for agricultural communications and food science and technology. First-place teams will advance to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., in October.

Seven of the events also serve as qualifying contests for the Wisconsin FFA Association Career Development Events (CDE) set for April 29 in Madison. These events include agricultural technology and mechanical systems, dairy evaluation, floriculture, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, wildlife and veterinary science.

Unique to the Agricultural Technology Contest, UW-River Falls offers an agricultural education event that provides the opportunity to better comprehend the teaching and learning process, foster leadership and communication skills, and allows students to practice teaching. Students also have the opportunity to compete in the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Crop Show. Competition areas in the crop show range from oats to soybeans to the longest ear of corn.

Another highlight of the contest is the Power Tool Drag Race. The event changes the type of tool used when building a vehicle and that makes the contest unique from year to year. The race encourages students to use their problem solving, creative design, research and development and engineering skills.

This year students must power their vehicle using a 120-volt router and must try to achieve a target race time of 5.5 seconds. The UWRF Agricultural Industry Club sponsors and coordinates this event.

Each year it takes more than a hundred volunteers to ensure successful contests. Faculty and staff from the CAFES serve as chairs for each of the contests. CAFES students volunteer their time as student chairs and assist on the contest day.

Tyler Foote, an agricultural education major from Brandon, is this year's contest coordinator. Madeline Bode, an agricultural education major from Cassville, is assistant coordinator. Professor Tim Buttles serves as the faculty chair for the contest and Fay Westberg, academic department associate, assists with overall contest preparations.

Since the CAFES first began in 1912, it has transformed from having one and a half educators running the program to now offering 12 majors and 14 minors. As more areas of study have begun to be offered, such as agricultural engineering, dairy science and horticulture, the prestige of the college has also grown. CAFES has consistently earned itself a ranking as one of the top undergraduate agricultural programs in the United States. Although UW-River Falls enrollment has changed over the

past 103 years, our dedication to our students, our passion for teaching and our desire to help our students fulfill their greater purpose has always remained the same.

For more details about the contest, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/AGED/CDE/AgriculturalTechnologyContest.cfm> or call Westberg at 715-425-4731.

## UW-River Falls to host annual International Bazaar March 29

March 22, 2016 -- The Global Programming Society at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting the annual International Bazaar on Tuesday, March 29, from 6-9 p.m. in the University Center on campus. The event is free and open to the public, but a ticket is needed to attend.

Guests will enjoy food from around the world, cultural demonstrations/activities and entertainment. Tickets can be picked up anytime at the UW-River Falls Information Desk in the University Center. Last year, the International Bazaar "sold out," welcoming more than 600 guests.

UW-River Falls is currently hosting 140 international students from 20 different countries. Join the Global Programming Society in celebrating our culturally diverse campus community.

For more information, email the Global Programming Society adviser Rhonda Petree at [rhonda.petree@uwrf.edu](mailto:rhonda.petree@uwrf.edu). To find out if tickets are still available, call the UWRF Information Desk at 715-425-3911.



## UW-River Falls to participate in prestigious American Craft Council St. Paul show

March 17, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department was hand-selected by the American Craft Council (ACC) for their excellence in fine arts and crafts education and will be the only college/university represented at the ACC St. Paul Show April 7-10.

This prestigious three-day event attracts thousands of local and national collectors and craft enthusiasts. The St. Paul Show, which is the only Midwest show, also includes 225 top professional crafts-based artists who create original jewelry, pottery, glassworks, clothing, furniture, home décor and more.

The ACC is a national, nonprofit educational organization with a mission to promote the understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft. Celebrating the remarkable achievements of many gifted artists, the ACC also includes a bi-monthly magazine "American Craft," a specialized craft library, artist workshops and seminars, annual juried shows and the Aileen Osborn Webb Awards honoring those who enrich the craft field.

Rooted in the rich intersection of fine arts and crafts, the Art Department at UW-River Falls serves as a vibrant center of contemporary art and practice. UW-River Falls art student work encompasses a variety of materials including glass, ceramics, fibers and mixed-media. Students have been educated in an environment that promotes creativity and conceptual exploration, the development of aesthetic skills, and mastery of technical expertise.

The Art Department booth will be on the show floor in the Hip Pop area with other emerging contemporary crafts-based artists.

For more information, call the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266 or email Project Coordinator Rhonda Willers at [rhonda.willers@uwrf.edu](mailto:rhonda.willers@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls Western Equestrian Team members advance to IHSA semi-finals

March 4, 2016 – Five members of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Western Equestrian Team have advanced to the IHSA Western semi-finals competition in Findlay, Ohio, March 19-20.

The students qualified for the semi-finals by finishing first or second in their category at the IHSA Zone 7 – Region 3 finals in February. At the semi-finals, the students will be working to qualify for the IHSA National Championships held in Lexington, Ky., in May.

### Students who advanced to the semi-finals are:

- Isabella Groover, business administration major from Delavan, Regional Grand Champion in Advanced Horsemanship.
- Emily Lehmann, animal science major from Chippewa Falls, Regional Reserve Champion in Novice Horsemanship.
- Morgan Pliszka, biology major from St. Paul, Regional Reserve Champion in Advanced Horsemanship.
- Alyssa Tomei, animal science major from Ortonville, Mich., Regional Reserve Champion in Open Horsemanship.
- Melissa Warme, biology major from Minneapolis, Regional Grand Champion in Beginner Horsemanship.

For more information, email [janie.huot@uwrf.edu](mailto:janie.huot@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls Women's Basketball Set to Host NCAA Tournament

February 29, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls women's basketball team (22-5) has earned an at large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Falcons will host the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament Friday and Saturday. The Falcons play Wheaton College on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Karges Center. Fans are encouraged to wear white to the game. The 5 p.m. game on Friday will feature St. Thomas and Loras.

For more information about Falcon Athletics, visit [www.uwrfsports.com](http://www.uwrfsports.com).

## UW-River Falls journalism student to study war on terrorism over Spring Break



March 8, 2016--A journalism student at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will spend her spring break in Washington, D.C., studying the war on terrorism.

Natalie Howell, a junior from Rochester, Minn., has been named one of 10 National Newspaper Association Foundation (NNAF) News Fellows for 2016. She was nominated by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation.

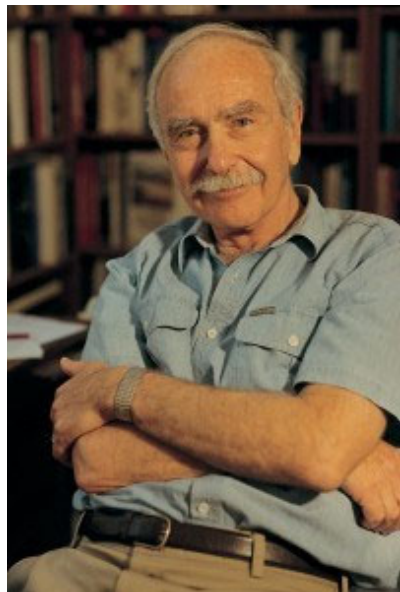
Howell and the other fellows from around the country will spend March 16-19 with professional mentors in the nation's capital interviewing experts, politicians, and executives of the Gallup Inc. polling organization.

"The goal of the News Fellows program," according to the NNAF's website, "is to help young journalists to distill facts from opinion and official 'spin' in a way that can help local readers better understand complex issues."

As part of the program, Howell will write a news story about the war on terrorism.

Howell is assistant editor of the campus newspaper, the Student Voice. She is minoring in political science.

## Wyman Visiting Professor in History Lectures About American-Asian Relations at UW-River Falls



March 24, 2016--A scholar specializing in U.S.-East Asia relations and member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Warren I. Cohen, Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will visit the University of Wisconsin-River Falls April 7-8 to present two public lectures and a discussion as part of the annual Wyman Visiting Professorship in History event.

On Thursday, April 7, Cohen, Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, will present a lecture, "Chinese-American Relations in Historical Perspective," from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic River Theater of the University Center at UW-River Falls. A public reception begins at 3:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

In his presentation, Cohen will discuss the evolution of U.S.-China relationship in the past 150 years. He will argue that as fluid as American-China policies have seemed to be, one recurring theme in the history of U.S.-China relationship is that a friendly, cooperative China will be assured of the American support and a China perceived as a potential enemy will not. He backs up his argument with a few critical historical moments including the Opium War of 1842, the formulation of the U.S. Open Door policy in China, Chinese Republican Revolution in 1911, WWII, the Korean War, Nixon's visit to China in 1972, and the rise of China as a global economic power at the present time.

On Friday, April 8, from 2-4 p.m., Cohen will host a roundtable discussion of his most recent book, "The Challenge to American Primacy, 1945-Present," in the Davee Library breezeway at UW-River Falls. This discussion is free and open to all.

Also on Friday, April 8, Cohen will present his second lecture, "The Golden Age of East Asian Art Collecting in the U.S.," at the River Falls Public Library, 140 Union St., River Falls, from 7-8:30 p.m. with a public reception at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

In this lecture, Cohen will argue that economics of art collecting, chaotic political conditions in China in the early 20th century and the American occupation of Japan after WWII combined to create the golden age of Asia art collecting in America during the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. He examines the historical background against which the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Seattle Art

Museum and the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City acquired their Asian art collections and the connoisseur's career of Charles Freet, John Ferguson and Langdon Warner.

To learn more about the Wyman Visiting Professorship in History and the Wyman legacy at UW-River Falls, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/HIST/Events/WymanHist/Index.cfm>.

For more information, call the UWRF History and Philosophy Department at 715-425-3164.



UW-River Falls student Jesse Kallenbach, an animal science major from Elk Mound, rides her horse, Oowee You Fine, on their first ride outdoors this spring.

## 40th Annual Colt Sale is May 7 at UW-River Falls

April 14, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host the 40th Annual Colt Sale on Saturday, May 7, where 50 high quality two-year-old horses will be offered for sale.

The horses for sale have been trained by UW-River Falls students enrolled in the Principles of Training Horses class taught by Nathan O'Connor. Horses in this group would satisfy buyers looking for serious performance prospects or a trail horse for the family.

Buyers can preview the horses starting at 11 a.m. in the Brainard-Kasten Colt Barn arena on the UW-River Falls Campus Farm, 1475 S. Wasson Lane, River Falls. Student trainers will be riding their horses for potential buyers. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the student trainers will be available at that time to answer questions about their horses. The sale will begin promptly at 2 p.m. Phone bids are welcome, but buyers must be pre-registered; check the website ([www.uwrfcoltsale.com](http://www.uwrfcoltsale.com)) for details.

Photos, sires and dams of the 2016 colts are on the UWRF Colt Sale website. Final photos, videos and the sale catalog (including full performance pedigrees and a description of riding qualities) will be posted on the website by Wednesday, April 20. To see the progress of the student trainers and their horses over the course of the semester, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/uwrfcoltsale](http://www.facebook.com/uwrfcoltsale).

The Colts in Training course was founded in 1972 by renowned horseman Jack Brainard, along with Jim Dollahon, an animal

science faculty member. Larry Kasten, hired in 1973 as the second animal science faculty member for the equine program, further developed and refined the program, and beginning in 1976, opened the doors each spring for the annual Colt Sale. Kasten oversaw the UWRF Colt Sale for its first 30 years until he retired and was succeeded by O'Connor. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the UWRF Colt Sale, alumni will be invited to gather under the tent outside the Colt Barn from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.

# Annual Agricultural Technology Contest at UW-River Falls yields nine first place teams

April 15, 2016 -- Seven contests qualified teams to compete in the Wisconsin FFA state contest April 29 in Madison and two of the contests qualified teams to go on to the national contest in October following the 56th Annual Agricultural Technology Contest held April 2 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Nine hundred forty one FFA students representing 66 schools competed during the contest. Students competed individually or in teams selecting from 18 different competitions, including dairy cattle evaluation, forestry, and ag technology and mechanical systems.



## The first place teams in the FFA events were:

Ag Communications State Contest – Bloomer FFA  
Ag Technology and Mechanical Systems Qualifying Contest – Independence FFA  
Dairy Cattle Evaluation Qualifying Contest – Amery FFA  
Floriculture Qualifying Contest – Stanley-Boyd FFA  
Food Science and Technology State Contest – Barron FFA  
Horse Evaluation Qualifying Contest – Stanley-Boyd FFA  
Livestock Evaluation Qualifying Contest – Wausau FFA  
Veterinary Science Qualifying Contest – Hudson FFA  
Wildlife Qualifying Contest – Wausau FFA

The top 10 scores for teams competing in multiple contests determine the Award of Excellence.

## The top three chapters were:

1. Stanley-Boyd FFA
2. Osceola FFA
3. Bloomer FFA

The annual contest is coordinated by the Agricultural Education Department, with two students in the lead roles. Tyler Foote, of Brandon, served as the 2016 coordinator and Madeline Bode, of Cassville, served as the assistant coordinator. Faculty, staff and students from across the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) volunteered their time to organize and oversee the individual contests.

Additional information about the Agricultural Technology Contest and full results can be found at [www.uwrf.edu/AGED/CDE/](http://www.uwrf.edu/AGED/CDE/)

[AgriculturalTechnologyContest.cfm](#).

**Photo:** *Students identified plant materials, one of three components of the Floriculture Qualifying Contest during the 56th Annual Agricultural Technology Contest held at UW-River Falls. Students had 30 seconds to identify each of 40 plant specimens by their technical and common name.*

## Seven UW-River Falls students showcase undergraduate research at Posters in the Rotunda

April 12, 2016 -- From a potential drug to treat melanoma, the testing of targeted antibiotics against classified endophytic contamination, and a small grains winnower to lower extremity kinematics and the impact of a living green wall on mood and academic performance, seven UW-River Falls undergraduates bring an impressive grab bag of research topics to this year's Posters in the Rotunda event in Madison April 13.

These are just a handful among the dozens of research topics that University of Wisconsin System students and faculty research mentors will showcase at the event. Students participating from UW-River Falls are: Noah Stueven of Sheboygan, Rebbekah Hite of River Falls, Mitch Breuer of Goodhue, Minn., Kaitlynn Graven of River Falls, Alison Miotke of South St. Paul, Minn., Siri Doyle of Hayward, and Matthew Pechacek of Prescott.

State legislators will join UW System and institutional leaders in welcoming 140 students and nearly 90 faculty mentors to the State Capitol rotunda Wednesday. Undergraduates from the System's 26 campuses will set up poster displays and share the findings of their diverse research subjects. Many topics involved multiple academic years of study and collaboration with faculty mentors and community partners throughout the state.

UW System President Ray Cross will welcome students, faculty members and other guests at the 13th annual Posters event. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. with welcome remarks in the Grand Army of the Republic Room. Posters will remain on display until 3 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

The UW System has earned a national reputation as a leader in undergraduate research, which contributes to the state's priorities, including retention, graduate rates, and workforce and economic development.

"The issues being addressed or investigated by UW students are real-life issues affecting Wisconsin citizens and communities," Cross said. "The research being done here has the potential to inform public policy and decisions made by the private sector. It is a powerful illustration of the UW System's ongoing commitment to the Wisconsin Idea."

Wisconsin Eye will provide live coverage of the event's opening remarks by President Cross. Wisconsin Eye also expects to highlight at least one presenter from each UW institution as part of a program on the Posters in the Rotunda event to be aired at a future date.

More information on the Posters in the Rotunda schedule is available at <http://www.wisconsin.edu/posters>. For further information about UW-River Falls undergraduate research, email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu).



Photo: (l to r) UW-River Falls 2016 Chancellor Award for Students recipients: Jessica Knapp, Madeleine Pemberton, Emma Sweet, (Chancellor Dean Van Galen), Angela Ludvigsen, Marie-Morella Kponou, and Mohammad Battah.

## Six UW-River Falls students honored with Chancellor's Award

April 29, 2016 -- Six University of Wisconsin-River Falls students received the 2016 Chancellor's Award for Students and were honored at a ceremony on campus April 28. The Chancellor's Award for Students is the highest non-academic honor a student can receive at UW-River Falls.

First awarded in 1980, the Chancellor's Award for Students is presented annually to a small group of juniors and seniors for distinguished leadership and service to the campus and external communities during the course of their time at UW-River Falls.

During the ceremony, UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen congratulated the recipients and challenged them to continue their commitment to service.

"Here in River Falls, you are part of campus and a broader community," said Van Galen. "Over the course of your life, you will likely be part of many communities, and in each place you will have the opportunity to lead -- to, if you will -- exert strength."

Students receiving the 2016 Chancellor's Award were Mohammad Battah of Hudson; Jessica Knapp of Chippewa Falls; Marie-Morella Kponou of Cotonou, Benin (Africa); Angela Ludvigsen of St. Paul; Madeleine Pemberton of Minneapolis; and Emma Sweet of Hartland.

Battah is a senior majoring in biology in the biomedical option. He has established himself as a true leader on campus, eagerly serving the campus community during his time here. From RHA president, to ambassador for the Disability Advisory Committee on the Student Senate, from president for the Pre-Health Society to president of the Muslim Student Association, Battah's influence has made a difference campus-wide, according to his nominator.

Battah has a true servant's heart, and many of his friends and professors tell stories of his passion for students with disabilities who encounter physical barriers on campus. So much so, that he was asked to become an informal student ambassador for the university's Disability Advisory Committee his first year on campus.

"It was Mohammad who approached the Ability Services office to ask how he might support disabled students," said Mark Johnson, Student Ability Services coordinator. With an "obvious propensity for tactful peer leadership... [he] effectively advocated for specific students that encountered physical barriers on campus. Mohammad is a credit to our campus."

In her letter of support, Chuayi Yang, director of Student Support Services and Multicultural Student Services, noted, "It truly takes an innovative mind and heart to initiate a shift in the way a community talks, thinks, and acts; and I believe Mohammad is such a force."

Knapp, known to friends as JJ, is a junior art history and photography major. Knapp's time at UWRF has been busy with positions such as treasurer of the Executive Board of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Active Minds Club, president of the Student Feminist Organization, and Inclusivity Senator for the 78th Student Senate where bringing inclusive events, positions of employment, and services to students throughout campus has become a passion.

But for Knapp, being an agent for change means digging in deep at the university with even more opportunities to serve as a member of the Student Affairs Committee for the Student Senate, a member of the University Center Committee, and a member of the University Sexual Assault Coalition which is working on a sexual assault prevention campaign for campus.

"A natural born leader," Knapp has also been a beacon for students in the LGBTQIA+ community, mentoring peers on their journey of self-awareness and self-acceptance, becoming a true role model and advocate, according to Knapp's nominator.

Kponou came to UWRF at age 17 as an international student. A senior with a biology major in the biomedical option, and a double minor in chemistry and French, Kponou speaks five languages and is described as "a person with exceptional drive, an infectious, bubbly personality and a desire to be exposed to new people, new opportunities, and new ideas," according to support letters.

Kponou is co-president of the campus Black Student Union, spearheading the group's annual African Night event, a successful event due in large part to her efforts. She also helped bring educational initiatives to campus that helped reframe and validate the purpose of BSU.

"She consciously practices the maturity, the commitment, the passion, and the courage to talk and act on matters that impact the livelihood of her peers and community members," said Chuayi Yang, Multicultural Student Services director.

Ludvigsen, a senior with a physics and mathematics major, is described as "articulate, committed, enthusiastic, and inspiring

– with an open disposition and a willingness to work – a natural leader," by her nominator. She has completed five grant projects in Optical Trapping and Quantum Entanglement.

Ludvigsen has put her passion for research into practice and allowed her influence to reach beyond the classroom. She is president of the Society of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (URSCA) where she helped organize the Fall Gala event, and evaluated yearly applications for Falcon Travel Grants. She has also been a key part of the Physics Study Center and Math Help Center, tutoring students in introductory courses and taking leadership of coordinating the Physics Study Center tutors.

She has held several leadership roles in the Society of Physics Students, on campus and beyond, and is student vice president of Phi Kappa Phi. In her letter of support, URSCA Director Lissa Schneider-Rebozo noted, "She displays an unlimited capacity for intellectual development in physics, mathematics and in any area she chooses to pursue. She is always ready to share her enthusiasm for her research and to generate enthusiasm for the research of others."

Pemberton, an elementary education major with minors in early childhood and Spanish, is described as "capable, self-confident and reliable." Beyond her studies, she is involved president of Early Years Enthusiasts, a leadership recognition intern for the Office of Student Involvement, and a two-time participant at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, where she has demonstrated her commitment to the integration of service and scholarship with her projects on early childhood literacy and promotion of nature education.

Pemberton also served as representative on the Student Senate Review Board and is secretary for the Hathorn Hall Residence Council, and she has worked as a resident assistant. Perhaps, most notably, she is also a student representative for the Education Preparation Program Council chosen specially by the Dean of the College of Education Larry Solberg. This committee is responsible for aligning the UWRF education program with new state requirements for teacher candidates.

Sweet is a senior with a double major in biology and Spanish. In letters of nomination, she is described as "genuine," "a mentor," and "someone who always and without fail, operates with integrity wanting to improve her campus and community using the best available understanding and evidence."

During her time at UWRF, Sweet has been recognized academically with her nomination to the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and has travelled abroad to Mexico, encouraging others to have an international experience. She has been engaged with the Girls in SCIENCE event held at UWRF and advocated with parents in encouraging their children to explore careers in STEM.

Perhaps most notably, Sweet is active in several student organizations, including the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, the Student Feminist Organization, and the campus Sexual Assault Coalition. In the words of her nominator, physics Professor Rellen Hardtke, "[Emma] embodies the ideas of inclusivity in her constant work for women, the LGBTQ+ community, students of color, her foreign language expertise, and her international travels. Emma has fought against bullying ... and promoted positive self-image, through her work as an RA and a student organization leader, helping students with their academic, intellectual and emotional development as well as their mental health."

UW-River Falls student Lisa Erickson spoke briefly at the ceremony and conveyed her congratulations to the group. Erickson will replace Regent Nic Harsy as the non-traditional student on the UW System Board of Regents in June.

For more information, email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu).

## Spaeth named Agriculture Future of America campus ambassador for UW-River Falls



April 18, 2016 – Kaylin Spaeth, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, has been selected as one of 15 campus ambassadors for Agriculture Future of America (AFA). Spaeth, of Emerald, is studying agricultural business and dairy science at UWRF.

AFA is a leader and professional development organization for collegiate leaders and young professionals. Providing leader development, intern support and scholarships, AFA seeks to be a catalyst in the preparation of a new generation of agriculture leaders. Spaeth and her fellow team members serve as ambassadors between AFA and their college campuses and AFA's corporate partners.

"My involvement with AFA has been a great way to help promote agriculture, learn more about myself, and also meet other passionate students from all across the nation," Spaeth said. "AFA also gives students numerous opportunities to network with companies and learn more about them and how their employees are working to promote agriculture every day."

Spaeth and the other campus ambassadors were selected through a competitive application process to serve as AFA's student voice and represent their peers on a national level. In addition to serving as a liaison between AFA and their respective campuses, the ambassadors will assist the Student Advisory Team in delivering the 2016 AFA Leaders Conference. This event is AFA's core leader development program and more than 700 delegates from across the nation will be selected to attend. The Student Advisory Team and the AFA Campus Ambassadors met March 31-April 2 to kickoff this planning process.

Spaeth's entrance into the AFA leader development program began her freshman year of college when she was selected as a National AFA Leader and Academic Scholar. Since then, she has attended three Tracks of AFA Leaders Conference as well as the AFA Animal Institute and AFA Policy Institute. At the Animal Institute she was able to visit with young professionals from companies such as Select Sires MidAmerica, Ceva Animal Health and Cargill, and gained insider knowledge on different career paths. At the AFA Policy Institute in March, she connected with Wisconsin legislative representatives and learned about the policy process. Participants also met with specialists from government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. State Department and the Foreign Ag Service to gain a better understanding of career options in the policy field.

In addition to her involvement with AFA, Spaeth is also active in student organizations and activities at UW-River Falls, including the Agricultural Business and Marketing Society, Dairy Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau and Agribusiness Quiz Bowl. Last summer she completed an internship with AgStar Financial, ACA focused on Ag Star's Young, Beginning Small Farmer and Rancher Program.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.

## State budget reductions impact UW-River Falls

April 26, 2016 -- The impact of reductions in state support for the University of Wisconsin System, approved last July as part of the 2015-2017 state budget, are being reported by UW campuses. Recently, each of the 13 four-year universities as well as UW Colleges and Extension provided a written summary of impacts to the UW Board of Regents. A campus-by-campus summary of impacts is available at <http://www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/April-Campus-Budget-Update.pdf>.

At UW-River Falls, the 2015-2017 state budget approved by the legislature and Governor resulted in a \$2.87 million base budget cut, representing an 11.2% reduction in base state support. Also, as part of the budget bill, undergraduate tuition was frozen for 2015-2017, extending the tuition freeze for a total of four years. The primary use of state and tuition funds is to support faculty and staff who work directly with students. At UW-River Falls, the budget cuts have resulted in a reduction of 55 state/tuition-supported positions, including 18 permanent layoffs or non-retentions. Since 1974-1975, the balance between funding of core educational costs at UW-River Falls has shifted from 79% state funds and 21% tuition, to 28% state funds and 72% tuition in 2015-2016.

UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen has expressed concern over the impacts of state budget reductions coupled with a tuition freeze.

"Like other UW institutions, we have been forced to increase our class sizes, decrease course availability, and have seen the departure of some very talented and committed faculty and staff," said Chancellor Van Galen. "I believe that Wisconsinites still hold education as a core value, and it is important for the public to understand that the impact of these cuts on our students and our campuses are very real, and risk damaging the very public universities that are a key to the future of Wisconsin and its citizens."

The UW System has been criticized for its level of reserve funds.

"The university's current tuition reserves could support faculty salaries and other educational costs for less than two months," said UWRF Assistant Chancellor for Business and Finance Elizabeth Frueh. "Other fund balances in areas such as housing, parking, construction projects, and dining services are committed for specific projects or uses, and cannot be used to fund faculty or support basic teaching and learning activities."

State funding for capital projects such as the UWRF Falcon Center project cannot be used to address shortfalls in state operational funding through the 2015-2017 budget. The Falcon Center is supported by capital funds from the state, student fees, charitable gifts, and parking "user fees."

Many of the layoffs and reductions in staff at UWRF occurred last year in areas such as technology services, human resources, financial aid, athletics and the registrar's office. The budget reductions have also impacted academic programs. Most recently, modern languages, art, music, and other programs have had to reduce teaching staff and course offerings for the fall 2016 semester. Kris Butler, chair of the Modern Languages Department, said she intends to retire at the end of this academic year in part to save money so that the department will have the ability to offer French and German for one more

year allowing students currently enrolled in the major to complete their degrees.

Although UW-River Falls made a concerted effort to implement their budget cuts in a way that would maintain the core mission of teaching and learning as the highest priority, this latest round of cuts has led to some impacts being felt by the students.

"With recent budget cuts affecting the university, I'm concerned I will not be able to complete my major within four years here at UWRF," said student Janelle Olson, a sophomore marketing communications major. "I know for many students, adding an additional year (or more) of schooling is a big deal financially as well as personally, because we all want to advance to an adult life and real-world jobs after college."

For years, UW-River Falls has distinguished itself for the quality of its graduates as they transition to first-time jobs, or graduate or professional school. The institution is recognized as a key part of talent development in this region.

"UWRF is an extraordinarily student-centered university, has prepared its graduates well, and is deeply connected to River Falls, Hudson and the entire St. Croix Valley," said Chancellor Van Galen. "Through initiatives such as the Hudson Center, the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator, and new academic programs in agricultural engineering, data science, and neuroscience, the university is striving to be responsive to the needs of our state and our students."

"Our role, however, is not only to produce talent that benefits our state and region," Chancellor Van Galen continued. "A UW comprehensive campus like ours is truly here to help prepare students to become engaged, ethical citizens for the entire course of their lives. State budget cuts, in conjunction with a tuition freeze, inhibit our ability to do this. We need our alumni and community members who care about education and this university to stand up and support us now, more than ever."



UW-River Falls student Dylan Heimmermann with three of the four current agricultural engineering faculty. L-R: Dean Olson, Dylan Heimmermann, Joe Shakal, and Youngmi Kim. Missing from the group is Joel Peterson.

## UW-River Falls student named ASABE Ag Engineering Technology Student of the Year

April 14, 2016 --University of Wisconsin-River Falls student Dylan Heimmermann has been named the Agricultural Engineering Technology Student of the Year by the Wisconsin chapter of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).

Heimmermann, a junior majoring in agricultural engineering technology, grew up on a small beef and goat farm in Hortonville. He received the award at the ASABE spring meeting on March 30 in Oshkosh.

Heimmermann returned to campus this semester following a six-month internship with MacDon Industries in Winnipeg, Canada. MacDon is a leader in harvesting equipment and technology with sales in 40 countries around the globe. At MacDon, Heimmermann interned as a field test technician, designing and performing field tests of new equipment. His role included preparing daily and summary reports and working with the design engineers to address design issues. With a better understanding of engineering testing gained through his internship experience, Heimmermann hopes to pursue a position as a product specialist or field test engineer following graduation.

At UW-River Falls, Heimmermann enjoys being part of the ASABE International 1/4-Scale Tractor Student Design Team. He enjoys the opportunity to design, build and test a real product, including using his CAD skills to create the virtual machine. This year he is serving as the X-team captain and will be heading to the international competition in June. Heimmermann is

also a member of the Ag Industries Club and enjoys their industry tours. The club raises funds to support their travels through their annual lawnmower and snow blower tune-ups. Heimmermann is in charge of the lawnmower tune-up this spring. This summer he will be employed as an equipment operator for Van De Loo Farms in Kaukauna.

The agricultural engineering technology major at UW-River Falls currently has 87 students enrolled in the program. It is the only program of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. Beginning in fall 2016, UW-River Falls will also offer a professional agricultural engineering program in which students will be eligible to take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, leading to licensing as a Professional Engineer (PE) later in their career.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls again earns STARS Silver Rating for sustainability efforts

April 8, 2016 — The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has earned its fourth consecutive STARS Silver Rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education.

The UW-River Falls campus is committed to modeling the values, principles, and practices of sustainability. Campus sustainability initiatives include: alternative fuels and transportation; energy and water conservation, waste minimization, and infusing sustainability into the curriculum. UW-River Falls was one of the original institutions that participated in the beta testing for the initial development of the STARS ranking tool.

"UW-River Falls is fortunate to have many champions of sustainability amongst our students, faculty, and staff," said Mark Klapatch, UW-River Falls sustainability and custodial supervisor. "The achievement of a silver rating requires contributions from people all over campus across many disciplines and truly demonstrates the passion our campus community has for modeling sustainability.

With more than 750 participants on six continents, AASHE's STARS program is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's sustainability performance. Participants report achievements in four overall areas: academics, engagement, operations, and planning/administration. One additional section allows for innovation credits, allowing an institution to note unique programs and initiatives. UW-River Falls submitted four innovation credits, receiving the maximum amount of additional credit available.

"Colleges and universities are like small cities, and their impact is substantial. STARS was developed by the campus sustainability community to provide high standards for recognizing campus sustainability efforts," said AASHE Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. "UW-River Falls has demonstrated a substantial commitment to sustainability by achieving a STARS silver rating and is to be congratulated for their efforts."

Unlike other rating or ranking systems, this program is open to all institutions of higher education, and the criteria that determine a STARS rating is transparent and accessible to anyone. Because STARS is a program based on credits earned, it allows for both internal comparisons as well as comparisons with similar institutions. AASHE is an association of colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future. AASHE's mission is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. It provides resources, professional development and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research. For more information about AASHE, visit [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org). For more information about the STARS program, visit <http://stars.aashe.org>.

Most recent and previous STARS reports for UW-River Falls are publicly available at <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-wisconsin-river-falls-wi/report>.

For more information on sustainability efforts at UW-River Falls, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/sustainability> or email [mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu](mailto:mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu).



The UW-River Falls Collegiate DECA students who placed in top 10 international finalists at International Career Development Conference were (l to r) Senior Megan Beasley of Lakeville, Minn., Junior Courtney Kanipes of White Bear Lake, Minn., Sophomore Alfonso Tolbert of Rogers, Minn., Freshman Andrew Davies of Elk River, Minn., and Senior Brianna Ahrndt of Benson, Minn.

## UW-River Falls Collegiate DECA students place as a top 10 international finalist at International Career Development Conference

April 25, 2016 -- Amid more than 1,300 competitors, five students from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls DECA chapter placed as a top 10 international finalists at the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Washington D.C. April 16-19.

In the Business to Business Marketing event, DECA-UWRF had two student teams, Andrew Davies and Alfonso Tolbert, both marketing communication majors, and Megan Beasley, marketing major, and Courtney Kanipes, marketing and communication studies major, that earned a place as a top 10 international finalist.

Additionally, Davis was one of 10 runner-ups that each received \$100 in the International Sales Challenge, a special ICDC event.

Agricultural business and animal science-equine management student Brianna Ahrndt earned a place as a top 10 international finalist for the Retail Management event. In addition, in the preliminary round of competition, she won ribbons for having both a top test score and a top role play score.

Thirteen members of the UW-River Falls DECA chapter qualified for and competed at the international conference. Marketing major Logan Lennertz and management major Amanda Bauer competed as a team in the Entrepreneurship – Starting Your Business competition. Marketing students Brooke Amann and Miranda VanDell teamed up in the Event Planning competition. The team of Angela Doherty, a marketing major, and Katie Grymala, a marketing communications major, competed in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing event. Management major Teresa McCullen competed in the Restaurant & Food Service Management individual category and Cody Vander Hayden, dual major in accounting and criminology, participated in the Professional Sales individual competition.

"This is our first year as a DECA chapter, and I am incredibly impressed by everything the students have accomplished. This is their organization, and they have created something of which to be proud," said DECA-UWRF Adviser Stacy Vollmers, a professor in the College of Business and Economics. "They've worked extremely hard, and whether they placed in an event or not, competition at the regional, state, and international level has given them valuable experience. I am so pleased for them and tremendously proud of them."

For more information about DECA-UWRF, call Vollmers at 715-425-4706.

## UW-River Falls English professor's work honored in China



April 15, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls English Professor Greta Gaard will have her work honored in a scholarly journal in China. The dedication to her work is set to accompany the much anticipated translation and publication of her creative non-fiction book, "The Nature of Home," into Chinese.

Beyond her accomplishments outside the university, Gaard also serves as coordinator of UWRF's Sustainability Faculty Fellows, a group that has developed more than 45 interdisciplinary sustainability courses in every college on campus. The group is in process of institutionalizing their new program that will feature an interdisciplinary foundations course in sustainable justice, and a capstone course with options for civic engagement, research, and experiential education.

Gaard's passion permeates her classroom as she assigns an environmental essay in her advanced composition courses and brings forward her environmental concerns to "green" her business writing courses.

"UWRF students are a very practical group of learners," said Gaard. "They want to test-drive the ideas we are studying. Through the experiential learning component in my Literature of Environmental Justice course, students have been able to explore the links between social justice and environmental health that we are reading about in class."

"Dr. Gaard is a superb professor, talented writer and terrific colleague, said Brad Caskey, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "I am especially excited about her work being translated in Chinese as this distinction fits so well with the UW-River Falls mission of helping students be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective."

In addition to her teaching and sustainability leadership, Gaard also speaks at local, national, and international venues. She recently gave invited presentations for North Dakota State University, Ashland College, and Claremont Colleges Food Justice Summit. In May, Gaard will be speaking at the Goethe Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, and at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Her sixth book, "Critical Ecofeminism," will be published in fall 2016.

For more information about Gaard, or the programs offered through the UW-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/cas>.

# UW-River Falls Finals Fest showcases three acts

April 25, 2016 -- This year's Finals Fest event at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls showcases three acts: Autograf with live EDM, J Buzzi performing "Falcon Nation," and Glow Party Entertainment from GenerationNOW on Friday, May 6, in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with music beginning at 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will kick off with a pre-party experience on the University Center mall (outdoors) beginning at 6 p.m. featuring free Buffalo Wild Wings, a root beer keg, bean bag toss and more. If you arrive early enough, you can catch the bean bag toss tournament championship game, which begins at 3 p.m.

The concert will cater to a variety of musical tastes and features Electronic Dance Music (EDM) in a way that highlights the importance of a live music experience.

## Music Bios

### **Autograf**

Autograf is all about art, even if it doesn't seem that way on the surface. The trio, comprised of Jake Carpenter, Louis Kha and Mikul Wing, began not as the enigmatic and dreamy house group they are today, but as visual artists seeking an outlet for creativity. Based out of Chicago, all three members come from visual art or design backgrounds. Their recent surge in popularity speaks to the unique live experience they have created for audiences across the globe. <http://leaveyourautograf.com>

### **J Buzzi Performing "Falcon Nation"**

This 24 year-old artist and songwriter, residing in south Florida, has made a name for himself in the music industry. Buzzi has a unique sound and look with songs that have hit radio airwaves and videos that are visually stunning. It's no wonder what the "buzz" is about. <http://jbuzzi.com>

### **GenerationNOW Entertainment**

By combining sophistication and innovation with energy, the GenerationNOW experience engulfs the senses. It is as visual as it is auditory, as exhilarating as it is heartwarming. It positively breaks the mold of traditional DJ entertainment. <http://www.generationnowdjs.com>

Beverages and light snacks are available for purchase during the concert. Alcohol is prohibited.

For more information about Finals Fest, visit [go.uwrf.edu/FinalsFest](http://go.uwrf.edu/FinalsFest) or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1153991517944965/>.

To view our artist release video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bawCQ-F5XU8>.

For further questions or accommodation requests, call Karyn Wells, Office of Student Involvement, at 715-425-4444.

## UW-River Falls hosts Juried Student Exhibition in Gallery 101

April 7, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department is hosting its annual Juried Student Exhibition April 20-May 4 in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Included in the exhibition is UW-River Falls Art Department student artwork representing media including: painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, glass, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media and design.

This year's juror is Rachel Merrill-Schwaller, assistant professor of Art and Design at Grand View University, Des Moines. She holds a BA from the University of Northwestern (St Paul, Minn.) and an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.).

Merrill-Schwaller will be on campus Friday, April 15, to jury the exhibition, and will give a brief presentation about her choices during a reception at 3:30 p.m.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## UW-River Falls innovation team continues on to international competition

April 8, 2016 — University of Wisconsin-River Falls Director for the Center of Innovation and Business Development Danielle Campeau announced today that UW-River Falls Team Protein Pod was the winner of the university's Second Annual Innovation Challenge. The win means the team is now accepted into the International Business Model Competition at the Microsoft Ventures Campus in Redmond, Wash., April 29-30 where they will compete with teams from around the world for more than \$75,000 in prize money.

UWRF's Innovation Challenge was created to support business startups on campus and reward innovative ideas. The Innovation Challenge is modeled around recent research in Lean Startup that guides entrepreneurs to "get out of the building" and test their business assumptions utilizing tools such as the Business Model Canvas. This process is different from the typical Business Plan Competition. Entrepreneurs are rewarded for creating a hypothesis, testing their assumptions with potential customers and pivoting their business idea based on the high-quality feedback they are receiving.

Many startup businesses fail and the Lean Startup methodology helps entrepreneurs reduce the risk of failure through testing their business assumptions. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to find failure points early in the process. In fact, the more weaknesses that are identified and pivots to their ideas based on that feedback, the better.

This year, two teams competed in the Innovation Challenge hosted at UWRF on March 3. Eighteen judges participated in the event including business leaders and economic development professionals from across the state. Edward Matsushima and Zach Merrick, both freshman business administration majors, won the competition with their business idea, Protein Pod. Their product offers a convenient transportation method for nutritional protein to maximize the benefits by reducing the amount of time between a workout and administration of the supplement.

Senior Michael Mader, a marketing major, took second place with his social enterprise, Hippy Feet. According to the Salvation Army, the number one requested item in homeless shelters is socks. Hippy Feet provides a solution to this pervasive problem by offering a buy-one give-one product. Purchasing the organic, durable wool sock allows the customer to give back as a pair is automatically donated to a local homeless shelter.

More than \$6,000 in prize money was awarded to these teams.

Both teams will compete at the WI Big Idea Tournament on Saturday, April 9, in Madison. Student teams from other UW institutions will be vying for the main prize, a \$25,000 Ideadvance Grant.

The Innovation Challenge is offered through the Center for Innovation and Business Development within the UWRF College of Business and Economics (CBE) and is made possible through financial contributions by AGS Data Systems, WiSys Technology Foundation and UW-Extension. Associate Professor of Management Marina Onken serves as faculty adviser of the program.

The university recently awarded CBE funding to move forward with an "Accelerating Innovation" program to create a culture of innovation on campus by consolidating a MakerSpace and offering specific course-work in innovation, design and diffusion

of new ideas.

Individuals interested in learning more about innovation at UWRF should email [danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu](mailto:danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls innovation teams advance to international competition

April 15, 2016 —The University of Wisconsin-River Falls innovation teams Hippy Feet and Protein Pod placed first and third, respectively, at the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament held in Madison April 9.

First place winner Michael Mader, a UW-River Falls senior marketing major, won a \$25,000 Ideadvance Grant and a place in the International Business Model Competition (IBMC) April 29-30 at the Microsoft Campus in Redmond, Wash., with his Hippy Feet idea.

After qualifying for the IBMC in the At-Large Round, freshman Edward Matsushima, a double major in business administration and exercise science, and Zach Merrick, also a business administration major, took third place with their Protein Pod.

At the international competition, the UW-River Falls students will compete with teams from around the world for more than \$75,000 in prize money.



Mader's social enterprise Hippy Feet idea is based off the Salvation Army's findings that the number one requested item in homeless shelters is socks. Hippy Feet provides a solution to this pervasive problem by offering a buy-one give-one product. Purchasing the organic, durable wool sock allows the customer to give back as a pair of socks is automatically donated to a local homeless shelter.



Matsushima (pictured) and Merrick's Protein Pod business idea offers a convenient transportation method for nutritional protein to maximize the benefits by reducing the amount of time between a workout and administration of the supplement.

Both teams had previously competed in the UW-River Falls Innovation Challenge offered through the Center for Innovation and Business Development within the College of Business and Economics and made possible through financial contributions by AGS Data Systems, WiSys Technology Foundation and UW-Extension. Marina Onken, associate professor of management, serves as the faculty adviser for the program. Derrick Edwards, president of AGS Data Systems, generously donated his time to mentor both teams.

UW-River Falls annual Innovation Challenge was created to support business startups on campus and reward innovative ideas. The Innovation Challenge is modeled around recent research in Lean Startup that guides entrepreneurs to "get out of the building" and test their business assumptions utilizing tools such as the Business Model Canvas. This process is different from the typical Business Plan Competition; entrepreneurs are rewarded for creating a hypothesis, testing their assumptions with potential customers and pivoting their business idea based on the high-quality feedback they are receiving. Many startup businesses fail and the Lean Startup methodology helps entrepreneurs reduce the risk of failure through testing their business assumptions. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to find failure points early in the process; in fact, the more weaknesses that are identified and pivots to their ideas based on that feedback, the better.

UW-River Falls recently awarded the College of Business and Economics funding to move forward with an "Accelerating Innovation" program. This program intends to create a culture of innovation on campus by consolidating a MakerSpace and offering specific course-work in Innovation, Design and Diffusion of new ideas.

For more information about innovation at UWRF, email Danielle Campeau, director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development, at [danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu](mailto:danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu).



Photo: (L to R) UW-River Falls stage and screen arts students Justin Lund, Elliot Kerr, Dan Mariette, and Alex Kerr all submitted nominations to the NATAS Upper Midwest Chapter Production. (Missing is Sydney Howell.)

## UW-River Falls stage and screen arts students win coveted Crystal Pillar Award

April 19, 2016 -- University of Wisconsin-River Falls Stage and Screen Arts students won big during the 2016 NATAS (National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences) Upper Midwest Student Production Awards held April 10 at the Radisson Blu Hotel at Mall of America.

UW-River Falls students Sydney Howell and Dan Mariette both walked away with a prestigious Student Production Crystal Pillar Award from the Upper Midwest Emmy® NATAS Chapter for their non-fiction short, "The Dam Decision," a documentary film that outlines the dam removal discussion happening in the city of River Falls.

"I am very proud of all of our students and the hard work they have put into their film projects," said Joe Blum, UWRF stage and screen arts instructor, who attended the event. "Sydney and Dan did an incredible job making a documentary that fairly represents the different sides of an issue that greatly affects this community."

"The Dam Decision" was created in part with an Undergraduate Stipends and Expenses Grant issued by the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity. Blum was Howell's faculty mentor for the USE Grant.

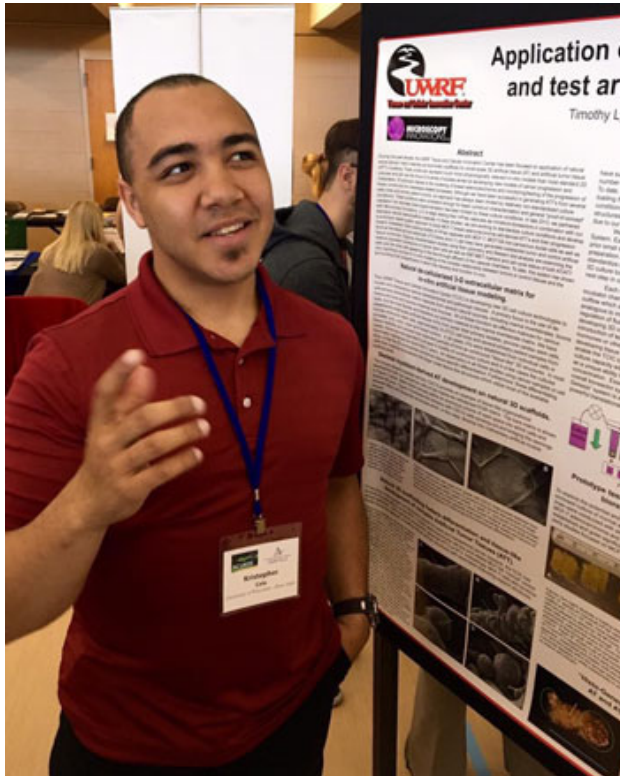
This year, the NATAS Upper Midwest Chapter received more than 260 entries from 40 different high schools and colleges/universities from across the region. UWRF Stage and Screen Arts had six nominations this year in the categories of fiction,

non-fiction and editing.

NATAS is a membership organization dedicated to excellence in television by honoring exceptional work, past and present; providing professional development and outreach; and nurturing the next generation of television professionals. NATAS is the only professional association representing television professionals from all disciplines of the industry, serving as the common meeting ground for individuals dedicated to advancing the art and science of television.

For more information about the UW-River Falls Stage and Screen Arts program, email [robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu](mailto:robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls students present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research



April 22, 2016 — The University of Wisconsin-River Falls sent 56 students to present their undergraduate research, scholarly, and creative projects at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of North Carolina Asheville April 7-9.

UW-River Falls participants presented a wide range of topics including "Greenhouse Rain Garden" (research poster), "Optimization and Testing of Flow Cytometry Methods for ED50 Establishment for Novel Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase Inhibition as a Potential Drug Target in *Plasmodium falciparum* Using Wortmannin and Rapamycin" (research poster), "Bringing Nature-Based Learning Into Elementary Classrooms" (Powerpoint oral session), "Put it Away" (live performance), "The Effect of Foot Inclination Angle on Lower Extremity Kinematics and Ground Reaction Forces During Running" (oral presentation), and "Observation of the Cosmic-Ray Shadows of the Sun and the Moon with IceCube" (research poster).

"NCUR is a wonderful opportunity for students of all disciplines and academic levels to educate their peers about a topic that they are passionate about," said UWRF senior Molly Patterson, a dairy science-management, food processing technology major. "This was my second year participating in NCUR. The most rewarding moment during this conference for me was when a group of students recognized me as the 'cheese person' from the poster I presented on Asiago Style Cheese last year. They told me that my project was their favorite and most memorable presentation of 2015."

Patterson's NCUR experience included informative interviews with campus representatives at the graduate school fair, allowing her to weigh options in pursuing her passion through industry and plant management positions or moving more immediately toward a master's degree.

"I am so thankful for the support that has been provided to me by UWRF and the guidance that I have received while conducting my research," Patterson said.

NCUR 2016 featured undergraduate research presentations from a wide-range of disciplines, including the arts and sciences, agriculture, business, and education. More than 4,000 undergraduates showcased their best work in a dynamic three-day series of poster sessions, gallery talks, live performances, and Powerpoint presentations. Presentations describe project background, research methods, materials, and outcomes to an audience of fellow students, faculty, and administrators from campuses around the nation.

"This event taught me all about presenting in a professional setting," said Casey Beck, a first year student majoring in fine arts/ceramics at UWRF. "I got to see how others present their artwork as well as receiving great feedback from my presentation. It would be great to present new research at this conference in the following year." Beck's well-attended gallery talk gained him a strongly enthusiastic recommendation to apply to a prestigious nearby summer program in ceramics.

NCUR provides an important venue for students' professional and personal development. Students learn project and time management, develop presentation skills, and gain confidence from their public speaking experiences. The opportunity to dialogue with other scholars in and out of their field provides perspective on the high quality of their own work, and broadens their intellectual foundation through cross-disciplinary exposure. The graduate school fair, plenary speakers, and student interest sessions all offer students a more developed understanding of the opportunities ahead.

"NCUR is a chance to both share and celebrate research, both to my peers and to my prospective Ph.D. mentor or employers," said UWRF senior Beck Hite, a biotechnology major. "This is the one event a year where networking on multiple platforms has a direct impact on my future. It is because of NCUR and the URSCA Office that I have secured both a job for my future and ignited a light in my heart for research."

UWRF senior Madeline Foy, a communication sciences and disorders major, said "NCUR was an amazing opportunity to further my research experience as an undergraduate student. URSCA allowed me to not only create my own project, but to carry it out all of the way to dissemination. I was able to supplement the clinical experiences and coursework within my major with the research skills I learned during this project. This experience was unique, and something that is not readily available to students at other undergraduate universities. I feel that graduate schools took particular interest in me because of my extensive research experience and presentation skills."

Students were accompanied by faculty and staff members Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, Elizabeth Jordahl, Paul Budde, Joe Blum, and Brett Kallusky. UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen and Timothy Lyden joined the contingent on the second day of the conference.

NCUR, under the auspices of the Council for Undergraduate Research, promotes undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity through the sponsorship of an annual conference for students. NCUR was attended by nearly 4,000 students and administrators from across the nation.

For more information, contact URSCA Director Schneider-Rebozo at [elizabeth.schneider-rebozo@uwrf.edu](mailto:elizabeth.schneider-rebozo@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3902.



The UW-River Falls dairy team from left to right: Brian Fesenmaier, Meghan Connelly, Kyle Rentmeester, Dylan Nelson and Coach Sylvia Kehoe.

## UW-River Falls team earns first place at North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge

April 20, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls dairy team earned a first place award in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held in Syracuse, N.Y., April 7-9. This was the 15th year of this international competition, which involved 128 students from 32 different universities.

Students in the team from UW-River Falls were Brian Fesenmaier of Spring Valley, Meghan Connelly of Rochester, Minn., Kyle Rentmeester of Glenbeulah, and Dylan Nelson of Edgerton. The team is coached by Sylvia Kehoe, associate professor of dairy science. In addition to a recognition plaque, each team member received a \$200 scholarship.

The NAIDC is a two-day competition where teams evaluate a well-managed dairy farm business and recommend management enhancements to a panel of judges comprised of industry and academic professionals. The 32 participating teams are randomly assigned to one of four farms, for a maximum of eight teams per farm in head to head competition. Teams are provided with herd data necessary to analyze the farm operation and their herd management practices. They must analyze the data and prioritize the farm areas that need a detailed examination. Each team is then allowed a farm visit and short question and answer sessions with the farm manager. Teams complete their evaluation and prepare their presentations that same day, then deliver their presentations to the judge's panel the following day. Time limits are set and strictly enforced for each activity to simulate real world on-farm consulting.

The NAIDC event also includes a Career and Innovation Fair, opportunities for informal networking with industry sponsors

and some fun activities, which this year was a Minute to Win It contest. The NAIDC is committed to developing tomorrow's dairy leaders and enhancing the progress of the industry. Industry sponsorship helps cover the travel, lodging and meals expenses for teams and provides the scholarships.

For more information, email [sylvia.kehoe@uwrf.edu](mailto:sylvia.kehoe@uwrf.edu).



Courtney Nix ropes a bull during a previous Ag Day on campus. Ag Day, which is held annually, brings the campus community together to learn about agriculture and interact with animals.

## UW-River Falls to host Ag Day to raise agriculture awareness

April 7, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter will host the fourth annual Ag Day on Campus on Tuesday, April 19, to promote Wisconsin agriculture. All events are free and open to the public.

With interactive events taking place all day, non-agricultural students, faculty and community members are invited to learn more about agriculture, interact with animals and enjoy food grown and raised by farmers. This year's theme is "AGvocate."

Student organizations in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), along with local agricultural businesses, will have educational and interactive booths set up outside the University Center in the middle of campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and beginning at 5:30 p.m., a beef sandwich meal will be served in the Agriculture Science building. At 6:30 p.m., keynote speaker and farm broadcaster Bryant Gill will give a presentation on agricultural advocacy.

"This is a great opportunity to reach out to our fellow students who don't have as much contact with agriculture as we do," said Collegiate Farm Bureau public relations officer Brittany Statz. "As Farm Bureau members, we take great pride in educating people about everything that goes into producing the food they eat and the clothes they wear. When you're so far removed from farming, it can be easy to become misinformed about agriculture, so that's where we as a Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter can step up and change that."

The UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter was first established on campus in April 2012 and is associated with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation ([wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com)), Wisconsin's largest general farm organization. Much like Wisconsin's diverse

agricultural landscape, Farm Bureau members represent all farm commodities, and all farm sizes and management styles. Farm Bureau's mission is to lead farming and rural communities through legislative representation, education, public relations and leadership development.

For more information, email [mikayla.hanrahan@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:mikayla.hanrahan@my.uwrf.edu).

## Yanny honored as UW-River Falls 2016 Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist



April 29, 2016 -- Michael Yanny, owner of JN Plant Selections and Senior Horticulturalist at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls, was honored as the 2016 Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist by the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) at their 50th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet April 21.

His name may not be familiar but gardeners will likely know of his work. The Firebird® Crabapple, Redwing® Highbush Cranberry Viburnum and Pink-a-licious™ Spirea are some of the many plants Yanny has selected, named and introduced over the course of his career.

Yanny credits the late Herbert Trautman of Trautman Nurseries for teaching him the propagation and plant selection skills he has used throughout his career. Based primarily on Trautman's recommendation, Yanny was hired by Johnson's Nursery in 1980, at only 23 years of age, to start a propagation department. He spent 30 years as the head plant propagator at Johnson's before transitioning to senior horticulturalist and starting his own company, JN Plant Selections, LLC. His focus is on developing commercially viable cultivars of native species or "nativars," with wider adaptation, stronger growth rates and added ornamental characteristics.

At the banquet, Yanny spoke about the beginning of his passion for horticulture, noting that he couldn't remember a time he wasn't growing plants. From helping his grandparents grow food for his large extended family from the time he could walk, to being given his own garden space by his mother when he was a second grader.

"Horticulture is a wonderful profession," said Yanny. "You get both exercise and mental stimulation. It's a balanced lifestyle in the natural life system."

Yanny is a frequent speaker traveling around the nation to give presentations at industry association conferences, and he incorporates his own poetry and photography into the presentations to better convey his messages. He concluded his comments at the banquet with one of his poems, "Plant People." For youth groups, Yanny becomes "Seedman Superhero" and extols the benefits of seeds, plants and the environment.

He works with many nurseries and his plants are in different nationally branded plant programs. He is a key contributor to the Chicagoland Grows® plant introduction program and is working with the HGTV plant brand and their woody shrub lines. In 2014, he received the Invader Crusader Award from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council for helping to build bridges between the nursery industry, regulators and the conservation community.

"Michael's impact can be seen throughout Wisconsin and the nation through his well-adapted plants, advances he has made

in plant propagation techniques, his service in organizations that promote the use of appropriate plants for environmental stewardship, and through the many students and colleagues he has mentored over the years," said David Zlesak, associate professor of horticulture, who nominated Yanny for the award. "I am very excited to have this opportunity to honor Michael and celebrate his many accomplishments through this award."

The Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist Award was established in 1970 to recognize individuals who have provided leadership, service and other contributions to the broader agricultural community. A charcoal sketch of each honoree hangs in the Agricultural Hall of Fame in the Agricultural Science building on the UWRF campus.

For more information, visit [www.uwrf.edu/CAFES/Awards.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/CAFES/Awards.cfm).

Photo: (L-R) David Zlesak, Michael Yanny, and Dale Gallenberg, Dean of CAFES.

## College of Business and Economics honors students

May 9, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) honored students at an awards ceremony April 18. UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen delivered a welcome and Michael Fronmueller, CBE Dean, presided.

The Dean's Special Recognition Award, given for "noteworthy performance on a class project or paper (above and beyond expectation), service to the college or community, service to the external community, or other reasons such as overcoming serious impediments, being a good role model or contributing to an ethical environment" went to Sharon Augustinovich of Somerset, Kirstin Bethke of St. Paul, Roderick Babilus of River Falls, Michael Mader of St. Paul, Eddie Matsushima of Verona, Zach Merrick of Salem, Ken Peck of Woodbury, Minn., Martha Connors Roth of Prescott, and Dave Hudson of St. Croix Falls.

More than \$21,000 in scholarships were awarded to CBE students. Graduating seniors were also honored for their academic performance.

The following students were named to the 2016-17 CBE Student Advisory Board where they will assist CBE in improving the student experience: Emily Anderson of Hayward; Roderick Babilus of River Falls; Carolyn Little of Minneapolis; Nathan Hanson of New Richmond; Jack Jin of Zhejlang, YiWu; David Murphy of Anoka, Minn.; Miles Peterson of Chisago City, Minn.; Collins Poulese of Maharashtra, India; Justin Stanger of Lakeland, Minn.; and Reid Wilson of St. Paul.

The following students were inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a business program accredited by AACSB International: Rachel Allen of Cloquet, Minn., Alyssa Aguilera of New Richmond, Briana Bechel of River Falls, Jacob Bechel of River Falls, Holly Bjerke of New Richmond, Travis Bretoi of Circle Pines, Minn., Evan Caye of Minneapolis, Abby Dery of Minneapolis, Kellie Gerds of Mankato, Minn., Josie Gilbertson of St. Paul, Alexandra Malecha of Northfield, Minn., Renee McMillan of Loretto, Minn., David Murphy of Anoka, Minn., Nancy Schmitt of Hudson, Kimberly Stickfort of Stillwater, Minn., Connor Westcott of River Falls, and Katelyn Yorek of Little Falls, Minn.

For more information, email [cbe@uwrf.edu](mailto:cbe@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3335.



## Dolliver honored by both her peers and students at UW-River Falls

May 6, 2016 -- Holly A.S. Dolliver, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geology and Soil Science, was recently honored with two awards, one from her colleagues and the second from students. Dolliver was named the 2016 Outstanding Faculty member by her colleagues in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) and was named the 2016 Adviser of the Year at UW-River Falls through a nomination process that included current students and alumni.

Dolliver, of River Falls, received the Outstanding Faculty Award at the CAFES 50th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet April 21. Nominations for the award are solicited from faculty within the college, and reviewed by a committee, which makes a recommendation to the Dean. The awardee is also honored nationally with the Teaching Award of Merit from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA). The recipient of the award is only revealed when announced at the annual banquet.

In his letter of nomination, one of Dolliver's colleagues wrote, "She has set a new standard for faculty in terms of teaching, research and service excellence." Another colleague wrote, "I have known few faculty over my 40-year career that possess Holly's passion for her profession."

All current students and alumni are eligible to submit nominations for the UW-River Falls Adviser of the Year Award. The Faculty Senate Advising Committee reviews the nominations and makes a recommendation to the Chancellor. Dolliver will be formally presented with the award at a campus event next fall. Students who nominated Dolliver spoke about her professionalism.

"She displayed professionalism at all times, a characteristic that is highly valuable to the students. There was never a doubt that Holly put her students first. She was always very conscious about making sure no students fell through the cracks," the

student wrote.

When asked to describe a quality that makes Dolliver uniquely suited for the award, a second student said, "Listener – she listened to my interests and concerns; passion – she always conveyed passion for her work; professionalism – she demonstrated professionalism."

Within the Department of Plant and Earth Science, Dolliver is known as an outstanding teacher. She has played a key role in recasting both the geology and soil science majors, significantly improving the way information, knowledge and skills are delivered to the benefit of students. As an example, she transformed an upper-level geomorphology course from a traditional lecture-lab format into an integrated studio-hybrid format, where students are responsible for all content and background materials outside of class via on-line lecture, and all class time is devoted to working on activities, projects and field exercises. This format change resulted in a significant improvement in student performance.

Outside of the classroom, Dolliver has served as a supervisor and mentor for dozens of undergraduate student research projects and accompanied many of them to national meetings where they presented their research. One of her student researchers took first place for his work at the 2013 national Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Science meeting.

Dolliver also serves as the coach for the Soils Judging Team, at times fielding two teams in a single year. Over the past six years, the eight teams from UW-River Falls finished in the top three six times, including three first place finishes.

Her professional colleagues across the country also recognize Dolliver's teaching excellence. She was invited by the Soil Science Society of America to participate in a panel discussion on best teaching practices at their national meeting. The Geological Society of America invited her to write a paper on using Google Earth to teach geomorphology. Her paper was included in a special volume on using Google Earth in the classroom and was featured on the Google Earth Blog.

Dolliver truly loves her job and that is evident in her response to these awards.

"The best part about my job is getting to work with so many great students. I strive to provide students with practical, challenging, and engaging experiences both in the classroom and in the field through research and judging experiences," Dolliver said. "For me, the greatest reward is the opportunity to watch them learn, grow professionally, and achieve success in their careers. I am fortunate to be surrounded by colleagues who share my passion for teaching and grateful to those that have mentored and supported me throughout my career."

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.



## Food Science and Technology program reinstated at UW-River Falls

May 26, 2016 – The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) at UW-River Falls has completed the process of reinstating its Food Science and Technology program that was suspended several years ago. Students will be accepted into the program beginning in fall 2016.

The original decision to suspend the Food Science and Technology program was based around issues of enrollment, staffing and course availability. The college intentionally chose to suspend, rather than close the program, because suspended programs can be reinstated within seven years with appropriate approval from the campus. Once closed, a program would need to go through the full authorization process as would any other new program.

"Our original decision to suspend the Food Science and Technology program was difficult, but necessary, at the time given the factors involved. However, as circumstances both internally and externally have changed, reinstatement is the right decision for us now," said Dale Gallenberg, Dean of CAFES.

The college is currently engaged in a major renovation of its Dairy Pilot Plant that is being funded primarily through private donations from industry. Many of the supporters of this project indicated their interest in bringing back the program.

The Department of Agricultural Engineering Technology in the college recently hired a faculty member with expertise in food process engineering. She will be working closely with the Food Science and Technology program as that department looks to build its curriculum in the food processing and technology area.

Even though the Food Science and Technology major was suspended, a minor in food processing technology was retained

allowing students to focus on food if they were majoring in meat animal science or dairy science. It is likely that some students currently in those programs will choose to transition into the food science and technology major next fall.

"Reinstatement of the major within our department represents opportunity," Justin Luther, interim chair of the Animal and Food Science Department, said. "Our students will develop a greater appreciation for the relationship between animal production practices and the development of post-harvest consumer products. An increasingly strong job market exists for graduates with the level of expertise this major has to offer, which is evident by the immense support the food industry has offered in recent months."

More information on the Food Science and Technology program can be found at [www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/FoodScienceTech.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/FoodScienceTech.cfm). Questions about the program should be emailed to [justin.luther-1@uwrf.edu](mailto:justin.luther-1@uwrf.edu).

## Special Education Scholarship aids UW-River Falls teacher education students

May 16, 2016 -- Two University of Wisconsin-River Falls Teacher Education students have received a scholarship established to honor alumni with a passion for special-needs children.

Elizabeth Tomala, an elementary education major from Pierz, Minn., and Rachel Wilson, a biology and broad field science education major from Eau Claire, each received \$3,000 as part of the Mickey McDermott Special Education Scholarship.

The scholarship was established with the mission of financially supporting students with an interest in special education. McDermott was a longtime resident of New Richmond. She taught special education for 30 years and pioneered a teaching program that was a model for schools around the state.

Wilson said the scholarship will allow her to focus on her studies without the stress of worrying about funding her tuition.

"I immediately felt relieved knowing that I would not have to take out another student loan," Wilson said.

It's the same for Tomala, who said the scholarship will help pay for living expenses and tuition while she's student teaching. Pursuing a license to teach special education is a lifelong goal for Tomala, who has worked with children and adults with disabilities since high school.

"I felt honored that I was awarded this scholarship, not just for the money, but also because of what the scholarship stood for," Tomala said.

For more information, contact Larry Solberg, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, at 715-425-3774 or [larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu](mailto:larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu).

# Springman and Holmes named Outstanding Seniors at UW-River Falls

May 6, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) presented awards to two outstanding seniors for 2015-16 at their annual Senior Supper April 27.

Shelby Springman of Wilmont, Minn., received the Dr. Earl Hildebrand Memorial Award. This award is presented to a student who best exemplifies a combination of scholastic achievement, extracurricular involvement and leadership roles within the college. Senior students are nominated for this award by faculty in the college, with the College Scholarship Committee making the final selection.

Springman graduated in Dec. 2015 with a bachelor's degree in animal science and a minor in chemistry, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in animal science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At UW-River Falls, Springman was the recipient and lead investigator on an Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity grant focused on determining the time of ovulation in sheep following treatment with gonadotropins. She led a team of peer livestock enthusiasts in organizing sheep education meetings for youth in Wisconsin and served as vice-president for the Block and Bridle Club, captain of the Relay for Life team, and as a Chancellor's Student Ambassador, representing the university in various capacities.

The group of faculty and staff who nominated Springman wrote, "Her unique combination of intelligence, confidence, interpersonal skills and humility are difficult to find. She is destined to be a leader in our agricultural industries and she will continue to make contributions to society that all of us can be proud of."

The Rochelle Junkman Seymour Award for the student with the highest GPA was presented to Nathanael Holmes, a horticulture major from Ellsworth. Not only was Holmes committed to his own learning and academic excellence but he assisted others, too, through his work in the tutoring center. He was active in the Horticulture Society and Phi Alpha Xi, volunteered for campus planting and landscape projects, co-chaired the nursery and landscape portion of the annual Agricultural Technology Contest and earned multiple awards at the Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society conferences and contests.

The horticulture faculty described Holmes as a "well-rounded, deeply engaged young professional that exemplifies outstanding CAFES student achievement and engagement."

Holmes has accepted a position with Countryside Gardens in Delano, Minn., in the garden design, installation and maintenance area.

The Senior Supper is sponsored by the CAFES Alumni Association to recognize the accomplishments of the graduating seniors and to welcome them into the ranks of alumni. This was the 32nd year for the event that by tradition features speakers from industry, the graduating class, and the faculty. This year's speakers included Leslie Svacina, a 2004 graduate of UWRF and the executive director of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators; Tyler Foote, a graduating senior in agricultural education from Brandon; and Jim Graham, professor of agricultural education.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 714-425-3535.

## Two UW-River Falls alumni receive top awards

May 16, 2016 -- A former University of Wisconsin-River Falls scholar athlete and the first director of a Minneapolis Public Schools initiative to narrow the achievement gap between black and white male students received the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) highest awards at a ceremony May 5.

Kathy Lindahl of Lansing, Mich., a 1973 graduate with a bachelor's degree in physical education, received the Distinguished Alumna Award and Michael Walker of Minneapolis, a 2006 graduate from the counseling program, was honored with the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award.

In his remarks, Larry Solberg, CEPS dean, noted Lindahl's accomplished athletic career at UW-River Falls where she lettered in five sports: basketball, volleyball, softball, field hockey and track and field.

"Kathy was truly a scholar athlete," Solberg said.

Lindahl, a graduate of Hayward High School, went on to earn a master's degree in physical education from Michigan State University and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Cooley Law School. In addition to working as physical education teacher early in her career, Lindahl served as director of athletics in charge of sports operations, NCAA senior woman administrator, and assistant vice president for Finance and Operations during her 31 years at MSU. Since retiring in 2012, she cofounded the PICTOR Group, an intercollegiate athletics consulting organization.

Walker is a former basketball coach and assistant principal. He was selected to be the first director of the Office of Black Male Student Achievement for Minneapolis Public Schools in 2014. The office was created to narrow one of the widest achievement gaps between black and white male students in the nation. Since 1999, Walker has held multiple positions at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis. He earned his undergraduate degree in physical education from Southwest Minnesota State University and his masters of education in counseling from UW-River Falls. Walker has worked as the community outreach, program and youth development director at the YMCA of Greater St. Paul and Minneapolis. While there, he developed youth programs and served as coordinator for the Black Achievers program.

Walker's support for UW-River Falls continues to this day. He often speaks on campus, and he's responsible for recommending a diverse body of students to the university's counseling program— writing letters of recommendation and acting as an ambassador for the program.

"Mr. Michael Walker is an inspiration and advocate for students," said Mark Gillen, chair of the Counseling and School Psychology Department. "He has impacted the lives of many, and it is an honor to nominate him for the College of Education and Professional Studies Recent Alumnus Award."

For more information, contact Solberg at 715-425-3774 or [larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu](mailto:larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu).

## Undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activity showcased May 4 at UW-River Falls

May 3, 2016 – The public is invited to the 2016 Spring Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (URSCA) Day at UW-River Falls on Wednesday, May 4, from noon-2 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center.

More than 200 UWRF students will present their work through posters, artwork, interactive displays, short films, and PowerPoint or Prezi presentations at this free spring showcase.

Visitors will be able to have their heart rate monitored while they listen to music that studies showed soothed companion animals; interact with a functioning robot; examine a student-built drone and 3D printer, and much more. Visitors are invited to stop in at anytime during this event.

Falcon Foods ice-cream cones and coffee will be served.

For more information, call Lissa Schneider-Rebozo at 715-425-3902 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/URSCA>.



## UW-River Falls commencement is May 15 at River Falls High School

May 5, 2016 — More than 800 University of Wisconsin-River Falls bachelor's and master's degree students will participate in three separate commencement ceremonies at River Falls High School on Sunday, May 15. The change in venue is due to the construction of the new Falcon Center, set for completion in 2017.

The first ceremony begins at 9 a.m. for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and the College of Business and Economics. The second ceremony at 1 p.m. is for the College of Education and Professional Studies and Graduate Studies. The third ceremony at 4 p.m. is for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen will preside over the ceremonies and confer degrees. Graduating senior Sarianna Gaugert, a music and communicative sciences and disorders major, will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. ceremonies. Graduating senior Haley Berscheid, a modern language (French) and music major, will sing at the 4 p.m. ceremony.

Special recognition will be given to the 2016 Distinguished Teacher Ian Williams, geology professor, and to the Distinguished Alumnus Brad Hewitt, CEO, Thrivent Financial.

For more information, including a link to the live video stream, call the UWRF Registrar's Office at 715-425-3342 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/Registrar/CurrentStudents/CommencementInformation>.

## UW-River Falls to host business and IT degree Open House for working professionals

May 26, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) is hosting an Open House for working professionals on Tuesday, June 14, from 5-7 p.m. at the UW-River Falls Hudson Center, 2501 Hanley Road, Suite 200, Hudson.

Whether seeking or advancing a career in business or computer science, UW-River Falls offers flexible degree tracks that are suitable for any life situation. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about flexible degree options specifically designed for adults with busy schedules. Degree options are Bachelor of Business Administration (Adult Degree Completion); Master of Business Administration (MBA); and Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS).

University staff and faculty will be available to provide information and answer questions relating to the flexible business administration and computer science degree options, course information and more. Unofficial transcript evaluations will also be available for guests who bring a current transcript showing credits earned from previous institutions.

Event RSVP is not required, but is recommended at [go.uwrf.edu/OpenHouse](http://go.uwrf.edu/OpenHouse).

For more information about the Open House, contact Leanne Van Allen, director of CBE Graduate Programs, at [leanne.vanallen@uwrf.edu](mailto:leanne.vanallen@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4691 or contact Mike Bilden, director, CBE Business Degree Completion Program, at [michael.bilden@uwrf.edu](mailto:michael.bilden@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-0697.



Mike Collins, a student in the first STEMteach cohort at UW-River Falls, teaches a lesson about cryogenics to students attending a session at Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul.

## First cohort of STEMteach students at UW-River Falls completes certification

June 9, 2016 -- The first group of University of Wisconsin-River Falls graduate students in the STEMteach program completed their coursework this spring for Wisconsin teaching licenses in science and math. Some have already accepted teaching jobs.

"The goal of this program is to enable talented and enthusiastic STEM professionals and recent graduates to become excellent teachers," said Larry Solberg, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. "We are pleased that this group of students are well on their way to enter Wisconsin classrooms."

STEMteach student Nichelle Wollberg of Colfax has accepted a teaching position in the Lake Holcombe School District in Holcombe. She will be teaching seventh and eighth grade science and high school STEM and agriculture classes.

"Being a part of the first cohort of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls STEMteach program has been an experience I will never forget," Wollberg said. "This past year was filled with learning, laughter, hard work, and new experiences. I am prepared to step into my new classroom this upcoming fall, confidently ready to teach."

Recently hired Chelsey Turner of Spring Valley will be teaching eighth grade science this fall at the Baldwin-Woodville Viking Middle School District. Turner said that the graduate program showed her how to incorporate all aspects of science, technology, engineering, and math into lesson plans.

"In a biology classroom, there will be engineering, there will be math, and there will be technology," she said.

Mike Collins accepted a teaching position with Upward Bound-West students for this summer. Upward Bound is a federal funded program which helps low-income, high school students who are the first in their family to attend college.

"I like the idea of helping these kids get to college," Collins said. "In addition, I wanted a way to keep working with kids through the summer."

Collins will create and teach a class titled "Farm to Table" for the mostly northwestern Wisconsin students who will be attending the Upward Bound program at UW-River Falls this summer.

"The STEMteach program really prepared me for this job," Collins said. "From learning the basics of teaching to actually drafting lesson plans and teaching in schools, I was well prepared for this job."

"The teachers were better than ever imagined and each one of the cohort members has become a lifelong friend," said Stephen Klebs of Hastings, Minn.

Alex Jones of Nerstrand, Minn., said, "A teaching career is totally applicable to everyone's life in that it strengthens relationship skills."

The STEMteach graduate program at UW-River Falls is designed to open the doors to an in-demand career as a middle or high school science or math teacher. Students with a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) are encouraged to explore a career in teaching. The next cohort of students for the one-year program begins June 13.

For more information about the STEMteach program, visit the website at [go.uwrf.edu/stemteach](http://go.uwrf.edu/stemteach) or contact the UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education office by email to [outreach@uwrf.edu](mailto:outreach@uwrf.edu) or call 800-228-5607.

UW-River Falls provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at [www.uwrf.edu/continuingeducation](http://www.uwrf.edu/continuingeducation).



## Free outdoor summer concert series begins June 14 at UW-River Falls

June 3, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls annual free summer concert series, "Chill on the Hill," kicks off June 14 in the Melvin Wall Amphitheatre, located on campus along the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

This year's Tuesday concerts, all beginning at 7 p.m., are:

- June 14, Joey Ryan and the Inks – Classic Pop Feel with Soaring Harmonies
- June 21, Gaelynn Lea – The Fiddle, Reinvented
- June 28, Kids from Wisconsin – Show Choir (Rain site is Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building)
- July 5, Chris Silver and the Good Intentions – The Best Bluegrass Around
- July 12, Tommy Bentz Band – Bluesy Rock and Roll
- July 19, Little Fevers – Sweet and Crunchy Pop Rock
- July 26, St. Croix Valley Community Band – Celebrating Nature; Rivers, Lakes, and Our Beautiful America
- Aug. 2, Davina and the Vagabonds – Gritty, Fierce, and Colorful Jazz

Grilled food, beverages, ice cream, and Rush River beer will be available for purchase at all concerts. Carry-in alcoholic beverages are prohibited, but personal picnics and beverages are allowed. Smoking is prohibited and dogs must remain on leashes. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be moved indoors to the University Center (unless noted otherwise), where food and beverages will still be available for purchase.

For more information, weather updates or accommodations, call Karyn Wells in the Student Involvement Office at 715-425-4444, or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/SummerConcertSeries.cfm>

## Perkins named interim provost at UW-River Falls



June 9, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin–River Falls announced today that longtime faculty member, department chair and former interim dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) Faye Perkins, Ph.D., has agreed to serve as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for the next two years. Perkins will assume the post July 1 further to the resignation of Provost Fernando Delgado.

No stranger to UW-River Falls and its administration, Perkins has been a faculty member in the Department of Health and Human Performance (formerly Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics) since 1988, gaining full professor status in 1997. She has been serving as chair of that department since July 2015 and previously held that same appointment from 2002-07. She also served as assistant department chair from 1997-2001. Her four-year term as interim dean spanned from 2007 until 2011.

Perkins has also played an important role in shared governance on campus, serving on the Faculty Senate for nine years in the 1990's, and most recently holding the vice chair position for the 2015-16 academic year. She also serves the university on several committees, including the Athletic Committee, the Faculty Hearing, Grievance and Appeals Committee (chair), and the CEPS Diversity Committee.

"Faye Perkins is a stalwart and committed member of the UWRF campus, and her understanding of the complexities of higher education administration coupled with her wealth of positive relationships will be a great asset to the office of provost," Chancellor Dean Van Galen said when announcing the interim provost appointment. "She not only understands the campus mission and strategic goals, but pursues them personally and professionally. I am looking forward to working with her in this role."

Meanwhile, Perkins has demonstrated her commitment to the institution's strategic goal of increasing global education and engagement by teaching twice in the university's Experience China program, in Hangzhou and four times in the Experience Scotland (Wisconsin in Scotland) program in Dalkeith. Throughout her career she has co-authored successful grants, performed research and presented on topics ranging from Title IX to combatting homophobia, from wellness to leadership.

Perkins has many times been recognized with accolades and awards, most recently being the remarks delivered by U.S. Representative Ron Kind on the floor of the House of Representatives recognizing her coaching career. She was also named the 2014-15 CEPS Adviser of the Year and WIAC Coach of the Year in 1996.

Locally, Perkins and her husband, Joseph McIntosh, the university's buildings and grounds supervisor, are well known members of the River Falls community, but Perkins may be most recognizable for her 22 years as UW-River Falls head softball coach, with the winningest softball record in UWRF history. As coach, she took teams of student-athletes to

conference championships several years and helped mentor successful scholar-athletes who received honors for their accomplishments on and off the field, both statewide and nationally.

"I am honored to serve as interim provost," Perkins said. "I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent the last 28 years of my professional life at UWRF. River Falls and UWRF are my home. This is where I have grown as a professional, where my husband and I have raised our two sons, and where we have made life-long friendships. I am deeply committed to serving the faculty, staff, students, and community to continue to make UWRF a university in which we all help our students thrive beyond their expectations. Thank you for giving me this opportunity."

Originally from Iowa, Perkins attended Iowa State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in K-12 physical education and her master's degree in exercise physiology. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in health education at the University of Utah.

For more information, contact Executive Assistant to the Chancellor Beth Schommer at [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu) or 715-425-0662.

## Prescott student honored with Hildebrand Seymour-Junkman Award at UW-River Falls

May 31, 2016 -- A first-generation Health and Human Performance graduate from Prescott has been honored with the Hildebrand Seymour-Junkman Award from the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Matthew Pechacek received the award, presented to a graduating senior with the highest grade point average (GPA) in each of the four UW-River Falls colleges, at a ceremony earlier this month.

"It was a very rewarding and gratifying feeling, knowing that all my hard work and determination is being recognized," Pechacek said.

Pechacek graduated from the Health and Human Performance program with a 4.0 cumulative GPA. While studying at UW-River Falls, Pechacek lived on his parent's dairy farm, where he continued to work throughout this college career. Along with his brother, Pechacek is the first of his family to attend college. That, coupled with a lifelong love of learning, has driven him to work hard and succeed.

"Throughout high school and college, I found I have a passion for learning new material," he said.

Pechacek was also selected by the Exercise and Sport Science program faculty for this year's Outstanding Student Award, and he's a McNair Scholar. He will begin pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in June.

"Matthew's hard work and dedication to his studies serves as an example to all of us," said Larry Solberg, dean of CEPS. "I wish him the best as he continues his education."

For more information, contact Solberg at 715-425-3774 or [larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu](mailto:larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu).



UW-River Falls Assistant Athletic Director Crystal Lanning (center) stands on the sidelines during a pre-season football scrimmage Aug. 31, 2013. File photo by Kathy M Helgeson.

## UW-River Falls names Lanning interim athletic director

June 2, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has named Crystal Lanning the new athletic director, serving in an interim capacity for the next two years. Lanning will start July 1, taking over the role from Roger Ternes, who recently announced his resignation effective June 30.

Lanning has been the assistant commissioner for membership services with the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference since July 1, 2015, but had previously worked with Falcon Athletics. She began at UW-River Falls in 2004 as an assistant athletic trainer and an instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department. In 2009, Lanning was named the department's senior women's administrator and assistant athletic director. She was named associate athletic director in 2014.

"We are pleased that Crystal has agreed to bring her talents back to the UW-River Falls Athletics Department, where she has already contributed so much," said Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "Her commitment to our student-athletes and her dedication to the UWRF mission were well known and she will have the advantage of already having strong relationships with staff and coaches. We look forward to welcoming her back to the Falcon family."

Lanning will bring with her critical experience regarding the NCAA and WIAC eligibility certifications, as well as promoting UWRF athletics externally, both to potential students and supporters in the community.

"I am truly honored to have the opportunity to return to UW-River Falls and to serve the Athletics Department in a leadership role," Lanning said. "UWRF is where I began my professional career and it is a special place for me and my family. I am

looking forward to working again with the incredible staff within the Athletics Department and campus community to promote and develop Falcon athletics."

Lanning is a graduate of Winona State University with a degree in exercise science where she was a four-year letter-winning goalkeeper on a conference-winning soccer team. She received her master's degree from the University of Kentucky in kinesiology and health promotion, and is also a graduate of the NCAA/NACWAA Institute for Administrative Advancement.

For more information, email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-0662.

## What does "local food" mean to Wisconsin consumers?

June 20, 2016--Wisconsin consumers widely agree that "local" food means food grown in Wisconsin, according to a new statewide survey conducted by faculty affiliated with UW-Extension, UW-Madison, and UW-River Falls. Food from Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota, meanwhile, is not considered "local" by most Wisconsin shoppers.

Researchers aimed to provide farmers and communities with strategies informed by Wisconsin-specific data to support local food marketing efforts throughout the state. A random sample of Wisconsin households was surveyed in 2015, and findings and recommendations are available in a new report, "[Wisconsin Consumers and Local Food: Public Opinion, Trends & Marketing Recommendations](#)."

"Because there is not a universal definition of local, it's important to understand what consumers in Wisconsin believe," explained Bret Shaw, environmental communication specialist for UW-Extension and associate professor at UW-Madison in the Department of Life Sciences Communication, who co-authored the report. "Many people here also accept 50 miles from them as a definition for local, but there is less agreement when the definition is food from 100 miles away. Feelings about local food might be less about a specific distance, and more about loyalty to our state."

The researchers also examined if opinions about the definition of local varied by region in the state, and found that most consumers reject the idea that food from neighboring states is local, regardless of their location in Wisconsin. "The one exception was that respondents in Northwest Wisconsin were more likely to accept Minnesota as a definition for local," said David Trechter, a report co-author. Trechter is the director of the UW-River Falls Survey Research Center and professor of agricultural economics at UW-River Falls.

Researchers also found that consumers agree local produce is fresh and tasty and helps support local farmers. They suggest marketing local food with words and images related to those concepts for the widest reach. There is less agreement about other potential benefits of local produce suggesting that messages related to health and the environment, that are more popular specifically with liberal consumers, would be less effective.

"Overall, conservative, moderate and liberal shoppers said they bought local produce and local non-produce items equally," said Shaw. "These groups also visit farmers' markets with the same frequency. It's their attitudes about particular benefits of local food that differed."

The data also revealed that signs at grocery stores are a popular way for consumers to get information about food but that many consumers have difficulty identifying local food in stores. Consequently, making sure that local food signage is prominent and highlights a Wisconsin connection is important. "Because consumers here agree that local food means Wisconsin, identifying Wisconsin food as from Wisconsin on signs, rather than simply as local, might be even more appealing to consumers," added Laura Witzling, a graduate student in the UW-Madison Department of Life Sciences Communication, who co-authored the report.

Surveys were administered through the UW-River Falls Survey Research Center. The surveys were sent by mail to a random sample of 3,000 Wisconsin households in the summer of 2015, with 691 surveys returned. Analysis focused on surveys from

respondents that were their household's primary food shopper (642 respondents). The research was funded by a grant through the UW-Consortium for Extension and Research in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

For more information or a copy of the report, contact Shaw at 608-448-9958 or [brshaw@wisc.edu](mailto:brshaw@wisc.edu) or Trechter at 715-425-3129 or [david.d.trechter@uwrf.edu](mailto:david.d.trechter@uwrf.edu).

## Chapin named associate vice chancellor



July 6, 2016 -- Longtime faculty member Wes Chapin has been named the associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He has served as interim associate vice chancellor in that position for nearly three years. The associate vice chancellor is the lead academic administrator responsible for program audit and review, learning assessment, institutional accreditation and faculty development.

Chapin, of Woodville, is the director of graduate studies and has additional responsibilities for program prioritization, Activity Insight, UW System reporting and process management, and the administration of internal university faculty and staff grants. Outreach and Continuing Education, the Honors program and Falcon Scholars report to him.

"I am honored to be selected for this position," said Chapin, "As a first-generation college student, I learned to appreciate the life-changing experiences that public universities such as UWRF provide. As both a faculty member and as associate

vice chancellor, I value the opportunities to contribute to the university's mission of helping students learn. I look forward to this because we have both amazing faculty and staff at UWRF who share that vision, and with whom I feel privileged to work."

Chapin has long-standing ties to the university. He is a Wisconsin native and earned his bachelor of science degree in economics and political science from UW-River Falls in 1988. After earning a master of arts in international affairs from Marquette University in Milwaukee and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois, Chapin began working for the UWRF in 1997. He was promoted to associate professor in 2004 and to full professor in 2008.

Chapin's publications include a book, six articles in peer-reviewed journals, and several book chapters and reviews. His academic contributions have been recognized several times. These include awards for teaching, advising, and service by the College of Arts and Sciences, and a certificate for Outstanding Teaching in Political Science from the American Political Science Association and Pi Sigma Alpha. He has also served multiple terms as chair of the Political Science and International Studies departments.

Chapin has demonstrated his commitment to the institution's strategic plan, and the goal of increasing global education and engagement, in particular. He led efforts to create the International Traveling Classroom (ITC), and was the program's coordinator. Since 2001, he has taken more than 400 students abroad as a group leader for Semester Abroad Europe, the ITC (twice), Scotland (twice), and Germany (13 times). His experience with strategic planning also includes completion of the Society for College and University Planning Institute, and leadership roles during the last two university-level strategic planning processes. The latter involved membership on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (2006-07), the Strategic Planning Coordinating Group (2011-12), and the Strategic Plan Progress Committee (2012-13).

Over the years Chapin has also played an important role in shared governance, including being elected to five faculty senate terms, and being elected three times as senate chair and faculty representative to the UW System and its Board of Regents. During the 1980s he was elected to two terms as student body president. Currently, he is a member of 12 university committees, including the Assessment Committee, General Education and University Requirements, Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee, and the International Programs Committee.

In addition, Chapin is the university's liaison, and assurance system coordinator to the Higher Learning Commission, and he is beginning his fourth year as vice president of the Arrowhead Model United Nations Association. His professional contributions include three years as a member of the UWRF Foundation Board, and being elected several times as an officer of the Wisconsin Political Science Association, and the UWRF Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

For more information, contact Executive Assistant to the Chancellor Beth Schommer at [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu) or 715-425-0662.

## Computer science teacher license now offered through UW-River Falls STEMteach program

July 14, 2016--Students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-River Falls STEMteach graduate teacher licensure program may now choose to earn a Wisconsin license to teach computer science. The university has recently received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to offer this additional license to qualified individuals.

The computer science license brings the total number of teacher license options to ten, including biology, broadfield science, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, environmental studies, life and environmental science, mathematics, physical science, and physics.

The STEMteach graduate program at UW-River Falls is designed to open the doors to an in-demand career as a middle or high school science or math teacher. Students with a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) are encouraged to explore a career in teaching. A cohort of students for the one-year program begins each June.

For more information about the STEMteach program, visit [go.uwrf.edu/stemteach](http://go.uwrf.edu/stemteach) or contact the UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education office by email to [outreach@uwrf.edu](mailto:outreach@uwrf.edu) or call 800-228-5607.

UW-River Falls provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at <https://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/>.



UW-River Falls student Grant Erickson (in the red shirt) works with an Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego student during the Dragon Strachota field day for Wroclaw kindergarten students.

## Cross-cultural agreement signed with Polish university

June 23, 2016--Cooperation between the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and a major Polish university is creating new opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges for health and human performance (HHP) students.

Paul Shirilla, HHP department chair, said the department signed several new agreements with Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego (AWF) University in Wroclaw, Poland, during the program's study abroad trip earlier this month. They include an exchange agreement to allow AWF students and faculty to study at UW-River Falls and support to secure funding to pay for their trip.

"As soon as next fall we could potentially see Polish students here to study," Shirilla said.

In its second year, the Health and Human Performance Department's trip to Poland began when James Gostomski, professor of health and physical education, contacted AWF University, which focuses on physical education, exercise science and other sport-related fields. Gostomski is of Polish heritage and has family ties in the area.

A total of 12 students have visited, earning three credit hours toward the university's global perspectives requirement. While there, they participated in a local kindergarten's physical activity programs, created and ran workshops at a children's festival, attended classes at AWF and participated in activities with children from an orphanage in the nearby city of Namyslow. Students have also visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and participated in a short trip to the Czech Republic to visit University of Ostrava and tour the local sites.

"This experience allows our students to immerse themselves in Polish and Czech culture while also sharing physical education best practices with Polish children," Shirilla said.

For Morgan Wilson, the trip was the first time she's left the United States. Wilson, a health and physical education major, said she enjoyed being able to learn about another culture.

"We got to go into some classes and meet some very nice people who I am now very close with," she said. "Plus, it was a great way to get to know more people in my major."

The visit was facilitated by Monica Ilecka-Folcik, AWF international relations director, and Zofia Ignasiak, AWF vice rektor.

To learn more, call Shirilla at 715-425-3226 or email [paul.shirilla@uwrf.edu](mailto:paul.shirilla@uwrf.edu).



## Hewitt named 2016 Distinguished Alumnus at UW-River Falls

June 22, 2016 --Brad Hewitt, CEO of Thrivent Financial, was honored as the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls commencement in May. A native of Minneapolis, Hewitt graduated from UW-River Falls in 1982 with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. Hewitt later completed the Harvard Graduate School of Business Program for Management Development in 1995.

During his remarks at the commencement ceremonies, Hewitt encouraged the graduating class to not only continue to enhance on their knowledge, but to also continue to discover how they can make a difference in the world. He suggested that a life lived with gratitude and generosity leads to greater contentment and success.

"I am humbly honored to be recognized with this distinction from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls," said Hewitt. "My experience at the university has provided me a foundation not only of knowledge, but also a community that I've been able to build on during my life, and for that I am grateful."

Hewitt has been active within the UW-River Falls community. In 2011, he served as Executive in Residence in the College of Business and Economics. He has also been a key supporter of the Falcon Scholars program.

Hewitt serves on the board of Habitat for Humanity International, the board of the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation and the board of managers of the Ron Blue Institute. He also volunteers as vice-chair of the Itasca Project, an employer-led cross section group that works to improve the quality of life for all in our region. He is a member of the WHEREhouse Church, a new church plant in urban St. Paul. He is co-author of the book, "Your New Money Mindset: Create a Healthy Relationship with Money," published in 2015. Hewitt and his wife, Sue, live in St. Paul and have two adult children.

For more information about the Distinguished Alumnus Award, email [chris.mueller@uwrf.edu](mailto:chris.mueller@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3545.

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### **About Thrivent Financial**

Thrivent Financial is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. As a membership organization, it offers its more than 2.3 million member-owners a broad range of products, services and guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century it has helped members make wise money choices that reflect their values while providing them opportunities to demonstrate their generosity where they live, work and worship. For more information, visit [www.thrivent.com/](http://www.thrivent.com/) or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information about Thrivent Financial or Hewitt, email [callie.briese@thrivent.com](mailto:callie.briese@thrivent.com), call 612-844-7340 or 540-878-8093.

### **About UW-River Falls**

Founded in 1874, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minn. UW-River Falls students are empowered, beginning in their first semester, to participate in hands-on research, global travel, and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty. By fostering a culture of innovation and active learning, increasing numbers of students are encouraged to participate in undergraduate research, scholarly or creative activity outside of the classroom. This commitment to academic excellence has led to UW-River Falls consistently being named a Best College in the Midwest.



## Students and professor selected for \$25,000 Ideadvance Grants

July 21, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls Director for the Center for Innovation and Business Development Danielle Campeau announced today that students Michael Mader and Edward Matsushima and Associate Professor of Physics Matthew Vonk have each been selected for a \$25,000 Ideadvance grant.

Ideadvance is a seed fund created by the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and is administered by UW-Extension. Ideadvance grants support UW student, staff or faculty entrepreneurs while they test the viability of products and business ideas.

Mader, a recent UW-River Falls marketing graduate, was selected for the grant by placing first at the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament. He went on to compete at the International Business Model Competition against students from around the world with his social enterprise idea Hippy Feet. The number one requested item in homeless shelters, according to the Salvation Army, is socks. Hippy Feet provides a solution to this problem by offering a buy-one give-one product. Purchasing the organic, durable wool sock allows the customer to give back as a pair of socks is automatically donated to a homeless shelter for every pair purchased.

Matsushima is a sophomore and a dual business administration and exercise science major. His product, EZPocket, formerly known as Protein Pod, placed third at the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament and also qualified to compete at the International Business Model Competition. EZPocket offers a convenient transportation method for nutritional protein to maximize the benefits by reducing the amount of time between a workout and administration of the supplement. Matsushima was selected for the Ideadvance grant through direct submission to the competitive program.

Both Mader and Matsushima had previously competed in the Innovation Challenge offered through the Center for Innovation

and Business Development within the College of Business and Economics and made possible through financial contributions by AGS Data Systems, WiSys Technology Foundation and UW-Extension. Associate Professor of Management Marina Oaken served as faculty adviser for the program. AGS Data Systems President Derrick Edwards generously donated his time to mentor both teams.

Mader expressed his deep appreciation for the assistance and support he was given in the program.

"My mentors/advisers, Dr. Marina Oaken and Danielle Campeau have been the most wonderful resource and have kept me on track throughout this endeavor," Mader said. "Additionally, Derrick Edwards, a judge at the UWRF Innovation Challenge and local business owner, has volunteered his time as a consultant for the development of Hippy Feet and for preparation for the Big Idea and International Business Model Competition."

Edwards is continuing to assist Mader in the further development of his business in a private capacity.

Vonk was selected for the grant through direct submission to the program. His product, Pivot Interactive, provides interactive resources for science learning.

"I think it's great how the UW-Extension supports budding entrepreneurs," said Vonk. "I'm learning a lot from the Lean Startup class that they are offering. It's both challenging and very informative."

The Lean Startup guides entrepreneurs to "get out of the building" and test their business assumptions utilizing tools such as the Business Model Canvas. This differs from a typical business plan in that entrepreneurs create a hypothesis, test their assumptions with potential customers and pivot their business plan based on the high-quality feedback they receive. Many startup businesses fail and the Lean Startup methodology helps reduce that risk through early testing of assumptions.

For more information, email Campeau at [danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu](mailto:danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls and National Farm Medicine Center partnership impacts dairy farm worker injuries

July 20, 2016--What started out as a simple goal for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Safety Committee to submit a grant five years ago has evolved into a significant educational opportunity for immigrant dairy farm workers in the State of Wisconsin.

UW-River Falls Risk Manager and Program Director for the Center for Dairy Farm Safety (CDFS) Connie Smith traveled to Marshfield July 12 to receive further recognition for the university from the National Farm Medicine Center for their part in this endeavor.

"The partnership with the National Farm Medicine Center resulted in a positive impact in our state at reducing worker injuries on dairy farms," said Smith. "The customized training program was presented right on the farm in either Spanish or English so workers received the training in their native language."

Through the partnership, the program focuses on providing training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces, and informs workers of their rights and employers of their responsibilities under the OSHA Act. Target audiences include underserved, low-literacy, and workers in high-hazard industries.

The CDFS was established at UW-River Falls in September 2011 through a four-year grant from the Susan Harwood Grant Program managed by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Susan Harwood Training Grant Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations on a competitive basis. Awards are issued annually based on Congressional appropriation. Through the application process each year, subsequent grants were awarded to UW-River Falls in 2013, 2014, and 2015 based on training goals being met and partnerships developed.

In spring 2011, a representative from the OSHA office in Eau Claire contacted Smith in an effort to develop and pilot farm safety educational sessions for dairy producers in the area. That fall, OSHA was planning to implement a "Local Emphasis Program" (LEP) in Wisconsin due to the number of deaths and serious injuries that occurred on dairy farms. The LEP increased the number of OSHA safety inspections on dairy farms due to the risks involved. The concern was that dairy producers were unfamiliar with OSHA standards and anxiety related to the increased inspections and potential citations/fines would be counterproductive to the goal of reducing severe injuries and fatalities on dairy farms by identifying and reducing/eliminating hazards. Offering educational sessions would provide the education needed for the producers and would raise awareness regarding the seriousness of the hazards.

The project has also been recognized by the National Safety Council for Stakeholder Collaboration in Occupational Injury Research.

For more information about the grant or the Center for Dairy Farm Safety, email [connie.smith@uwrf.edu](mailto:connie.smith@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls launches exchange program with Mexican university

June 27, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has finalized details establishing an Experience Puebla exchange program at the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP), a private university that offers 42 undergraduate programs in Puebla, Mexico.

The Experience Puebla program will allow formal academic experiences to be combined with local community life and travel experiences, providing a rich, holistic learning experience. UWRF students will have ample chance to improve their knowledge of Spanish language and culture by pursuing interests outside the classroom, such as attending social and cultural events or sporting activities. Participants will be able to engage in service learning and internship opportunities, and take part in host family programs and guided field trips, and they can choose to either live on campus or with carefully vetted Mexican families.

UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen, along with Assistant Vice Chancellor/Executive Director for International Education Katrina Larsen led a UWRF delegation to Mexico to finalize collaboration details of the program last week. Experience Puebla is designed to be similar to UWRF's successful 30-year Experience Scotland program, held at Dalkeith Palace in Scotland, and the Experience China program, hosted by Zhejiang International Studies University in Hangzhou, China.

The goal of UWRF's "Experience" programs is to foster a total learning environment, focused on blending the student's curriculum, co-curricular programs, activities and community engagement to develop a global perspective.

UWRF will have offices and a classroom in the international building on the UPAEP campus where classes and programming for students will be offered from visiting UWRF faculty as well as from UPAEP faculty. Interaction with local students will be emphasized so UPAEP students will also be able to enroll in the UWRF classes offered there.

"UW-River Falls is committed to providing our students with opportunities to increase their global engagement and awareness," said Chancellor Van Galen. "Programs like this help our students increase their ability to navigate cultural differences and to welcome different points of view. UW-River Falls is proud to partner with UPAEP, an institution as committed as UWRF is to helping foster informed global citizens."

This new program, developed within the framework of UWRF's strategic plan goal to promote global education and engagement, was launched in time to coincide with the culmination of the UWRF Year of Mexico program, and will help UWRF fulfill its strategic plan objective of increasing the proportion of students who engage in long-term education abroad. As determined by the National Survey of Student Engagement, UWRF seniors indicate that they currently participate in study abroad programs at a rate that is 13% higher than those of peer institutions in the Great Lakes Region. In 2015, 28% of UWRF seniors reported having participated in study abroad.

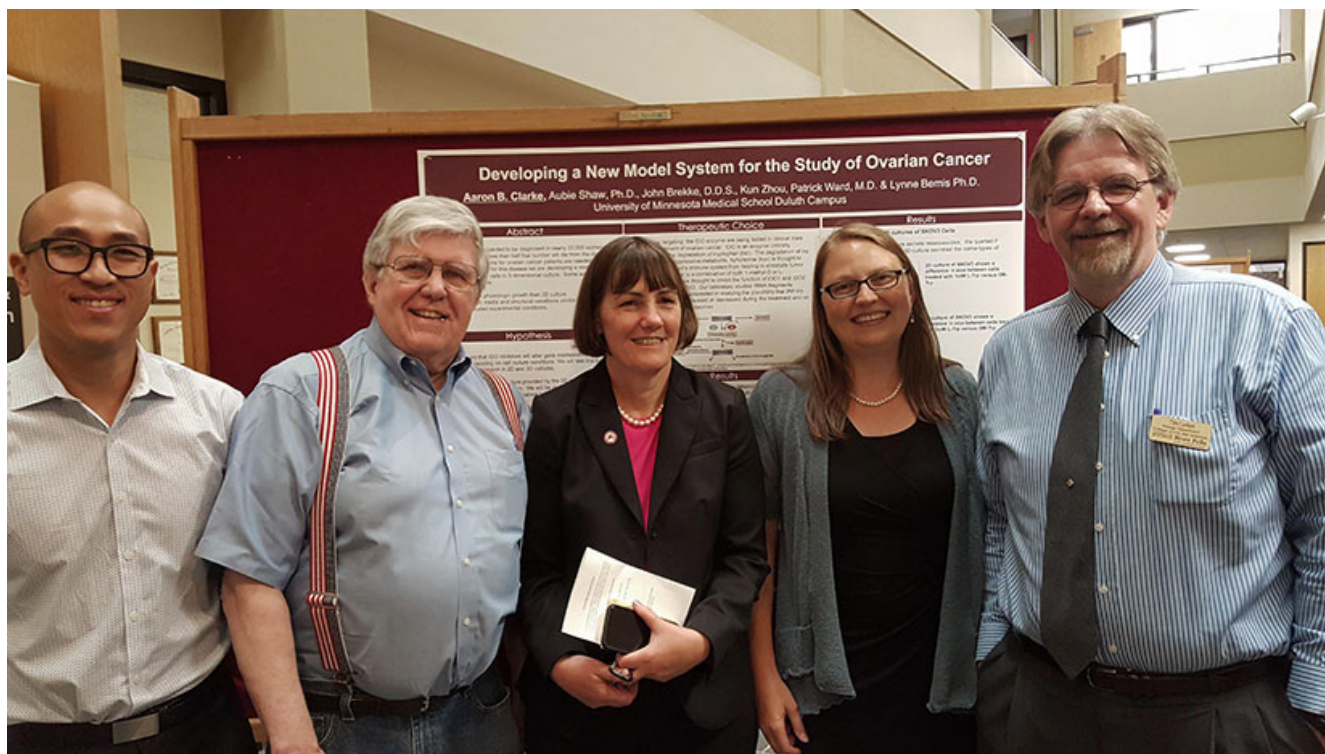
UWRF and UPAEP first signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Student Exchange Agreement in February 2015, and last April, Chancellor Van Galen and Vice President for International Education at UPAEP Pablo Nuño de la Parra met in

River Falls to establish the Experience Puebla program details.

Experience Puebla is set to begin with its first cohort of students in spring 2017, with UWRF students being able to apply to the program this fall. Some UWRF students have already had the opportunity to be involved with UPAEP through the semester-long exchange program and a short-term UWRF faculty led Spring Break service learning program.

Puebla, Mexico's fourth largest city, is located in the heart of Mexico and is the capital of the state of Puebla. UPAEP is located a few blocks from the historic downtown, a charismatic colonial city center that is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With its history, industrial development, convenient public transportation, and peaceful environment, Puebla is considered "the city of the student" making it an ideal choice for UWRF students to immerse themselves in Mexican traditions and culture.

For more information about the Experience Puebla program, email [katrina.larsen@uwrf.edu](mailto:katrina.larsen@uwrf.edu).



The joint TCIC/BRTI/UMD team who co-presented at the Moonshot Symposium at UMD. Left to right are EuHan Lee, Ph.D.; BRTI staff scientist John Brekke, DDS.; BRTI Founder and Inventor of "Cell-Mate" matrix; Lynne Bemis, Ph.D., chair of UMD Biomedical Sciences and BRTI collaborator; Aubie Shaw, Ph.D., BRTI consultant and collaborator; Tim Lyden, Ph.D., director of UWRF Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center.

## UW-River Falls professor shares cutting-edge research at National Cancer Moonshot Summit

July 20, 2016 – University of Wisconsin-River Falls biology Professor Tim Lyden and his Duluth industrial partner co-presented cutting-edge cancer research at the first White House sponsored national Cancer Moonshot Summit regional event at the UM-Duluth Medical School June 29.

During the summit, Lyden presented ongoing 3D cancer modeling research to the public. In concert with staff from BRTI LifeSciences, LLC, samples of 3D artificial tumor structures developed at UW-River Falls with the BRTI product Cell-Mate™ as well as natural scaffolds and hanging drop spheroids were shown. About 65 attendees were able to view and explore actual skin and breast cancer samples as in-vitro artificial tissues using stereo microscopes.

The research, developed by Lyden, as the director the UW-River Falls Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC), is the continuation of summer 2015 research involving four TCIC Team Brazil exchange students. The research is now the focus of a new student researcher, with Lyden as mentor and project developer, in the 2016 UW-River Falls Summer Scholars Program.

"Just as new technologies and toolsets had to be developed during the early 1960s to make the original Moonshot possible, new technologies and insights are now needed to power the current Cancer Moonshot in the 21st century," said Lyden.

"Small-scale tissue engineering and 3D modeling of cancer is just such a new technology and provides us with never before available toolsets that will power breakthroughs in our understanding of cancer and eventually lead to new treatments for this dreaded disease."

The Duluth Cancer Moonshot Summit is part of Vice President Joe Biden's National Cancer Summit, including conversations in communities across the United States. These summits were the first time that individuals and organizations representing the entire cancer community and beyond -- philanthropists, data and tech experts, advocates, patients and survivors -- convened under the national charge to double the rate of progress toward a cure.

Lyden's TCIC laboratory has been engaged in 3D artificial tissues and tumor work since 2004, when it started using natural matrix materials to generate very complex and structurally sophisticated cultures. In 2008, the TCIC began to shift its focus primarily to artificial tumor tissues and in 2013 it became a "beta test-site" for BRTI, LLC and their newly developed synthetic matrix material Cell-Mate™. Lyden and his researchers have been testing it with breast cancer cells ever since. Several individual and/or groups of UW-River Falls students have participated in these and other ongoing research projects.

Lyden has been working since 2008 with John Brekke, DDS, the inventor of Cell-Mate™ and now the CSO of BRTI, LLC for several years. Lyden and his researchers have been actively using their product and developing its applications in tumor research since 2013.

"I have a long personal interest in cancer research," Lyden said, "as this disease has impacted my family several times over my lifetime. After moving to UW-River Falls and working to develop a research program involving undergraduates, I discovered the application of natural matrix materials to generate very complex and long-lived artificial tissues in about 2004. With that toolset developed, I decided to turn much of my research attention to modeling various cancers with these tools."

After meeting the inventor of Cell-Mate™ in 2008 when Brekke attended the first TCIC regional matrix meeting, "I began to explore adding his matrix to our overall set of approaches," Lyden said. "In 2014, we began to focus down our overall efforts onto a limited number of tumor-types including breast, colon and melanoma. Our Cell-Mate™ work has, so-far, been limited to breast cancer and matching normal control tissues."

The most recent twist to the story is that this year's summer project has been exploring the relationship of breast cancer and normal cells to adjacent "stromal" cells called fibroblasts, according to Lyden.

"This is a very important and exciting new area of cancer research generally, that is already bearing fruit in terms of an enhanced understanding of the disease," Lyden said. "Our new work this summer is generating many exciting new observations as well and further confirming the potential impact of these 3D modeling tools in future cancer research."

For more information, email [timothy.lyden@uwrf.edu](mailto:timothy.lyden@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls seeks 2016 fall Career Fair exhibitors

July 14, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-RiverFalls is seeking employer involvement for the Fall Career Fair to be held Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center on campus.

The Career Fair gives students the opportunity to meet and network with potential employers. Students can learn about internship and career opportunities with employers who relate to their area of study.

"I gained an invaluable experience speaking with professionals in my field of interest, gaining a better understanding of the jobs which are available to me and learning to be proactive in the outcome of my own future," said a past student attendee.

Organizations speak highly of UWRF students, stating, "Some of the best I've seen, very professional" and "This is the best Career Fair I've been to."

UWRF Career Services prepares students for the Career Fair by offering a prep session prior to the event. The session features interactive stations for students to learn about and practice networking, conversing with recruiters, creating appropriate application materials, dressing professionally, and researching attending organizations.

UWRF has a reputation for offering quality academic programs in more than 45 degree areas within four colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Professional Studies, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the AACSB-accredited College of Business and Economics.

Career Fair registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. UWRF Career Services encourages interested parties to register as early as possible. The registration deadline is Sept. 9.

More information and further details about the Career Fair can be found at [www.uwrf.edu/careerfair](http://www.uwrf.edu/careerfair), by contacting Career Fair Coordinator Tia Fuhr at [cfcoordinator@uwrf.edu](mailto:cfcoordinator@uwrf.edu) or by calling 715-425-3572.

# UW-River Falls Small Business Development Center serves Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties

July 21, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Small Business Development Center offers no-cost consulting services for entrepreneurs and established small businesses in Polk, St. Croix and Pierce counties.

"Business development needs are continuing to grow in the St. Croix Valley and I'm thrilled about the team we have to support continued economic growth in our thriving region," said Danielle Campeau, director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development that houses the Small Business Development Center at UW-River Falls. "The Small Business Development Center is an invaluable resource for entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking to grow their business."

## Staff available to consult with small businesses include:



### Danielle Campeau

Campeau has served as the director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development at UW-River Falls since 2014 when the center was created to leverage university resources in support of economic growth and business development in the St. Croix Valley region. In this role, Campeau promotes a culture of innovation on the UW-River Falls campus through development of initiatives including the Innovation Challenge, a student startup competition. Campeau is also the director of the Small Business Development Center that contributes to economic growth by offering no-cost consulting services for entrepreneurs and established small businesses. Additionally, Campeau will serve as the director of the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator, set to open in May 2017.

Campeau holds a BS in biology and a master of business administration degree from UWRF. Prior to joining the university, she worked at a private healthcare company for seven years in various roles including managing a clinical support department, project management, information management systems, operations and corporate training. Campeau serves on the Board of Directors for the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and the River Falls Economic Development Corporation. She and her family reside in Deer Park.



### Katherine Fossler

Fossler, a consultant, has experienced business from both sides of the executive desk. After serving as finance and operations executive in the non-profit sector, Fossler started and grew a successful fitness/wellness business. She began putting her passion for business and economic development to work as a business consultant after the sale of her business in 2014. Fossler especially enjoys working with clients on creative problem solving and maximizing resources. She holds a BA in business from St. Catherine University and two human resource certificates (SPHR, SHRM-SCP). She is also a certified Kauffman Facilitator and an active member of the Hudson Rise n' Shine Toastmasters Club. Fossler and her family reside in Hudson.



## Julie Fronmueller

Fronmueller, coordinator of external relations and business development, holds a BS in marketing and a master of business administration degree from Boise State University and a master of information and library science from the University of Louisiana-Baton Rouge. Prior to joining UWRF, she was an assistant professor of library science at Colorado State University-Pueblo where she was the library liaison to the Hasan School of Business and the Department of Mass Communication, Outreach and Programming Coordinator and a member of the library instruction team. Fronmueller and her family reside in Ellsworth.

Small businesses can request consulting services by visiting the [Small Business Development Center webpage](#) or by calling 715-425-0620.

## community picnic

### UW-River Falls to host community picnic July 26

July 11, 2016 – In celebration of UW-River Falls and the value it brings to the local region, the university will host a community picnic on Tuesday, July 26, from 5-6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, with a required RSVP by July 21.

With more than 140 years of history, this event is intended to reinforce the positive and mutually beneficial relationship between UW-River Falls and River Falls area citizens. Local policy makers and other stakeholders have also been invited to attend and show their support.

The family-friendly event offers free food and beverages at the University Center on the UWRF campus. It will include a brief program featuring university/city leaders and students.

Guests are invited to stay for the St. Croix Valley Community Band Concert at the Wall Amphitheatre on campus at 7 p.m. The concert is part of the Chill on the Hill free summer concert series.



## New student enrollment at UW-River Falls highest in five years

August 25, 2016--As part of a summer tradition, faculty and staff at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls have been welcoming and registering new students for the fall semester. However, with the largest incoming freshman class the university has seen in five years, this summer has felt a little different.

For the 2016-17 academic year, UW-River Falls is welcoming a freshman class in excess of 1,200, as well as about 450 transfer students. The fall 2016 freshman class also boasts the highest average ACT scores the university has recorded in the past 15 years.

"Increasing the size of our freshman class by more than 15 percent while strengthening the overall academic profile is quite the accomplishment – especially in our competitive recruitment environment," said Sarah Egerstrom, Executive Director of Admissions and New Student & Family Programs.

As part of its strategic plan, the university has developed new academic programs that fulfill both student interest and the needs of the Wisconsin workforce, with the most recent addition being an undergraduate degree program in neuroscience. Incoming students can look forward to the 2017 opening of the \$63.5 million Falcon Center to support its health and human performance program, as well as recreation, wellness and athletics. UW-River Falls also continues to focus on global initiatives and innovative partnerships with regional businesses.

"We are excited that more students are selecting UWRF as their college of choice. Thanks to the great work of our faculty and staff, we continue to provide a high-quality experience with unique opportunities for undergraduate research, study abroad, internships, and other impactful experiences," said Dean Van Galen, UW-River Falls Chancellor.

For more information about enrollment or about admission to UW-River Falls, email [sarah.r.egerstrom@uwrf.edu](mailto:sarah.r.egerstrom@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls undergrads exhibit greenwall research at Minnesota State Fair

August 19, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will exhibit its greenwall research at the 2016 Minnesota State Fair, Aug. 25-Sept. 5. The exhibit will include giveaways, activities, and a full-size version of the foliage wall, or vertical vegetation system (greenwall), installed on campus in 2015 to study the effects of greenery and plants on student behavior, mood and classroom performance.

The greenwall research exhibit will be open each day of the Minnesota State Fair from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Eco-Experience Hall (Progress Center) and undergraduates will be on hand to answer questions. Prize drawings, giveaways, games, and a selfie station for visitors to post pictures using the hashtags #UWRFGreenwall and #EcoExperience16 will be offered at the exhibit.

Notable presentations on the Eco-Experience Sustainability Stage include "Attitudes & Academic Performance in a Greenwall Environment" by UW-River Falls undergraduate Alison Miotke with mentor Travis Tubre, psychology professor, on Sunday, Aug. 28, from 2-3 p.m. and "The Biology of Growing Vertical" by UW-River Falls undergraduate Mikayla Mack, with mentor Sonja Maki, lecturer in the Plant and Earth Science Department, on Friday, Sept. 2, from 10-11 a.m.

Younger children are invited to learn how to fold an origami leaf and discuss leaf biology with Maki and her student researchers on Monday, Aug. 29, from 10-11 a.m. or on Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 6-7 p.m.

A multidisciplinary team of UW-River Falls student and faculty researchers studied the benefits of a greenwall in a classroom setting over the 2014-15 academic year, including indicators such as workspace satisfaction, psychological restoration, academic self-efficacy, student worry, and mood. Results from the most recent greenwall research at UW-River Falls has

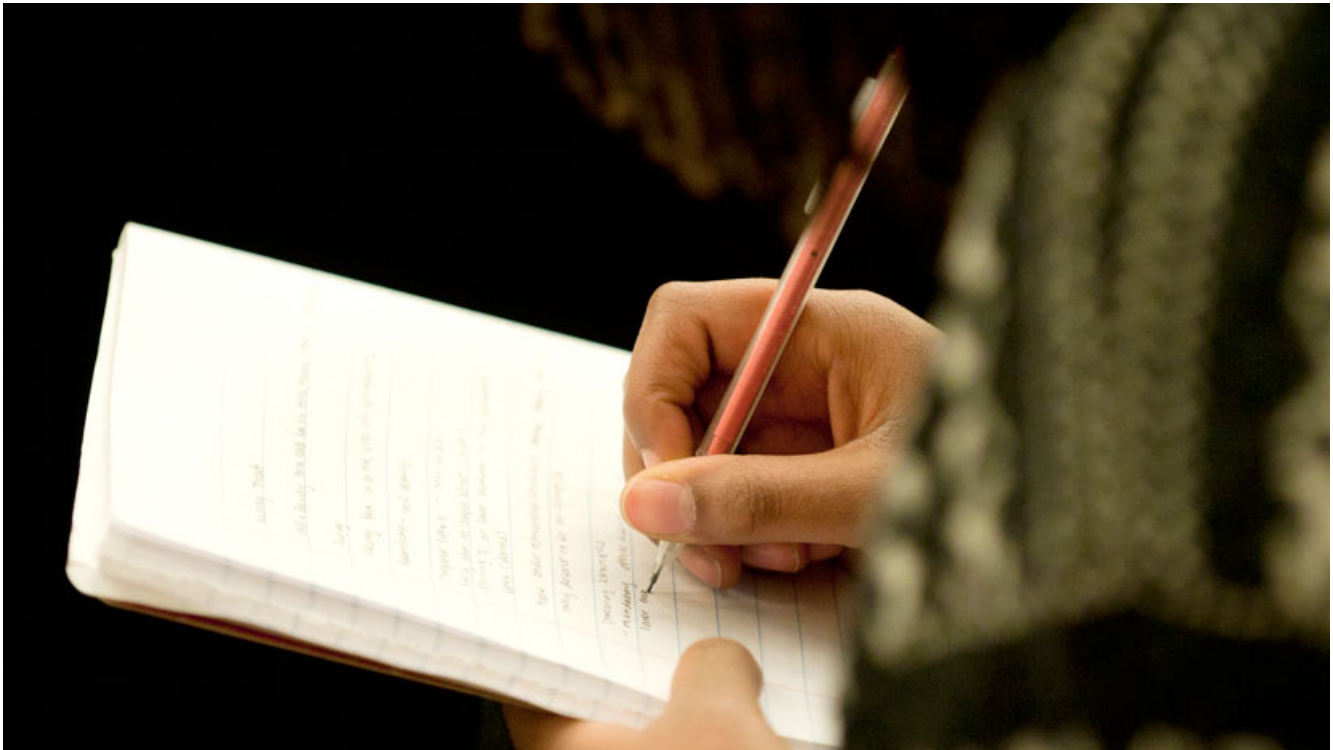
confirmed the psychological benefits of living plants and provided preliminary evidence that plants may also improve academic performance.

Future research is dependent on funding, but may include expanding the study to examine the effects of the greenwall on other human subjects such as staff and professors. Ongoing research includes analyzing and testing the UWRF greenwall for optimal design features and upkeep protocols to maintain a healthy and sustainable greenwall system.

The exhibit shares the research findings of the greenwall installed in a classroom in the Agricultural Science building at UW-River Falls in January 2015. The classroom greenwall was largely funded by a grant from the National Foliage Foundation. The project also received support from Green Plants for Green Buildings, McCaren Designs, and the UW-River Falls Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (URSCA) Office.

The greenwall research exhibit at the fair is made possible in part from generous donations from McCaren Designs, the DeLonais Foundation, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, and the UW-River Falls URSCA Office.

For more information, contact Laura Walsh at 715-425-3535 or email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).



## UW-River Falls will continue Scholarship Guarantee program

August 19, 2016-- In an effort to help students access excellent, high-quality education at an affordable price, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will continue its Scholarship Guarantee program to new incoming students for the 2017-18 academic year. The program, aimed at providing financial support for qualified incoming freshmen regardless of financial need, offers a guaranteed scholarship to students who meet specific academic achievement criteria.

The Scholarship Guarantee program, announced in October 2015, automatically awards scholarship funds to incoming freshmen with high academic potential to assist with their UWRF educational expenses. Students with a 22-24 ACT score who rank in the top 40 percent of their class (or 3.0 GPA if high school does not rank) are guaranteed a \$1,000 scholarship their first year. Students with a 25 ACT score or better who rank in the top 25 percent of their class (or 3.25 GPA if high school does not rank) are awarded \$2,000. This award can be renewed for a second year, totaling \$4,000 in scholarship assistance, when a 3.0 GPA and progress toward a degree is maintained.

UW-River Falls already boasts one of the lowest tuition rates in the UW System and is committed to keeping expenses for students, many of whom are first-generation college students, as low as possible while still offering in-demand academic programs, hands-on learning, engaged faculty and small class sizes. Combined with cost-saving features already in place, including textbook rentals, the Scholarship Guarantee program is making UW-River Falls an affordable choice for students and their families. This investment in scholarships lessens the financial burden on students who attend UWRF while maximizing their lifetime career potential.

"We have already seen the impact this bold new scholarship program is having on hundreds of students and their families who will begin their UWRF journey this fall. The guaranteed scholarships are a strategic investment in the future of our students, as well as a demonstration of our commitment to providing a high-quality education at a great value," said UW-

River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Financial need is not a criteria for the Scholarship Guarantee program and all scholarships awarded will be automatically applied toward a students' tuition once admitted to the university. Details about the program can be found at <https://www.uwrf.edu/Admissions/Scholarship-Guarantee.cfm>.

UW-River Falls will award more than \$1 million in scholarship funds during the 2016-17 academic year. The Scholarship Guarantee joins existing successful scholarship programs including Falcon Scholars, which awards \$6,000 over four years to 80 qualifying freshmen. These programs highlight the university's commitment to student success, particularly for students who have shown academic promise during their high school careers. Additional need-based and merit-based scholarships will continue to be available to current and incoming students. Information about scholarships requiring application can be found at <https://www.uwrf.edu/Admissions/scholarships.cfm>.

For more information about the Scholarship Guarantee program, email [sarah.r.egerstrom@uwrf.edu](mailto:sarah.r.egerstrom@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3500.

## Kernahan receives Dykstra Faculty Excellence award at UW-River Falls



September 22, 2016 -- Cyndi Kernahan, psychology professor and assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, has been named the recipient of the 2016-17 Paul B. and Robert Dykstra Faculty Excellence Award.

"Cyndi presents an excellent example of the application of high-impact practices that support our students both educationally and in terms of professional development," said Travis Tubre, professor and chair of the Psychology Department, in his nomination letter.

The Dykstra award is designed to support faculty research, creative and scholarly activity and is awarded to a tenured or tenure-track faculty member who is either currently involved in a project or has proposed a research, creative or scholarly project.

"She exemplifies what a scholar should be," said Tricia Davis, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in her nomination letter. "She is enthusiastic about her research, shows dedication to scholarly work with undergraduate students, and is committed to helping others engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning. She is deeply passionate about good evidence and using the scholarship of teaching to improve teaching/learning that I truly believe that she deserves this recognition."

Kernahan, of River Falls, is a social psychologist, teaching Social Psychology, the Psychology of Prejudice and Racism, Careers in Psychology, and Senior Seminar. As a specialist in racism and prejudice, she regularly conducts research (in collaboration with other faculty and students) that examines the ways in which students learn and learn best with respect to this controversial topic. She regularly publishes articles and book chapters on the teaching of race.

Kernahan also coordinates a number of faculty development programs for other instructors, including a workshop for new faculty and for those teaching in the new First Year Adventure program (for students in the College of Arts and Sciences). She has an additional appointment at the UW System level as co-director of the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars program. In all of these programs, Kernahan tries to help instructors think deeply about the learning goals they have for their students and to construct evidence-based solutions for teaching and learning challenges.

For more information on the award, email [wes.chapin@uwrf.edu](mailto:wes.chapin@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-0629.



L-R: Coach Kelm pictured with Charlie Moore, Val Kramer, Tim Abrahamson and Trent Miller who made up the UW-River Falls Dairy Judging Team.

## UW-River Falls dairy judging team takes third place at Harrisburg

September 22, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Judging Team took third place overall at the 2016 All-American Invitational Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Sept. 19 in Harrisburg, Pa. A total of 13 universities competed in the collegiate division where team members judged 10 classes of cattle and gave oral reasons on five of the classes. The top five individuals and teams were recognized.

The UW-River Falls team placed just behind the teams from the University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota, who finished first and second, respectively. The UW-River Falls team took first place in the collegiate division for Holsteins.

Representing UWRF was Tim Abrahamson of Lindstrom, Minn., Valerie Kramer of St. Cloud, Minn., Trent Miller of Spring Valley and Charlie Moore of Fennimore. Abrahamson was the 4<sup>th</sup> high individual overall and Miller was the 5<sup>th</sup> high individual, out of the 52 individual competitors. Abrahamson, Kramer and Moore are all agricultural business majors and Miller is a dairy science major. Steve Kelm, professor of dairy science and co-chair of the Animal and Food Science Department, coached the team.

Wisconsin was well represented in other divisions at the 2016 competition. The Wisconsin FFA team took first place in the FFA Division. The team was coached by Gwen (Betzold) Dado of Amery, a 1986 graduate of the agricultural education program. In the 4-H Division, Wisconsin was represented by a team from Dodge County and took second place in that division.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.



## 'Unbroken Traditions & Intuitive Teachings: The Life-Long Mentorship of Randy Johnston' art exhibition



August 25, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department presents an exhibition "Unbroken Traditions & Intuitive Teachings: The Life-Long Mentorship of Randy Johnston" Sept. 7-Oct. 14 in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. This exhibition celebrates Professor Randy Johnston and his 23 years of teaching and service at UW-River Falls. Johnston and an invited group of alumni share Gallery 101 to present a collection of artworks demonstrating his life-long commitment of maker and mentor.

Johnston has a celebrated an illustrious 45-year career in ceramics. He is recognized internationally as an artist who has pursued functional expression and brought a fresh aesthetic vision to contemporary form, and for his many contributions to the development of wood kiln technology in the United States. Johnston has received recognition for both his creative works and teaching practice, receiving numerous awards throughout his career including a Bush Artist Fellowship, two

Visual Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Distinguished Craft Educator Award from the James Renwick Alliance/Smithsonian American Art Museum (2010) and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (2014).

Alumni included are from the St. Croix River Valley and throughout the United States: Megan Bauman, Matt Dooley, David S. East, Lisa Ellena, Jay Jenson, Katie Jae, Bri Larson, Jill Lawley, John McLaughlin, Shari McWilliams, Sarah Millfelt, Paul Moeller, Bayard Morgan, Wendy Olson, Brittany Polzin, Andy Rineck, Joe Singewald, Eric Troolin, Marjorie Wade, and Rhonda Willers.

A public celebration of Johnston's teaching career and service is Friday, Oct. 14, from 4-6 p.m. with an artist talk at 5 p.m. in Gallery 101. The exhibition and celebration are both free and open to the public.

Gallery 101 hours are noon-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, contact the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266 or email [susan.m.zimmer@uwrf.edu](mailto:susan.m.zimmer@uwrf.edu).



## 52nd Annual UW-River Falls Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo set for Sept. 9-10

August 25, 2016 – The public is invited to the 52nd Annual UW-River Falls Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 9 and 10, at the outdoor rodeo arena at the UWRF Campus Farm at 1475 S. Wasson Lane on the corner of Wasson Lane and Cemetery Road in River Falls.

There is a single performance Friday evening at 7 p.m. and two performances on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Food will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

Tickets prices are \$14 for adults, \$10 for UWRF students and children 5-12. Children age 4 and under are free. Tickets will be available at the gate but can also be purchased prior to the show in the UWRF University Center lobby on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-show tickets are \$2 off the listed price.

For more information, call the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Dean's Office at 715-425-3535.



Photo: Gradients of color stream down from a tree branch to the ground appearing like sun rays near the Dalkha Garden and Kleinpell Fine Arts building in a piece by art (ceramics) major Blake Stolpestad during last year's Outdoor Art Installation.

## Annual outdoor art exhibition set for Oct. 5-6 at UW-River Falls

September 26, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department announces the 25th Annual Outdoor Art Installations October 5-6 on campus. The event showcases faculty and students works of art designed to highlight a specific site on the UWRF campus grounds.

Internationally recognized artist Randy Johnston will lead a walkabout critique with students and guests at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 5. The public is welcome to join in for these insightful conversations.

Site maps identifying the individual installations can be picked up in the lobby of Kleinpell Fine Arts building near Gallery 101 beginning at noon on Oct. 5.

The installations and lecture are free and open to the public. Everyone is asked to please respect the artistic ideas by not altering or damaging the artwork.

For more information, call the UWRF art department office at 715-425-3266.



## Brazilian Carnival at UW-River Falls to kick off the Year of Brazil

August 26, 2016--A community event, Carnaval Brasileiro, celebrating Brazilian culture through music, dance, art, and food, will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 7-10 p.m. under the big tent on the University Center mall. The event is free and open to the public.

This event will feature the phenomenal 10-piece band Beira Mar Brasil, complete with a horn section and loads of heart pounding hand percussion. Beira Mar Brasil, led by Robert Everest, is the most established Brazilian carnival band in Minnesota, with more than 15 years of entertaining in the Twin Cities and beyond. They have performed at the Ordway Theatre, the Walker Art Center, and the Minnesota Zoo.

The Year Of program offers, over the course of a full academic year, a wide-ranging look at a country from its earliest history right up to current events. The program uses a multidisciplinary approach in order to understand and appreciate other countries and cultures.

For more information or accommodations, call Student Involvement at 715-425-3911 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/StudentInvolvement>.



## Who Shaped Your Journey?

Wednesday, September 7, 2016 | by Dean Van Galen

Let's try an experiment. Take out a piece of paper (or your laptop or cell phone). Now, make a list of the ***ten people who have had the greatest impact on positively shaping your life's journey***. Please do this before you read more...

Next, take a look at your list. You have probably included some family members, such as a spouse, children, parents, grandparents, or siblings. There are likely some close friends on the list. And, your list probably includes one or more ***educators*** -- maybe your 4th grade teacher who ignited your interest in reading, mathematics, or history. Perhaps a high school biology or drama teacher who sparked your intellectual passion, or a teacher or coach who was a role model and source of support during a difficult time during adolescence. For many college students and graduates, the top ten list includes college professors. My list includes two professors from over 30 years ago. The point is that educators -- at all levels -- do more than teach knowledge or skills, they are role models, mentors, sources of inspiration, and people who help us see what is possible and help us achieve our dreams.

I was recently reminded of this when I joined 13 UW-River Falls students who are part of the McNair Scholars Program as they presented their undergraduate research at a symposium at the University of California, Berkeley. The McNair Scholars Program supports first-generation college students from low-income families or members of a group underrepresented in graduate education. The goal of the McNair Program is not only to encourage students to finish a college degree, but for them to go on and complete a Ph.D. -- a goal that was unimaginable for these students only a couple of years ago. Yet, there were these 13 students from UW-River Falls at the University of California, Berkeley with other McNair students from across the nation, presenting their undergraduate research.

Our students did an amazing job. They were well prepared, articulate, professional, and clearly excited about their research and their future. Every one of these students was mentored in their research projects by a professor. One student after

another told me how those professors generously took time to work with them on their research, were wonderful advisers, and went the extra mile to help them.

One of the 13 UW-River Falls students, Shanna Burris, was mentored by our Agricultural Engineering Technology Professor Dean Olson. Shanna described Dr. Olson as a wonderful mentor, providing her with the advice and resources she needed to realize her vision. For her research project, Shanna designed and built a mechanical horse saddle lift that enables paraplegic riders to lift a Western saddle from the height of a wheelchair onto a horse (before mounting the horse using a ramp). A large population of "para-riders" is using horse riding as a specialized therapy, and the assistive device that Shanna has developed holds great potential to enable hundreds of paraplegic riders to achieve a new level of independence. Shanna is now working with the WiSys Technology Foundation and has filed a patent application on her idea. Truly amazing.



As we begin a new academic year and welcome our students back to campus, I pause to reflect on the importance of educators' role in inspiring and shaping their journeys. Dr. Dean Olson is just one of many dedicated professors at UWRF who provide mentorship and serve as lifelong role models for our students. If we ask Shanna to write her list of "journey-shapers" even 20 or 30 years from now, I am confident that Dr. Olson will still be on that list. The vast majority of educators -- including college professors -- choose to become educators primarily because they want to make a difference in the lives of

students. Often, these educators are inspired by a college professor who made a difference in their own lives. I am convinced that educators transform the lives of their students. Take another look at your "top ten" list, and I am sure you will agree.



## Fall observatory talks/viewing sessions set at UW-River Falls

September 26, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Physics Department begins its fall season of free, public observatory viewings and astronomy discussions on Sept. 27.

The first stargazing session on Tuesday, Sept. 27, begins with a talk, "One Year Later: Discoveries at Pluto" by physics Professor Eileen Korenic at 8 p.m. in 271 Centennial Science Hall. Then, if the sky is clear, a telescope viewing session will follow at 8:30 p.m. on the third floor observation deck. Uranus and Neptune should be visible.

A faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions. Objects to be seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons, and double stars.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit [www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm). The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

Other viewings this fall include:

- \* **Tuesday, Oct. 25**, at 8 p.m., "Boo! Halloween and Other Cross-Quadrature Days" presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear. Uranus and Neptune should be visible.
- \* **Wednesday, Dec. 7**, at 8 p.m., "Location, Location, Location: Milky Way Stars Have Moved" presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is

clear. Uranus should be visible.

For more information about the observatory, email [glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu](mailto:glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu) or for more information about pre-observatory talks, email [eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu](mailto:eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu) or call the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

## Gillen receives Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence at UW-River Falls



September 16, 2016 –Professor Mark Gillen, interim associate dean in the College of Education and Professional Studies, department chair of Counseling and School Psychology, and program director of the School Counseling Program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, has been named the recipient of the 2016-17 Dr. Keith G. Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Truly, Dr. Gillen doesn't just teach classes. He isn't just a great teacher. He weaves together a skillful and detailed mosaic of collaboration, innovation, and best practice across multiple levels of program administration and instruction," Caroline Baker, associate professor of Counseling and School Psychology at UWRF said in her nomination letter. "All of this is done for the preparation of quality school counselors, and it shows through our reputation, high number of applications, and a solid rate of employment for our graduates. This big picture

approach, while maintaining the details, is why Dr. Gillen deserves the Keith Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence."

The award recognizes outstanding and innovative teachers who have made exceptional contributions to the university and to the community. Recipients have displayed innovative approaches to teaching, demonstrated scholarship of teaching and learning, innovative use of technology, curriculum development, assessment approaches and outreach and partnerships with collaborators on or off campus.

"As I have shared with many others, being nominated by my fellow faculty members and a former student/peer means more to me than I can describe," said Gillen. "I am proud that our program has accomplished so much by collaborating with hundreds of school district employees while impacting untold numbers of students, parents and community members. This award is representative of all of the fine work that we do in the counseling program to prepare students to interact with these groups on behalf of UWRF."

Gillen, of Minneapolis, joined the College of Education and Professional Studies faculty at UW-River Falls in 2005. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas in 2004 and taught at the University of Chattanooga before coming to UW-River Falls.

For more information, email [mark.gillen@uwrf.edu](mailto:mark.gillen@uwrf.edu).

## Just Local event highlights volunteer opportunities, local businesses, food samples, and more

August 25, 2016--A community event, Just Local, focusing on bringing people together to learn about the importance of being an engaged community member and supporting the local economy will be hosted by UW-River Falls on Thursday, Sept. 8, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. under the big tent on the University Center mall. The event is free and open to the public.

Just Local is an event that hopes to connect UWRF students to our community through volunteerism, supporting the local economy, and living sustainably. Other highlights of the event include a free t-shirt, local food samples, sustainable crafts, henna, and much more.

For more information or accommodations, call Student Involvement at 715-425-4747 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/StudentInvolvement>.

## New online master's degree in health and wellness prepares graduates for management roles in the health promotion industry

September 6, 2016--As health and wellness programs continue to grow, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is one of five University of Wisconsin institutions and the University of Wisconsin-Extension offering an online Master of Science in Health and Wellness Management degree to address this rapidly evolving industry. Applications for the graduate degree program are now open.

"We are excited to be a part of the collaborative graduate program in Health and Wellness Management," said Faye Perkins, UW-River Falls provost and vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs. "This degree will provide another option for our students to advance in the field of health and wellness. As the need for preventative health care increases, this program will ensure that our students are well prepared to help people lead healthy lifestyles."

According to David Schejbal, dean of Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning in UW-Extension, "What we know from our industry advisors—representatives from such diverse organizations as the Wisconsin Department of Health to Kimberly-Clark Corporation—is that health care laws, financial reporting, and policy issues are growing increasingly complex. Candidates are seeking master's degrees to remain competitive in this continuously developing marketplace."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected job growth for the health and wellness industry from 2014 to 2024 is 13 percent, a faster rate of growth than most other fields. Opportunities for qualified health and wellness management professionals exist in virtually every sector of the workforce: service industries, manufacturing, community agencies, the insurance industry, healthcare systems, educational institutions, and more. The University of Wisconsin online curriculum prepares people for positions as corporate wellness administrator, director of fitness/wellness, wellness program manager, community health and wellness director, health management consultant, and health promotions adviser.

Michaela Conley, CEO of HPCareer.Net, and an industry leader that provided input into the design of the new degree, said, "As founder of HPCareer.Net, a health promotion industry-centric career advertising resource, and HPLive, an unbiased professional continuing education provider, I'm uniquely positioned to observe the cutting edge trends in our industry. A master's degree from the University of Wisconsin provides candidates with a distinct competitive advantage in our increasingly expanding and evolving profession."

The new master's degree, approved by the Higher Learning Commission, complements bachelor's degrees in community health, health education, kinesiology, exercise science, nutrition, health promotion, recreation management, and human resources.

The curriculum focuses on program budgeting, legal and policy issues and employee behavior changes through courses in persuasion skills, strategic management, wellness law, finance and wellness. The GRE is not a requirement for admission.

Prospective students seeking more information about the University of Wisconsin Health and Wellness Management program are encouraged to visit <http://hwm.wisconsin.edu>, call 1-877-895-3276, or email [learn@uwex.edu](mailto:learn@uwex.edu).

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at <https://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/> or can be obtained by calling at 715-425-3256, 1-800-228-5607 or emailing [outreach@uwrf.edu](mailto:outreach@uwrf.edu).

## Noon coffee concert series set at UW-River Falls

September 1, 2016—The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert Series is set for fall semester at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The free coffee concerts, held in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, begin at noon on the following Fridays:

Sept. 9 – St. Croix Trio

Sept. 30 – Janet Greene, clarinet/Ivan Konov, piano

Oct. 14 – WolfGang Ensemble

Oct. 21 – Joseph Bartz, tuba/Antonio Bujosa Morro, piano

Nov. 11 – Peter Sheppard Skaerve, violin

Dec. 2 – Pat O'Keefe and his Brazilian Trio

Dec. 9 – James Dutton, flute

Coffee and treats are served at the conclusion of each concert. All concerts are open to the public.

For more information, call the Music Department at 715-425-3183.

# Professor, former softball coach becomes interim provost at UW-River Falls

**By: Ace Sauerwein**

**Falcon News Service**

Faye Perkins, a longtime professor and former Falcons softball coach at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, since July has been serving as interim provost and vice chancellor.

The hiring came after former Provost Fernando Delgado left at the end of the 2015-2016 school year for the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Delgado served in his previous role since 2009.

Perkins officially took on the two-year interim position at the beginning of July. As vice chancellor, Perkins is "second in command, like vice president, to Chancellor Van Galen," she said. The provost position "is specifically responsible for all academic programs. The four deans and the four colleges are each responsible for their academic programs in their colleges, and then all the department chairs are responsible for their specific department. All of those people report up to me," she added.

Other departments such as the Registrar's Office, the Division of Technology Service, International Education, the library, and testing and tutoring all report to Perkins as well.

Van Galen, who was in charge of hiring the interim provost, says the decision to go with Perkins was a confident one.

"Being a department chair, a softball coach, a great faculty member... it's those combinations of qualities that she brought to the position that made it an easy decision for me," said Van Galen.

Perkins agreed that "all of those experiences provided me the background that I need to do this position effectively."

For 22 years, Perkins was the head softball coach at UWRF. She retired following the 2015 season, and during her time with the Falcons "learned a lot about leadership through coaching. It's about getting people to work together to toward a common goal, so whether that's being softball coach, department chair of Health and Human Performance... those experiences have provided me a really broad range at the entire university," Perkins said. That, she said, has helped her adjust to the role of provost.

Outside of being a head coach and a department chair, she has also been a full-time professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance at UWRF since 1997, a member of the Faculty Senate in the 1990s, and served on many university committees.

Mialisa Moline, chair of Faculty Senate, said via email that "Faye is a highly respected and trusted colleague on the UWRF campus, with a long history here in which she has built such a wonderful, well-earned reputation."

Much like Van Galen, Moline had the same vote of confidence.

"I have full confidence in not just her abilities, but also her willingness and ethical spirit in which to accomplish great things on

our campus," she said.

Although both Van Galen and Moline have the utmost confidence in her, Perkins said she does not think she'll apply for the permanent job as provost.

"When I took the position, I told the Chancellor I was not interested in pursuing it full time, but I want to leave my options open as well," Perkins said.

Whether she changes her mind or goes back to teaching, Perkins "won't be going back to coaching," that's for sure.

## Revamped internships website at UW-River Falls boosts connections with local and regional businesses

August 31, 2016--With the Fall Career Fair at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls set for Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center, Career Services has taken further steps to make it even easier for students and employers to find one another through a newly redesigned internships website.

Easy to use with a portal for students looking for internships and one for employers looking for interns, the newly revamped website at <https://www.uwrf.edu/CareerServices/Internships.cfm> is designed to swiftly connect even more students with opportunities across the city, region, and the state.

"The importance of internships is two-fold," said Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services at UW-River Falls. "The internship experience provides the student with an opportunity to connect classroom learning within a professional setting and gives the employer a chance to develop their future talent pool."

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), many interns are hired full-time with a company upon completion of [an internship] experience. NACE lists the typical conversion rate from intern to hire at 51.7 percent. Read more employer survey results at <http://www.naceweb.org/internships/benchmarks.aspx>

While students can easily connect on-line with employers, they will also have an opportunity to meet face-to-face during a Career Fair held each semester. The fairs at UW-River Falls host more than 100 employers who speak with students about their future endeavors.

"We strived to reach out to numerous companies in varied industries, to make this Career Fair more appealing to students in all colleges at UWRF," said Career Fair Coordinator Tia Fuhr.

Additionally Career Services has maintained its partnership with Career Fair Plus to continue offering the [free interactive app](#) that allows students to research attending companies, sort organizations by major, and learn tips on how to leave a lasting impression on recruiters.

Employers expect students to be confident and know about their company beforehand. By researching companies prior to the fair, students are more prepared and generate stronger conversations with employers, according to Fuhr.

For more information about the new internships website, the Career Fair, or attending businesses and possible partnership opportunities, call UW-River Falls Career Services at 715-425-3572.

# River Falls on path to add swinging bridge to national list of historic places

**By: Lisa Erickson**

**Falcon News Service**

Residents of River Falls may see a favorite local spot become more popular if it gets listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The River Falls Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recently completed a Historical and Architectural Resources Survey of notable buildings and structures in the city. The "Swinging Bridge" over the Kinnickinnic River, also known as the Glen Park Suspension Footbridge, came out on top of places for the city to consider for historic preservation.

"Tourism is a big deal," said Tony Steiner, River Falls city planner. Having more places on the National Register of Historic Places could bring more people to River Falls.

Four sites in River Falls are already on the National Register of Historic Places. Two are buildings on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus (South Hall and North Hall), one is a private residence known as the Freeman House on North Third Street, and another one is the Glen Park Municipal Swimming Pool.

HPC members recently decided that they would move forward with adding the bridge to the register.

"I looked up the other remaining footbridges in the U.S. and one of those bridges may have been torn down since the survey," said Steiner. The survey revealed the Glen Park Suspension Footbridge may be only one of two similar types of footbridges left in the United States. The other bridge is in Copper Falls State Park in Ashland County. The bridge was originally built in 1925 by the Minneapolis Bridge Company and was rehabilitated in 1986.

"We are a certified historic preservation community and have been since the '90s," added Steiner. The goal of the survey was to help the HPC identify places and properties and then apply for grants to help preserve those places. Most communities don't have a lot of money for historic preservation, he said.

It's not uncommon for many communities across the United States to have multiple places on the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Park Service website, almost every county in the U.S. has at least one building on the register.

Many sites were listed as potential historic places on the survey, but the bridge, which connects pedestrian traffic north of Cascade Avenue to Glen Park, garnered the most attention by HPC members. Having a site on the register helps with keeping that structure preserved and allows for tax credits.

Heidi Heinze, the chair of HPC, said the process to get on the register is an arduous one and the HPC needs help.

"This isn't costing the taxpayers anything," said Heinze. The city applied for a grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society to hire a consultant to help with the process of getting the bridge on the register, Heinze added. She anticipates the bridge will be added by this time next year.

The bridge is also part of a bigger historical project. The city has been working on an online walking historical tour that people will be able to access with a smart phone, tablet and computer.

"I think it's really cool," said Tyler Galde, a University of Wisconsin-River Falls student, referring to the online tour. He has been working on the project as an intern with the City of River Falls. Galde also said he thinks the bridge is a great piece of history to officially add to an already historic town. Galde is majoring in field biology with minors in geographic information systems and conservation.

The online walking historical tour of River Falls will be done late this fall, according to Galde. The tour will help guide people to the most notable historic sites in River Falls. In addition to the walking tour, the city has been creating old-time postcards.

"We have been handing out the postcards that tell the story about the bridge along with a historic picture of it on the front," said Jeff Bjork, a lifetime River Falls resident and HPC board member. Bjork is also excited about the online walking tour and said he hopes more can be done. Bjork and generations of his family have been residents for more than 150 years. He would like to see more places highlighted to generate more interest in River Falls. The HPC has been creating a new postcard highlighting a new historic site every year for the last few years.

Dan Giester, local resident and unofficial historian, said the Swinging Bridge of all the historic sites in River Falls makes the most sense to get on the National Register. Giester, who has lived in River Falls his whole life, can recall many memories and time spent in Glen Park. He said the bridge is a place that many locals young and old have fond memories of. He is also glad it will be on the online walking tour.

According to the National Park Service, many more sites in cities near River Falls are registered as historic places. For more information about historic sites in Wisconsin, go to [www.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/).



## U.S. News names UW-River Falls a Best Regional University and Top Public University in the Midwest

September 15, 2016--U.S. News & World Report has named the University of Wisconsin-River Falls a Best Regional University-Midwest, Top Public University-Midwest, and Best Undergraduate Business Program for 2017. UWRF's most recent ranking appears in the U.S. News & World Report's 2017 edition of Best Colleges, released earlier this week.

The annual survey, released Tuesday, assesses more than 18,000 U.S. based colleges and universities, of which 1,374 are ranked. The institutions receive rankings based on some 15 measures of academic quality, including retention, graduation rate performance, faculty resources, financial resources and alumni giving.

The U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings are available at <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>. The UW-River Falls profile is available at <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/uw-river-falls-3923>.

For more information, email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu)

# UWRF Student Senate to focus this year on student safety, inclusivity

**By: Matt Clark**

**Falcon News Service**

With the new school year, the UW-River Falls Student Senate is ready to pick up where it left off last spring.

Senate members recently laid out a list of nine objectives and priorities they hope to accomplish throughout the school year, including a greater focus on policies that improve the safety and well-being of students and becoming a stronger advocate for inclusivity on campus.

Last year, the senate started the pilot program, Safe Ride Home, providing a free taxi ride from downtown River Falls back to campus for students and the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The program was used more frequently by community members than UWRF students, according to Gregg Heinselman, associate vice chancellor for student affairs. From December 2015 through March 2016, a total of 280 students and 337 community members used the service.

The senate has now teamed up with the River Falls City Council to make the program accessible throughout the school year for students and community members.

In addition to providing a safe way for students to return to campus, the senate is also doing work to raise awareness of sexual assault on college campuses through the It's On Us campaign. Launched by President Barack Obama in 2014, It's On Us is a national initiative to stop sexual violence on college campuses.

Student Body President Christopher Morgan is coordinating with the It's On Us field office in Washington, D.C., as well as the UW System Student Representatives organization to bring a national summit to campus in February. The summit will bring together UW student body presidents and vice presidents, White House officials and sexual violence experts to talk about sexual assault and endorse state-wide preventative policies and initiatives.

"To have it here, with students who are so diverse and so unique, as well as having the student body president and vice president of all 26 UW campuses coming here at the same time to devote themselves to this issue, that's really important," Morgan said.

Student Senate has also been involved with the creation of a new Inclusive Campus Engagement Office, a move by campus officials to refocus inclusion efforts. The new office separates the once combined Multicultural Student Services and Student Support Services (SSS), which serve different purposes for a wide range of students.

"SSS is a program that hosts a lot of multicultural students but it's a separate program, it has federal requirements and they have 200 students they're working with. Dealing with that and everything and all of the things multicultural students on campus needed — all the sorts of outreach and diversity programming we want to do, it's just a lot to handle at once," Michael Graziano, UWRF's multicultural outreach specialist, said.

Originally in the basement of the campus library, the Multicultural Student Services lounge has now been moved into the Involvement Center of the University Center in order to better include those students with the rest of the campus. All aspects

of the office are planned to be moved into Rodli Hall, once the building is finished being renovated. UWRF's administration is currently interviewing potential directors for the new office.

The new office has created a new gender and sexuality outreach coordinator position to help engage the UW-River Falls' LGBTQ community.



With the help of current Falcon Scholars on his right, Bill Boehm, left, chair of the university's first ever comprehensive campaign, Rising To Distinction, reveals that \$21,920,619 was the amount raised since the campaign began in 2011. The amount exceeded the anticipated \$20 million threshold, which was met six months before the anticipated June 30 campaign conclusion. The announcement came at the end a day-long celebration of the campaign on campus.

## UW-River Falls celebrates successful comprehensive fundraising campaign

September 23, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls celebrated the conclusion of its first ever comprehensive campaign, Rising to Distinction, on September 23 as part of UWRF's Homecoming and Family Weekend. The five-year campaign was a stellar success with an influx of gifts at the end of 2015 that enabled UWRF to cross the \$20 million threshold six months before its anticipated June 30 campaign conclusion.

"The hope and vision for the Rising to Distinction campaign was that it would advance the university in significant ways," said Chancellor Van Galen during his celebration address. "The most important outcome of this campaign is the positive impact it has on the students, present and future, that we support, mentor and educate. Rising to Distinction has in fact played a key role in making UW-River Falls more distinctive within Wisconsin, and within American public higher education. "

During the event, Campaign Chair Bill Boehm announced that the campaign raised \$21,920,619 from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2016. Even more remarkable, Boehm noted, is that 93% of pledges have already been paid and are currently at work on the UW-River Falls campus.

The daylong celebration included the dedication of the new Bill Boehm Outdoor Classroom on the campus mall as a tribute to the campaign and to its campaign chair, a tour of the Falcon Center currently under construction on the south edge of

campus, and exhibits highlighting the impact the campaign has had on UW-River Falls and its students.

Among the campaign's most important accomplishments were increasing annual scholarship awards from \$588,000 to \$1.1 million, establishment of the Falcon Scholars program, renovation of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field, support for the Falcon Center project, and private funds raised to support the soon-to-be-renovated Dairy Pilot Plant.

"The campaign story is about the generosity of more than 10,000 donors who have supported generations of current and former Falcons," said Chris Mueller, assistant chancellor of University Advancement and president of UW-River Falls Foundation. "The campaign was a fulfillment of President Eugene Kleinpell's vision in 1949 that the Foundation would "give a spark and ensure the university's progress."

In a testament to that vision, Chancellor Van Galen shared four ways in which the campaign is enabling UW-River Falls to achieve many aspirations: to be an uncommonly student-centered university of academic excellence and opportunity, to be a national leader in undergraduate research, to be a national leader among peers in internationalization, and to provide learning spaces that support active, engaged teaching, learning and student development.

Throughout the campaign, 10,153 unique donors paid and pledged \$21.9 million to bring the university's vision to fruition. These generous gifts are important to UW-River Falls in pursuing the goals of its new strategic plan, Pathway to Distinction.

Gillian McDonald, a 2015 UWRF graduate and Falcon Scholar, and Bailey Vitek, a UWRF senior and scholarship recipient, also spoke at the evening celebration of the widespread impact of the campaign through their experiences such as undergraduate research and study abroad.

**A few of the many examples highlighted at the celebration were:**

- Creation of the Falcon Scholars program that has competitively awarded 80 four-year scholarships to entering freshmen and, through student matching funds, offers Falcon Scholars additional funding for study abroad or undergraduate research.
- Renovation of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field that was rededicated on Sept. 19, 2015.
- Construction of the Falcon Center, a \$63 million state-funded project supported by \$2 million in private gifts, scheduled to fully open in 2017.
- Renovation of the Dairy Pilot Plant, where UW-River Falls students get hands-on professional experience developing and producing signature ice cream and cheese varieties, expected in 2018.
- Inauguration of the Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professorships in Art and History, supported by a gift from Dr. John Bryant Wyman, the university's first living million-dollar donor.
- Annual Scholarship Benefit dinners to support the Falcon Scholars program which featured speakers Bart Starr, Bob Woodward, and Daymond John.

Boehm closed the evening expressing gratitude and thanks for all who were involved.

"Thank you all for the part you played personally in making this evening celebration possible," said Boehm. "Thank you for supporting higher education in Wisconsin in a most visible and impactful way. Thank you for positively impacting the lives of those who come here to teach and learn."

For more information about the campaign, email [chris.mueller@uwrf.edu](mailto:chris.mueller@uwrf.edu) or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/RisingtoDistinction/>.

## UW-River Falls corpse flower to bloom for the third time



August 26, 2016--The corpse flower at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is entering its blooming cycle and estimated to bloom within 7 to 10 days. The corpse flower previously bloomed three years ago in August 2013 and for the first time in October 2010.

The UWRF titan arum or corpse flower seed was received from UW-Madison in 2001. A large rare flower named for its rotting flesh smell emitted as it blooms, the corpse flower has a blooming cycle that can span from several years to several decades. Typically, the bloom lasts only a few hours. The plant's rotten meat odor is strongest at night in order to attract carrion beetles and flies to pollinate it. The corpse flower at UW-River Falls is unique in that it has bloomed three times in the past six years with about three years between each bloom.

Dan Waletzko, greenhouse and field plot manager, estimates the flower is growing 1.5-2 inches a day and as of Friday, Aug. 26, was 28.5 inches tall.

He anticipates the plant to grow to between 40-48 inches before blooming in 7-10 days.

Updates and more information about the corpse flower can be found on our [corpse flower webpage](#) or on the [College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Facebook page](#).

The public is welcome to visit the greenhouse to view (and smell) the flower. Regular hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Hours may be extended depending on interest and the time of blooming. Large groups are encouraged to call ahead as viewing space may be limited. The UWRF greenhouse is located behind the Agricultural Science building off S. 3rd Street. Those wishing to view the flower before the opening should park in metered parking lot J. The day of opening, after 4:30 p.m., lots G (south of Hathorn Hall) and H (south of Agricultural Science building and the Engineering Annex) will be open to the public.

For more information, email Waletzko at [daniel.k.waletzko@uwrf.edu](mailto:daniel.k.waletzko@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4888.



L-R: Jon Burich, a sophomore from Newport, Minn.; Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Jill Coleman Wasik; and Gabrielle Chapin, a freshmen from Woodville, working on the TurtlePop Study during the Kinni Blitz event at UW-River Falls.

## UW-River Falls environmental science program conducts Kinni Blitz

September 22, 2016 -- Environmental science faculty at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls welcomed students back to campus this fall with a unique event – a Kinni Blitz. The Kinni Blitz was a 24-hour effort to measure everything they could think of in the South Fork branch of the Kinnickinnic River that runs through campus.

Jill Coleman Wasik, assistant professor of environmental science and Kevyn Juneau, assistant professor of conservation and environmental planning created and led the effort. They wanted a fun way to help environmental science students get to know each other better while helping them develop their technical skills at the same time. Coleman Wasik and Juneau made it easy for the students to participate by taking care of the logistical details, including camping equipment and food.

At 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, 15 students gathered in a classroom in the Agricultural Sciences building and prepared to head outdoors for the 24-hour challenge. After some training time, teams of students took measurements of water quality every couple of hours. They measured dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, pH and turbidity. Water samples were also collected each time and brought back to the base camp where they conducted some simple chemical analyses.

The group also participated in an ongoing research project focused on turtle populations. They trapped turtles, determined their sex and species and took physical measurements before releasing them. This study is part of a larger initiative, the TurtlePop Study under the umbrella of the Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN), which includes 37 universities across the country. Globally, roughly 45% of freshwater turtle species are listed as threatened. The TurtlePop Study is an

effort to better understand how their populations respond to land use and habitat change across an urbanization gradient so improved conservation strategies can be developed.

In between taking measurements, the students and faculty got to know one another over dinner and conversation around a campfire. Coleman Wasik and Juneau were pleased with the results of this first Kinni Blitz and hope to make it an annual event. Their general observations and feedback from participating students confirmed that students learned more about some of the opportunities available to them in the environmental science program and formed new friendships.

"I really appreciated getting to know everyone – the professors, upperclassmen and fellow first-years," said Paul Tietz, a freshman from Waunakee. "Hearing about the research projects upperclassmen are working on was also really interesting."

"We were able to get our hands dirty and find out some of the activities that we can look forward to doing both in our future careers and in the remainder of our time at UWRF," said Alexandra Spaulding, a senior from Merrill. "It was also a really great bonding experience for both students and professors."

The group camped near the pond in the horse pasture that is part of the Campus Farm. Curious horses provided some interesting moments during the evening. One horse attempted to see if the tents were edible, leaving a hole to be repaired later. Others left their nose prints on the hood of Coleman Wasik's vehicle.

Environmental science is the broad study of earth's natural and human-impacted environments (air, water, and soil across wild, rural, and urban landscapes) and how organisms and processes respond to natural and human-caused changes.

For more information on the environmental science program at UW-River Falls, visit [www.uwrf.edu/PES/EnvironmentalScience](http://www.uwrf.edu/PES/EnvironmentalScience). For more information about the event, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-3535.



## UW-River Falls Homecoming and Family Weekend celebrations set for Sept. 23-25

September 12, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will welcome alumni, parents, families, and students to campus September 23-25 for the annual homecoming celebration. The traditional homecoming festivities are combined with the annual Family Weekend event to create one large celebration bringing parents and family members together with alumni and students. The coordinating committee is expecting a large turnout for this event and is excited to showcase the campus and the River Falls community.

The annual homecoming parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, and will travel down Main Street beginning near the West Wind Supper Club and ending by Family Fresh. Alumni, parents, families, students, and community members are invited to enjoy the parade.

Numerous campus events, open to the public, on Saturday following the parade include:

### **Falcon Tailgate**

11:30 a.m.- University Center

### **Football vs. Southwestern**

1 p.m.- Ramer Field

### **Film – "Finding Dory"**

3 p.m. and 6 p.m.- Kinnickinnic Theater, University Center

**Women's Soccer Game**

4. p.m- Ramer Field

**Bingo**

7 p.m.- Pete's Creek, University Center

**UWRF Homecoming Band Concert**

7:30 p.m.- Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts building

**1.874 Glow Run/ Walk**

9 p.m.- University Center mall

A full list of event for homecoming weekend, as well as an opportunity to purchase event tickets in advance, can be found at <http://go.uwrf.edu/homecoming>.



## UW-River Falls named one of best in the Midwest for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year

September 29, 2016--For the sixth consecutive year, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been named one of the best colleges in the Midwest according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. UW-River Falls is one of 156 institutions in 12 Midwestern states and one of four University of Wisconsin System institutions deemed "Best in the Midwest."

The 156 colleges included in the "Best in the Midwest" list are located in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee are the four University of Wisconsin System institutions included in The Princeton Review's list of the "Best in the Midwest."

The Princeton Review survey asks students to rate their colleges on several issues – from the accessibility of their professors to the quality of their science lab facilities – and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students, and their campus life.

The Princeton Review is a leading tutoring, test prep and college admission services company. Every year, it helps millions of college and graduate school-bound students achieve their education and career goals through online and in person courses delivered by a network of more than 4,000 teachers and tutors, online resources, and its more than 150 print and digital books published by Penguin Random House. For more information, visit [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

"UW-River Falls has been recognized by The Princeton Review for the past six years. This is a testament to our mission of helping our students attain their full potential as critical thinkers, effective communicators, and leaders by providing engaged

and integrated learning experiences," said UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Founded in 1874, UW-River Falls is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minn. UW-River Falls students are empowered, beginning in their first semester, to participate in hands-on research, global travel, and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty.

For more information, visit [www.princetonreview.com/bestMWcolleges](http://www.princetonreview.com/bestMWcolleges) or email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls professor secures third National Science Foundation grant



September 8, 2016--Jamie Schneider, professor of chemistry and biotechnology at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, was recently awarded a third grant through the National Science Foundation (NSF), serving as the principle investigator on two of them.

The new grant, funded through the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) program for \$498,483, will support a research project, "Optimizing Testing Feedback for Improved Student Learning," that aims to generate evidence about the role of testing feedback to promote and support learning in general chemistry through four related sets of studies. This project aims to utilize and expand on knowledge gained from a NSF Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science (TUES) grant awarded in 2012.

Schneider serves as principal investigator for this IUSE project. Co-investigators on the project include Kristen L. Murphy, associate professor of chemistry & biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Cynthia J. Luxford, assistant professor of chemistry & biochemistry at Texas State University, and Melonie A. Teichert, assistant professor of chemistry at United States Naval Academy. Additionally, Panayiota Kendeou, associate professor of educational psychology at University of Minnesota, serves as the external evaluator, and Arunendu Chatterjee, associate professor of mathematics at UWRF, serves as a senior personnel.

"General chemistry is often taught in large lecture sections influencing instructor choices to utilize multiple-choice exams, frequently with limited feedback," said Schneider. "Understanding the best ways to use and provide feedback for these exams could greatly help instructors employ best practices to maximize student learning through testing."

Based on existing research in cognitive science, this project will collect evidence on current practices of testing feedback as well as the impacts on student learning of various forms of feedback with a diverse set of student populations in the context of general chemistry. Findings from this work are expected to be applicable to general chemistry programs across the nation as well as more broadly to other STEM areas (physics, engineering, etc.) that also utilize complex content items in multiple-choice testing. Developing and using evidence-based strategies to enhance and support student learning is a critical step in producing a well-prepared and diverse STEM workforce.

"Dr. Schneider is a superb colleague with a passion for teaching and assessment," said Brad Caskey, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UWRF. "I am very excited about the fact that one of the main goals of her grant is to identify effective feedback methods. UWRF is known for excellence in the classroom and the research about to be conducted by Dr. Schneider helps put us at the cutting-edge in the identification of best practices in higher education."

The new NSF IUSE program was created to support projects that address immediate challenges and opportunities related to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at the undergraduate level. According to information provided in the NSF.gov website, the NSF IUSE program specifically "invests in evidence-based and evidence-

generating approaches to understanding STEM learning; to designing, testing, and studying instruction and curricular change; to wide dissemination and implementation of best practices; and to broadening participation of individuals and institutions in STEM fields. The goals of these investments include: increasing the number and diversity of STEM students, preparing students well to participate in science for tomorrow, and improving students' STEM learning outcomes."

For more information, contact Schneider at 715-425-4590 or [jamie.schneider@uwrf.edu](mailto:jamie.schneider@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls seeks innovative ways to engage with local businesses

September 12, 2016--With a projected workforce shortage and growing employer needs for an increasingly educated talent pipeline, campus innovation programs are one way the University of Wisconsin-River Falls seeks to address workforce concerns in Western Wisconsin and actively engage in local economic development.

UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Dean of the College of Business and Economics Michael Fronmueller, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Dean Dale Gallenberg and Director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development Danielle Campeau and UWRF faculty members Joy Benson, Marina Onken and Hossein Najafi met recently with area business leaders to brainstorm additional ways to partner with and engage with local businesses.

These Innovation Luncheons, held the week of August 22, are one of several steps that UW-River Falls is taking to ensure that certain program offerings meet local business needs, while forging connections that can lead to more internship and post-graduation employment opportunities for students.

Chancellor Van Galen began the program by presenting the campus's already confirmed emphasis on innovation. In 2012, UW-River Falls set as one of the three goals of its strategic plan "innovation and partnerships," defined as "incentivizing and supporting innovation to support student learning, enhance the distinctiveness and stature of the university, and catalyze economic and sustainable community development."

Fronmueller and Campeau then led a discussion on ways in which innovation is being accelerated on campus and identifying actions that can be taken into consideration as UWRF continues cultivating a culture of innovation campus-wide.

"Offering students a safe and supportive environment to explore their ideas cultivates a culture of innovative thinking while enhancing skills sought by employers such as critical thinking and problem solving, communication and working in scenarios of ambiguity," Campeau said.

Attendees were invited to brainstorm ideas on how the local business community and UW-River Falls can forge even stronger partnerships and bring about future projects to accelerate innovation both on and off campus. Recent UWRF innovation initiatives which have benefitted from partnership with the local business community include: the Innovation Challenge, which promotes student-led research, business model development and entrepreneurship; the creation of a Makerspace on campus; a Certificate in Innovation program; and leadership involvement with the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator.

For more information or to offer ideas, email [danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu](mailto:danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-0643.

## UW-River Falls successful Safe Ride Home Program expanded with support from City Council

September 12, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls newly modified Safe Ride Home Program was approved by the River Falls City Council last month to provide an expanded schedule of services for UW-River Falls students and the community.

The initial pilot program was created to provide students a safe form of transportation during winter weekend nights. Due to the overwhelming success of the initial effort, both the UW-River Falls Student Senate and the River Falls City Council voted to provide additional funding to the program that will allow for a permanently established service running from September to May.

"From the beginning, the hope for this project was to empower students to make safe decisions by giving them the services to do so," said Christopher Morgan, Student Senate president. "I look forward to seeing this program grow and mature at UWRF and I extend my appreciation to all who have assisted the project to date."

The Safe Ride Home Program was created by a vote of the 78<sup>th</sup> Session Student Senate in late 2015. This program utilizes the River Falls City Taxi service, which employs professionally trained drivers who have gone through rigorous background checks. The initial program was launched as a pilot to assess its effectiveness and need. After examining ridership during the winter months, it was determined that the program not only provided a significant resource to the students at UW-River Falls, but that the general public was also taking advantage of the extended taxi hours during the weekends.

While the program continues to remain free for UW-River Falls students, the general public is also welcome to take advantage of the taxi's extended weekend hours by paying regular fare rates.

"We are pleased to join with UWRF in expanding the Safe Ride Home Program," said Julie Bergstrom, assistant city administrator for the City of River Falls. "This program benefits both students and the general public, illustrated by ridership results from the 2015-2016 academic year. The program is just another example of the City's valuable ongoing partnerships with UWRF."

For more information about the Safe Ride Home Program, email [christopher.morgan@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:christopher.morgan@my.uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls to host U of M speaker as part of the Year of Brazil program



September 8, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host a presentation, "The Sound and Story of Brazilian Portuguese," by visiting University of Minnesota Professor Sophia Beal on Monday, Sept. 26, in the St. Croix Room of the University Center. Beal will speak from 4-5 p.m. with refreshments beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The talk introduces Brazilian Portuguese, grounding it within the history and culture of not only Brazil, but the seven countries where Portuguese is the official language. The event is free and open to the public.

Beal is the author of "Brazil under Construction: Fiction and Public Works" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and co-editor (along with Bruce Robbins and Michael Rubenstein) of "Infrastructuralism," a special issue of *Modern Fiction Studies* published in 2015. Her articles related to Brazilian fiction and urbanism

have appeared in the *Luso-Brazilian Review*, *Romance Notes*, *Hispania*, *ellipsis*, *Brasil-Brazil*, *Estudos de Literatura Brasileira Contemporânea*, *Revista Escritos*, and elsewhere. She earned her Ph.D. in Portuguese and Brazilian studies from Brown University and was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Tulane University in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. She teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Minnesota.

The presentation is a collective effort between the UW-River Falls Year of Brazil Committee and the Language Matters Series.

Language Matters is a series of presentations and discussions on issues regarding second language teaching and learning. The goal of Language Matters is for faculty, staff, and students to share their experiences, expertise, and knowledge with our campus and local community.

For more information, email [rhonda.petree@uwrf.edu](mailto:rhonda.petree@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4520.

## UW-River Falls to offer Entrepreneurial Training Program

September 12, 2016--The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will be offering an Entrepreneurial Training Program beginning Oct. 12 to prepare potential entrepreneurs to start their own business and owners of existing businesses to improve or grow their business.

The ten-week program will be held Wednesday evenings at the UW-River Falls Hudson Center, 2501 Hanley Road, Hudson. Topics will include: the Lean Start Up method, business plans, finances, record keeping, legal issues, marketing, social media and human resource topics. Sessions will last from 6-8:30 p.m. and will include subject specialist guest speakers, instruction and coaching. At the end of the ten weeks, students will be prepared to write a comprehensive business plan.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation is offering qualified applicants a grant to cover 75 percent of the cost of the course, reducing the cost to \$250 for those that meet the grant requirements.

To register for the course and begin the grant application process, visit <http://www.wisconsinsbdc.org/riverfalls/attend/etp>. Applications must be completed at least two weeks prior to the first class session.

For more information, email SBDC Consultant Katherine Fossler at [katherine.fossler@uwrf.edu](mailto:katherine.fossler@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-0620.



## Williams Named 2016 Distinguished Teacher at UW-River Falls



September 15, 2016 -- Geology Professor Ian Williams is the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Teacher Award at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, the highest award bestowed on campus.

Since its inception in 1965, 53 faculty have been honored with this award. Nominations for the award are solicited from graduating seniors and recent graduates. This is the second university honor in just two years for Williams, who in 2015, was named the UWRF Adviser of the Year.

Williams, of River Falls, is a native of London, England. He has been involved in teaching as long as he can remember. His father, a physicist, who taught at several institutions in the United Kingdom, encouraged Williams in his desire to teach and, by example, showed him both the joy and responsibilities of the profession.

Williams enjoys the fun of learning, yet takes his role as a teacher seriously, as exemplified in the comments shared by students in their nominations.

"Ian has always gone out of his way to help students in any way possible," said one student.

A second student said, "Office hours or not, he always welcomes questions and never discourages anyone from coming to him."

William's passion for his students is well known and may have been best described by a student who nominated him in 2015 stating "He will charge hell with a bucket of water for his students."

Williams holds a BS from Durham University in North East England, an MS from Newcastle University in Newcastle upon Tyne, England, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He brought his expertise in geophysics to UWRF in 1982, and has since taught a wide range of geology courses. He is an avid traveler who has not only led many of the annual regional geology field trips, but has been heavily engaged in the Semester Abroad: Europe, the Wisconsin in Scotland and International Traveling Classroom (ITC) programs.

In fall 2015, Williams led the Semester Abroad: Europe program for the second time, helping students in a variety of research projects in disciplines including geology, psychology, art, business and animal science. Being able to assist student in areas other than geology drew Williams to the Semester Abroad: Europe program. As a native European, Williams is a good fit for the program and his prior experience traveling in Europe gives him a background valuable to students in the program.

The Semester Abroad: Europe program has been led for more than 50 years by a diverse group of faculty from across campus, a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching that Williams strongly supports. His involvement in the ITC program included teaching Geology 101 in the Pyrenees, where he used the mountain chain to put the ideas in Geology 101 to the test.

In fall 2017, Williams is preparing to teach three different geology classes in the Experience Scotland program.

"Ian has a keen interest and unique ability in helping students understand and appreciate important geological processes," said Don Taylor, soil science professor and chair of the Plant and Earth Science Department. "He is dedicated to the success of his students, both in the classroom and in their preparation for meaningful careers."

Williams was honored September 13 during a reception on campus. A plaque of his likeness was added to the wall of Distinguished Teacher honorees in the Wyman Education Building. In his comments at the reception, Williams noted that he feels he is part of an amazing team here at UW-River Falls. He concluded his remarks by offering a toast to his "excellent colleagues, wonderful friends and their teamwork."

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 3535.

## Ally training to gain gender and sexual diversity knowledge offered at UW-River Falls

October 6, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Inclusive Campus Engagement Office will offer Ally Training Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 6-9 p.m. in the Ann Lydecker Living Learning Center on campus. The free event is open to the public and provides a safe space to gain knowledge about gender and sexual diversity and to ask questions and engage in conversation.

Participants will learn about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally (GLBTA) communities; think critically about gender and sexuality; discuss language and privilege; reframe myths and stereotypes; and explore how to be allies to each other across identities and experiences. Attendees will leave the training with newfound awareness and concrete steps to take to help make campus and larger communities more welcoming and affirming for everyone.

For more information or to register for the event, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/InclusiveCampusEngagement/eventsandprograms/allytraining.cfm> or call the Inclusive Campus Engagement Office with questions at 715-425-3894.

## UW-River Falls approved to offer online degrees across state lines

October 6, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been approved to offer distance education courses and degrees across state lines under Wisconsin's participation in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The UW-River Falls application to participate in SARA was approved by the Wisconsin Distance Learning Authorization Board last month following the approval of Wisconsin's application to the National Council of SARA (NC-SARA).

"We are pleased that our application to participate in SARA was approved," said Faye Perkins, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at UW-River Falls. "As we grow the number of online academic courses and degrees, our ability to attract students from all over the country will be critical to our success."

SARA is a nationwide initiative of states to make distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines and make it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education.

As an approved participant of SARA, UW-River Falls may actively share information about its online academic programs with prospective students in other states. UW-River Falls currently offers three degrees that are 100% online, according to Randy Zimmermann, director of Outreach and Continuing Education (OCE) at UW-River Falls.

"Working collaboratively with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and other campus partners, we offer a bachelor of science in sustainable management and a bachelor of science and a master of science in health and wellness management," said Zimmermann. "An additional online degree, a bachelor of science in applied computer science, may begin in fall 2017."

As a participant in SARA, UW-River Falls is free to negotiate transfer agreements with out-of-state community and vocational colleges which only offer associate degrees but whose students want to continue their schooling. These articulation agreements ease the process of applying previously earned college credits toward a bachelor's degree. A transfer agreement with Elgin College in Elgin, Ill., for students interested in completing a bachelor's degree in sustainable management is currently under development, according to Angela Whitaker, OCE program manager.

"We were approached by a student from Elgin College and realized that their emphasis on sustainability fit well with our degree," said Whitaker. "Our agreement will streamline the process that their students will go through to transfer classes to complete their bachelor degree at UW-River Falls."

Additional information about SARA is available on the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements website at <http://nc-sara.org/>. For more information on UWRF online degrees, visit [www.uwrf.edu/mydegree](http://www.uwrf.edu/mydegree) or call OCE at 715-425-3256.



## UW-River Falls ranked among top in undergraduate research and study abroad student engagement

October 6, 2016--The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) has ranked the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the lead among similar institutions in the areas of undergraduate research engagement and study abroad participation among seniors. The NSSE collects information annually from first-year and senior students about the nature and quality of their undergraduate experience.

UW-River Falls showed a sharp increase in student participation, at ten percentage points or more, in comparison to other universities in the region with regards to undergraduate research by its senior population as well as the number of seniors who take advantage of the many study abroad opportunities offered through UW-River Falls programs each year.

"Dedicated faculty and staff have developed programs that provide UWRF students with the opportunity to study abroad in a wide variety of locations," said Katrina Larsen, executive director for International Education. "The programs may last a week or so during Spring Break to semester long programs. Many faculty and staff have studied or worked abroad and they strive to provide students with the same type of life changing experience that they have had."

Through its student survey, "[The College Student Report](#)," NSSE annually collects information at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities about first-year and senior students' participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. The results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college. More information can be found at <http://nsse.indiana.edu/html/about.cfm>

"Undergraduate research, the principle engine powering UW-River Falls strong and longstanding research culture, has surged with the opportunities made possible in all four colleges, and at every level of the undergraduate experience, by the opening of a centralized Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity office in 2013," said Lissa Schneider-

Rebozo, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity. "The recent surge in undergraduate research activity at UW-River Falls correlates with significantly improved student retention and graduation rates, increases in participation in post graduate educational opportunities, and high levels of meaningful employment for our graduates."

Student engagement represents two critical features of collegiate quality. The first is the amount of time and effort students put into their studies and other educationally purposeful activities. The second is how the institution deploys its resources and organizes the curriculum and other learning opportunities to get students to participate in activities that decades of research studies show are linked to student learning. Global Education and Engagement and URSCA activities have been identified as key components of the strategic planning activities at UW-River Falls.

"Research has consistently shown that undergraduate research and study abroad experiences are not only high impact practices that improve retention but they can also be life-changing experiences," said Faye Perkins, interim provost at UW-River Falls. "Many students who are involved in undergraduate research realize that they have the skills and abilities to pursue advance degrees, which they may have never previously considered. Having been involved in our study abroad programs, I have witnessed our students being transformed into globally informed citizens. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing these life-changing experiences in a well-supported environment."

For more information about NSSE or UW-River Falls, email [wes.chapin@uwrf.edu](mailto:wes.chapin@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls to host Special Olympics Run with the Cops

October 4, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host the first ever UW-River Falls Special Olympics – Run with the Cops on Tuesday, Oct. 11. The public is invited to join officers from local law enforcement agencies for this one-of-a-kind event in support of Special Olympics Wisconsin.

Festivities begin at Ramer Field in the Smith Stadium parking lot at 5 p.m. with on-site registration. A vehicle display, kids dash obstacle course, donut eating contest, and warm-up boot camp will help round out the evening prior to the 5K Run/Walk. Law enforcement officers will show their pride by hitting the lights and sirens all along the course for this unique nighttime event. Awards will go to the top male finisher, top female finisher and top uniformed officer finisher. The event schedule is:

5 -7:10 p.m. – On-site registration  
5-9 p.m. – Law Enforcement Vehicle Display  
6 p.m. – Kid's Dash with the Cops/Obstacle Course  
6:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. – Donut Eating Contests  
7:30 p.m. – Boot Camp Warm-up  
7:45 p.m. – 5K Run/Walk

For more information, call Karen Kraus, regional director of development for Special Olympics Wisconsin, Inc. at 715-833-0833.

## 2016 Wisconsin legislative candidate forum to be held at UW-River Falls

October 6, 2016--The River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls are partnering to present a moderated legislative candidate forum for Senate District 10 and Assembly District 30 on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. A panel discussion will be moderated with prepared questions and written questions will be accepted from the audience and answered as time permits.

All candidates have been given equal opportunity to participate and, to date, all registered candidates in these districts have confirmed their attendance at the forum:

Senate District 10: Sheila Harsdorf (R- incumbent) and Diane Odeen (D)

Assembly District 30: Scott Nelson (D), Aaron Taylor (I), and Shannon Zimmerman (R)

Striving to provide an opportunity to inform and educate the community about issues that may affect our region, this forum will be open to the public with limited space available on a first-come basis. Doors will open at 4 p.m. Free parking will be available in Pay Lot 1 and 2 for the duration of the event.

UW-River Falls and the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau do not endorse nor oppose any of the candidates.

For more information, contact Beth Schommer at [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu) or 715-425-0662.



Gillian McDonald, 2015 graduate and Falcon Scholar, spoke about the impact of scholarship support during the Rising to Distinction campaign celebration on Sept. 23.

## Chancellor's Blog: The Enduring Power of Education and Philanthropy

Tuesday October 11, 2016 | by Dean Van Galen

As chancellor, I attend and speak at many events. Although a mentor of mine, a former university president, once quipped that the role of a university president is mostly to talk and eat – and there may be a grain of truth in that! – today I would like to share how profoundly impacted I was by a recent event on our campus. This event caused me to reflect deeply on the power of education and philanthropy, and I would like to share those reflections with you.

On September 23, we celebrated the successful conclusion of Rising to Distinction, the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign. The Riverview Ballroom was filled with dozens of donors and supporters, including alumni and friends, volunteer leaders, and UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff. By this time, we already knew that we'd met the campaign's \$20 million fundraising goal six months ahead of schedule, so the celebration event became an opportunity to share the final, numerical outcomes of the campaign: more than \$21.9 million had been raised, including over \$10.3 million for student scholarships, and these funds had been gifted to the UWRF Foundation by 10,452 distinct donors.

What left an impression more lasting than those numbers, however, was hearing the stories of Bailey Vitek, a senior biology major, and Gillian McDonald, a 2015 UW-River Falls physics graduate. They spoke from the heart about how scholarship support has impacted them. Because of the support of the John E. Butler International Research Endowment, Bailey was able to conduct laboratory research at a federal research institute in Jena, Germany, an experience that built her confidence and redefined her career plans. Gillian, who entered UWRF in 2012 as part of the first freshman class of Falcon Scholars,

spoke about her undergraduate research on Quantum Entanglement and Optics (yes, think of the TV show "Big Bang Theory"). She graduated from UWRF in three years with a degree in applied physics, and is now in a Ph.D. program in mechanical engineering, researching medical robotics. It was clear from the remarks of Bailey and Gillian that the generosity of others has changed and shaped their lives in powerful ways.

It was a special evening. We celebrated a milestone in the university's 142-year history and thanked those who made it possible. Most importantly, we were given a chance to pause and reflect on the tremendous impact that simple acts of philanthropy will have on the university for decades to come. Imagine ... the thousands of current and future UWRF students who will have opportunities because others were generous. Imagine ... if the first River Falls Normal School President Warren D. Parker, and the eight faculty and 130 students who opened this institution on Sept. 2, 1875, could have been there to see what the old normal school has achieved—surely they would have been amazed and proud.

Winston Churchill once stated, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Perhaps the highest form of giving, of philanthropy, is when people give of their personal resources to help others they do not know, or may never meet. We do that because of a deep belief, in this case, a belief in the value and impact of higher education.

On behalf of many, I express my gratitude to those who have supported the Rising to Distinction campaign, individuals who clearly believe in the enduring power of education and philanthropy.

# New website aims to connect UW students, employers across Wisconsin

**By: Ace Sauerwein**

**Falcon News Service**

The UW System has unveiled a new web portal, called Career Connect, that is meant to bring graduating students and Wisconsin employers together.

Launched in mid-September, Career Connect "was created in-house to help students get experience in their chosen field, while employers have the opportunity to capitalize," according to a UW System press release.

A new website created by the University of Wisconsin aims to connect students with employers across the state.

Sections for both students and employers can be found on the website. The student section provides different links to third-party websites to assist in job and internship searches. It also displays upcoming events at every UW campus such as career fairs and industry expositions. The employer section has many of the same features, but provides a separate page that allows employers to post job openings to a forum. There is also a tool that allows employers to search for certain programs in the UW system.

"This is a win-win for employers, our students and Wisconsin," UW System President Ray Cross said in the press release.

The idea came from listening sessions held across the state, Stephanie Marquis, UW System interim director of communications, said in an email.

"We heard business leaders talk about the need to continue developing talent for the workforce of tomorrow, as demographics shift," she said.

After speaking with business leaders, the UW System spoke with career service directors at the UW schools to get their input on the idea.

"The UW System career service directors were included in the planning and development process," Melissa Wilson, head of Career Services at UW-River Falls, said in an email.

Wilson views Career Connect as an aid to UWRF's Career Services instead of a replacement.

"The more resources available to assist students and employers, I think is positive," said Wilson.

UWRF Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brad Caskey said Career Connect will fill a void.

"One of the things we have struggled with before in the past is connecting students with different kinds of occupations throughout the state," said Caskey.

The listening sessions Marquis spoke about were part of a greater effort called the 2020FWD Vision.

"Through the 2020FWD framework, the UW System will inspire, connect, and convene with people, businesses, and communities of the state of Wisconsin," according to the plan's mission statement.

UWRF senior Keaton Anderson said Career Connect may help students who are having trouble finding a good internship or job.

"I think it could be a good idea especially for business people," said Anderson.

UWRF senior Tom Thuente noted the success of similar programs on a smaller scale.

"I think programs like these have seen lots of success within individual colleges, like River Falls. We have Hire-A-Falcon," Thuente said. "I do see myself checking these out. I'm currently a super senior, so I do plan on utilizing Hire-A-Falcon and actually going onto other school's websites to see what the employment opportunities are."

According to Marquis, 85 percent of UW System graduates get a job in Wisconsin, emphasizing the need for a portal such as Career Connect. The website's address is [wisconsin.edu/career-connect](http://wisconsin.edu/career-connect).

# Nontraditional students increase across college campuses, education officials say

**By: Matthew Clark**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

More nontraditional students are flocking to college campuses, including UW-River Falls, according to education officials.

Economic uncertainty and changing workplace environments are causing people older than 24 to reconsider four-year degree programs at universities around the country. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 807,800 nontraditional students are projected to be enrolled at U.S. universities during the 2016 fall semester, up from 725,000 in 2006.

UW-River Falls has prepared for this trend with the creation of programs designed to help older students, including the Adult Degree Completion Program for business students, and courses offered through the Office of Outreach and Continuing Education. Mike Bilden, director of the Adult Degree Completion Program, said his program has seen a consistent number of students since 2010.

"We've been really steady and had steady enrollment when times haven't been that great and when times are good," Bilden said.

Each semester, the ADC sees around 110 students averaging 37 years old. Students in the program take the same degree courses as full-time students but at more convenient times of the day or online. Most classes are taught at the Hudson Learning Center in Hudson, a space reserved primarily for adult learning programs. The ADC's business degree has led the program to be UWRF's largest adult option.

"Across the country, business administration or something that's business related is most often what people are seeking because the majority of adult students are working at least part time," Bilden said. "In our case, in the ADC program, most are at or near full time, and they're in some kind of business function so business administration or a business-related program seems to fit their employment goals."

Nontraditional students often enroll in degree programs in hopes of gaining more financial stability but some students cite more personal reasons. UW System Regent Lisa Erickson decided to enroll in college courses after spending much of her adult life running a catering business. Erickson said she needed a new challenge and felt her lack of a higher education distanced her from people her own age.

"I always felt like I tried to educate myself, but maybe I didn't know the right words, the right phrases," Erickson said. "I didn't have that, so I always felt not as confident in a conversation with intellectuals."

Andrea Lewis enrolled in the university in 2014, hoping to finish her degree, which she started back in 1998 at Minnesota State University-Mankato. Lewis said not having a degree has limited her employment opportunities.

"I found myself not as competitive in the job market and have always felt not having that education on my résumé held me back," Lewis said.

UWRF also has been working to provide convenience to nontraditional students who struggle to find time for things traditional students may be able to do easier, such as checking out books from Textbook Services.

## Observatory talks/viewing session Oct. 25 at UW-River Falls

October 21, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Physics Department a free, public observatory viewing and astronomy discussion on Tuesday, Oct. 25. At 8 p.m. "Boo! Halloween and Other Cross-Quadrature Days" will be presented by Eileen Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear. Uranus and Neptune should be visible.

A faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions. Objects to be seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons, and double stars.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit [www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm). The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

For more information about the observatory, email [glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu](mailto:glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu) or for more information about pre-observatory talks, email [eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu](mailto:eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu) or call the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

# Special addition to Falcon football team brings inspiration to players

**By: Tori Schneider**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Visitors to a Falcon home football game at UW-River Falls this year may notice a new face on the sidelines or running up and down the bleachers trying to get the fans excited. He won't be suited up in uniform, but that doesn't tame his passion for the game.

His name is Jesse Peterson. He is a 21-year-old with Down syndrome and he has brought new life and positivity to the football team since last spring when he joined it during practice.

Peterson enjoys many aspects of the game.

"I like defense, and offense, too. I like first down. And go for it and field goal," he said.

Head Coach Matt Walker described Peterson as "an inspirational leader."

"It's so great to see not only how it's benefited him and the fun he's had with it, but I think our guys, they've had a blast with him. They really enjoy having him around. It's been awesome," Walker said.

One thing Peterson really likes to do is get the players motivated.

"I say, 'Let's go, go Falcons and come on Falcons, come on red, let's go,'" he said.

Quarterback Sawyer Moon is one player with whom Peterson spends a lot of time.

Moon said the biggest change he has noticed in the team since Peterson joined is positivity.

"You look over at Jesse. He's always smiling, he's always happy, always telling you 'good job,' even if you're not doing a good job," Moon said.

Before he joined the Falcons, Peterson was involved with the River Falls High School football team.

He graduated in 2013 but was in high school until 2015, and was involved with the team the whole time, receiving a varsity letter each year.

It was Jesse's mother, Traci Peterson, who thought it might be a good idea for him to become a manager for the team when he was in ninth grade.

"He just really wanted to be in sports, so I just had to try to think of another way for him to get involved. So he was pretty happy with that," Traci said.

When he graduated high school, Traci worked with Dana Zimmerman, a professor of health and human performance, and Walker to see if he could be promoted to the Falcons team.

"My boys, I miss them," Jesse said about the high school players.

Traci said that being involved with the teams has given Jesse more self-confidence and helps him communicate with other people.

"They are amazing, so good to him," she said.

She said that sports are Jesse's niche, and he cheers for whichever team wins.

Jesse is also involved in Special Olympics, participating in basketball, bowling, and track and field since he was about 9 years old.

In 2008 and 2016, he went to state for track and field, and he also went three different years for bowling.

"I like to win. I don't like to lose," Jesse said. He also said he wants to stay involved with the Falcons for a long time.

# BFA SENIOR EXHIBITION

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 2, 2016

## OPENING RECEPTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016 5-8 PM



## Students present their BFA exhibitions at UW-River Falls

October 7, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls seniors William Diegnau, Henrik Jorgensen, Cody Kiss, Alysha Kandel, Tyler Pelton, Molly Seim, and Dana Van Wiewill present their bachelor of fine arts degree exhibitions in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UW-River Falls Oct. 24-Nov. 2. On display will be ceramics, mixed media paintings, printmaking, fibers and glass sculptural work. William Diegnau of Cottage Grove, Minn., has a major/minor emphasis in printmaking/graphic design. His prints on exhibit explore the vaguesense of perception. Henrik Jorgensen of Madison has a primary/minor emphasis in glass/printmaking. His glass sculptures showcase a collection of self-portraits allowing contemplation through conceptual and visual descriptions. Cody Kiss of Cable, with a major/minor emphasis in painting/art history, is presenting interpretative portraits based on Nordic gods and goddesses painted using fine art and traditional craft techniques. Alysha Kandel of Lake Elmo, Minn., has a major/minor emphasis in graphic design/photography. Her joy for traveling is the basis of her photographs and designs. Tyler Pelton of Hudson has a primary/secondary emphasis in glass/ceramics. His mixed media installations explore the concept of how grief can effect ones perception achieved through the use of repeated forms and utilizing the optical nature of glass. Molly Seim of Cottage Grove, Minn., has a major/minor emphasis in painting/ceramics. On display are large oil paintings and drawings that show narratives that are humorous, playful and familiar to the viewer. Dana Van Wie of Amery has a major/minor emphasis in fibers/photography. Her series, "Openings" is comprised of mixed media fiber art highlighting unique hand-dyed fabrics. An exhibition reception is Friday, Oct. 28, from 5-8 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from noon-8 p.m. and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call the Art Department at 715-425-3266.

# Survey research center's work reaches clients around Wisconsin

**By: Zach Bares**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

The Survey Research Center at UW-River Falls has been around since 1990, but has a relatively low profile. It's a testament to how much work the center does for clients away from the university.

The center is located in the Regional Development Institute and works on 25-30 surveys per year, according to its website.

"The Survey Research Center is really focused on gathering data for local units of government, for academics, for non-profits, for cooperatives," said Director David Trechter, who also is a professor of agricultural economics. "And, because I'm here, we do a lot of stuff for the campus as well."

The center's most recent project was a survey for the St. Croix County office of University of Wisconsin-Extension. The county was looking into expanding its broadband internet connectivity.

Eric Biltonen, St. Croix County's community resource development agent, said that he and his team could not have put together as adequate of a survey as the research center did. Biltonen said that among reasons for working with the research center were "their experience with both doing surveys and (with) St. Croix County, and working through the drafts of the surveys to make sure they're covering what they need to."

The Survey Research Center put together a two-part survey for three specific areas in St. Croix County: St. Joseph Township, southern New Richmond and Hammond. It was a random sampling of how much broadband people had available to them and how much they would like to have.

"After the research center put the finishing touches on it, we found that a lot of people wanted or needed more broadband," Biltonen said.

Biltonen also said the extension office will continue to use the data and will look to the research center for any further surveys that will need to be conducted.

Trechter said the center works on projects from all over state. For example, the center recently completed a survey for West Allis, a suburb of Milwaukee.

The Survey Research Center also offers on-campus employment to students. This year it has four student employees. Kaylin Spaeth, a senior agricultural business major, said she has gained valuable experience in her time with the research center.

"Basically it's a lot of organizational skills," Spaeth said. Spaeth noted how much better she is now at using Microsoft Excel than she was when she first started working at the center.

Spaeth also has learned a great deal about categorizing comments and analyzing them to figure out when there is a common

response within a survey.

"It's helped me with other school projects and my internship that I did two years ago," Spaeth said.

She knows that she doesn't want to work with surveys the rest of her life, but Spaeth is appreciative of all of the things that she has learned.

More information about the Survey Research Center is available at [uwrf.edu/SurveyResearchCenter](http://uwrf.edu/SurveyResearchCenter).

# UWRF student's innovation helps parapalegic horseback riders

**By: Tori Schneider**

**Falcon News Service**

When UW-River Falls senior Shanna Burris, an equine management major, got accepted into the McNair Scholars Program, she knew she wanted to help paraplegic horseback riders.

Her first step was to survey para riders to find out what they needed the most. Then she created a hoist that can lift a saddle onto a horse.

Other obstacles paraplegic riders may face when getting ready to ride a horse are already taken care of with wheelchair ramps and lifts to place them on the animals. However, without Burris' hoist, these riders need someone else to maneuver the saddles for them.

"Knowing this population and knowing some of the struggles that they go through trying to tack up their own horse and how beneficial riding is to them, I wanted to figure out a way to make it more accessible and help them be more independent," Burris said.

Burris is a non-traditional student. She has worked in health care for many years and was inspired by the many lifts used to move patients.

Her research and the hoist were presented at a symposium at the University of California-Berkeley this past summer.

Dean Olson, the associate dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences at UW-River Falls, was Burris' mentor and advisor on the project. Olson also is a professor of agricultural engineering.

While working together, Olson saw Burris apply what he had taught her in an Introduction to Agricultural Engineering course. They created the hoist for less than \$150 and used mostly spare parts from the Agricultural Engineering Department.

"She wanted to help these people become more independent... She recognized that this really isn't an equine problem, this is an engineering problem and that's why she came to me," Olson said.

The hoist is now undergoing the patent process with WiSys Technology Foundation.

According to its website, "WiSys advances scientific research throughout the state by patenting technologies developed out of the universities and licensing these inventions to companies capable of developing them to benefit Wisconsin and beyond."

"We didn't really invent anything new," Olson said. "We're taking off-the-shelf technology. It's more the application of that technology. And there may be some patent protection on there. That will be up to WiSys to determine that, if they feel that there is."

With the fate of the hoist in the hands of WiSys, Burris is waiting for the patent to be approved and for someone to be willing to market and manufacture the product.

Ken Giske is the executive director and president of Walk On Therapeutic Riding Programs in River Falls. Walk On helps those with disabilities experience horseback riding.

Giske hasn't seen the hoist yet, but pending approval from WiSys, Burris would like Giske to be able to put it to use.

"I'm only guessing that it's going to help our program based on what she's told me," Giske said.

No para riders are currently enrolled in the Walk On program, but there have been in the past.

Burris has more ideas that she would like to implement to further assist para riders, but isn't ready to share them with the public. She is in the process of applying to graduate schools to pursue a doctorate in animal science equine and said she hopes to someday become a professor at UWRF.

# UWRF students teach home-schoolers about physical education

**By: Ace Sauerwein**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Home-schoolers from the River Falls area may attend classes put on by university students majoring in health and physical education, a relationship that the program's leaders say is mutually beneficial.

The Physical Education Movement Academy at UW-River Falls is available primarily to home-schooled students aged anywhere from kindergarten to seniors in high school. Classes meet every or every other Tuesday during the fall and spring semesters at UWRF.

The PE Academy is mostly run by the students enrolled in "Instructional Methods in Physical Education" and a beginning methods class for physical education. Elementary pupils are taught by the beginning methods class, while middle and high school students are taught by the Instructional Methods course.

"The students in that class will actually teach," said Morgan Wilson, UWRF student coordinator of the PE Academy. "They (UWRF students) sometimes have classroom work which the teacher gives them different lesson plans that they design, and then we actually teach the home-schools in the gym."

Wilson is in charge of communicating with the parents, listing the home-schooled students on the roster, and collecting payments.

Health and physical education students at UWRF have a lot to gain through the PE Academy.

"I think it gains a lot of leadership, because I have to stay organized. I have to be on top of things," said Wilson. "I also have to be very reliable with our teacher and then all our students if they have any questions, so I think this position helps me as a teacher."

UWRF students aren't the only ones who benefit from the PE Academy.

"They (the home-schoolers) don't really get that gym experience as a home-school, so they have that time to come in here and interact with other students," Wilson said. "They also get that time to have that physical fitness that every student needs and learn different sports."

In 2012, more than one third of children and adolescents in the U.S. were obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sessions are broken up into three sessions: kindergarten through second grade, third grade through sixth grade, and seventh grade through 12th grade, according to Donald Glover, a health and physical education instructor at UWRF. Glover teaches the two courses in charge of the PE Academy.

"The secondary and middle school is a little different. They go for 55 minutes. The elementary section goes for 25 minutes," said Glover.

Home-schooled students in the secondary and middle school classes warm up and focus on "presenting a skill, a skill that relates to a certain activity that they might be able to participate in," said Glover. Reviews are done at the end of each class as well.

For the elementary aged students, the focus is on "locomotor skills: balance, agility, strength," Glover said. "We are not so much into teaching sports and games with them."

Home-schooled students may still sign up for program. Further information is available on the program's website, <http://bit.ly/2ehFGtl>.



Alejandra Escalante (Marianne Dashwood), Jolly Abraham (Elinor Dashwood) and Suzanne Warmanen (Mrs. Dashwood) in the Guthrie Theater's production of "Sense and Sensibility," adapted by Kate Hamill, based on the novel by Jane Austen and directed by Sarah Rasmussen. Scenic design by Jungyun Georgia Lee, costume design by Moria Sine Clinton, lighting design by Charlie Morrison. Presented through October 29 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis. Photo by Dan Norman.

## UW-River Falls alum is costume designer for hit Guthrie production "Sense and Sensibility"

October 6, 2016—River Falls native and University of Wisconsin-River Falls alumna Moria Clinton has returned to her Midwest roots as the costume designer for the production of "Sense and Sensibility," an adaptation of the classic Jane Austen novel, playing at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis through October 29.

A 2004 UW-River Falls graduate with a bachelor's degree in theatre and art and a minor in costume, Clinton went on to earn a master of fine arts degree in design from Yale School of Drama in 2009. From there Clinton has been busy with both costume and set design in multiple theatre productions throughout the United States. Based in NYC, she has served as assistant designer to Jane Greenwood, a Broadway designer. She has also designed costumes at other regional theatres such as Oregon Shakespeare Company and Dallas Theatre Center.

While in the Twin Cities to direct the construction of the costumes, Clinton welcomed a current UW-River Falls class, along with Professor Robin Murray, department chair of Stage and Screen Arts at UW-River Falls, as well as Clinton's mentor and adviser during her time at UW-River Falls, to a special evening. Not only were they Clinton's special guests at the "invited dress rehearsal" but they were also treated to a pizza party where they were able to see her renderings and hear about how the costumes were designed and built.

"Inviting the students to a free 'invitation only' dress is typical of how Moria thinks. I am proud of the work she does, but I am most proud of who she is as a person," said Murray. "She is a thoughtful young woman who believes passionately in the power of theatre to change our world, and generously gives of her talents to help others understand the possibilities."

Clinton has several collaborators she works closely with, but most prolifically with Sarah Rasmussen, the director for Kate Hamill's adaptation of "Sense and Sensibility" at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and Dallas Theatre Center in Texas.

When asked what was next in a recent interview with Basil Considine, Twin Cities Arts Reader performing arts editor, Clinton replied "My flight literally just landed back in Brooklyn after I headed home after second preview at the Guthrie. I head up to Vermont in a day for fittings for Macbeth. After that I have a few projects in the works in New York and hope to pick up more work in TV or film. Sarah and I are toying with me designing sets and costume on something at the Jungle [Theatre] for the holidays for 2017, so coming back to Minneapolis is also in the future."

For more about the stage and screen arts and theatre programs at UW-River Falls, email [robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu](mailto:robin.e.murray@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls holds annual Halloween trick-or-treat and haunted hall events

October 17, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Department of Residence Life invites the community to take part in the annual Halloween in the Halls trick-or-treat event and the Grimm Hall Haunted House, both scheduled for the end of October.

Children enrolled in 4K -5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the annual Halloween in the Halls event on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 5-7 p.m. Each residence hall will offer trick-or-treating in addition to other festive activities. The event is a chance for campus and community to share a safe and fun Halloween experience. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and in order to accommodate all area families, there will be groups starting from each of the residence halls and rotating through all of the halls.

For the older crowd, the community is invited to the annual Grimm Haunted Hall on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 8-10 p.m. in Grimm Hall, 750 East Cascade Ave, River Falls. The haunted hall will include a haunted graveyard, a demented hospital, and a circus freak show. While it is open to the public, it is not suitable for children. A suggested \$2 donation or a hygiene/non-perishable food item gets you entrance to the Grimm Haunted Hall. Items collected will be donated to Turning Point, a local organization for victims of domestic violence.

For more information about either event, call the UWRF Residence Life Department at 715-425-4555.

## UW-River Falls hosts Trump vs. Clinton political issues roundtable and Q&A

October 18, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Political Science Department is hosting "Trump v. Clinton- The Election of a Lifetime," a political issues roundtable and question/answer session on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from noon-1:30 p.m. in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

UW-River Falls faculty from political science, management and marketing, and psychology will discuss various aspects of this very unique and critically important presidential election. While panelists will have some prepared comments, the emphasis will be on audience participation and questions.

For more information about the event, email [kathryn.possehl@uwrf.edu](mailto:kathryn.possehl@uwrf.edu)

## UW-River Falls makes The Princeton Review's list of environmentally responsible green colleges



October 21, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has made The Princeton Review's annual free guide to the most environmentally responsible green colleges.

"The Princeton Review's Guide to 361 Green Colleges: 2016 Edition" profiles colleges with the most exceptional commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives, and activities. The profiles in the guide give college applicants information about each school's admission requirements, cost and financial aid, as well as student body

facts and stats.

The free 160-page guide is downloadable at [www.princetonreview.com/green-guide](http://www.princetonreview.com/green-guide). It includes detailed green facts including the school's use of renewable energy, recycling, and conservation programs to the availability of environmental studies and career guidance for green jobs.

As part of its many commitments to sustainability, UW-River Falls utilizes its two campus laboratory farms and the the Kinnickinnic River watershed to provide resources and opportunities for hands-on education and research. UWRF has implemented many sustainable practices in its operations including stormwater management, solar panels, and waste minimization. UWRF faculty and students offer distinctive sustainability-infused experiences through service-learning, civic engagement, and targeted research activities such as the student-driven regional climate summit and the KinniConsortium boundary organization.

A recently implemented sustainability effort at UW-River Falls is the Student Educator's Program where students in the Sustainability Office serve as peer-to-peer sustainability educators both in and out of the classroom. UW-River Falls continues to enhance existing sustainability programs and initiatives as well as pursue new ways to further their efforts.

"Pursuing a more sustainable lifestyle in our personal lives as well as on campus and beyond is part of our moral obligation to ourselves and each other, said Mark Klapatch, UW-River Falls sustainability and custodial supervisor. "We live on a planet with finite resources and we need to be diligent and innovative in our efforts to be more sustainable. UW-River Falls students, faculty, staff, and community members have proven time and time again that sustainability efforts are important and we are proud to have made the list of green schools."

Among nearly 10,000 teens who participated in the 2016 College Hopes & Worries Survey, 61 percent said that having information about a school's commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the college, according to Robert Franek, The Princeton Review's senior VP-publisher. The Princeton Review strongly recommends the schools in this guide to environmentally-minded students who seek to study and live at green colleges, he said. A complete report on that survey is at [www.princetonreview.com/college-hopes-worries](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-hopes-worries)

The Princeton Review chose the colleges based on Green Rating scores, from 60 to 99, that the company tallied in summer 2016 for 640 colleges using data from its 2015-16 survey of school administrators. The survey asked them to report on their school's sustainability-related policies, practices, and programs. More than 25 data points were weighted in the assessment. Schools with green rating scores of 80 or higher made it into the guide. Most of the 350 schools in the edition are in the U.S. Ten are in Canada. One is in Egypt.

For more information about the sustainability practices at UW-River Falls, email [mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu](mailto:mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu).





## UW-River Falls Named a 'Top 100 Best Value College' by Educate to Career

October 17, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been named a "2017 Top 100 Best Value College" in the most recent Educate to Career (ETC) College Rankings Index. The ETC Index analyzes the profile of students when they enter a given college, the total costs related to attending the college, and the outcomes of the students when they enter the labor market.

"Using our outcome-focused methodology, the Index empirically determines the economic value added by each of the over 1000 colleges ranked within our system, unlike other rankings that rate colleges based on the academic caliber of their students," said Michael Havis, president of Educate To Career. "Educate to Career considers its ETC College Rankings Index to be the most authentic college rankings index available. We rank colleges based on the added value that they bring to their graduates in terms of the increase in employability and earnings that their grads derive from attending the college."

UW-River Falls was ranked number 26 by ETC, placing it in the top three percent of the College Rankings Index. The ETC College Rankings Index is comprised of accredited four-year colleges, with annual enrollments greater than 1,000 students. The Index analyzes data for more than 1,000 colleges, representing 94 percent of all students enrolled in four-year colleges.

Educate to Career, a California based non-profit, provides outcome-based college and career planning tool programs. The full ETC College Rankings Index, including the methodology used to evaluate colleges, is available at <http://educatetocareer.org>

Founded in 1874, UW-River Falls is one of 13 comprehensive universities in the University of Wisconsin System. Located on 226 acres of rolling land, just 30 minutes from the Twin Cities, UWRF is a leader in exemplary teaching, undergraduate research, and sustainability. The university's mission is to help prepare students to be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective.

## UW-River Falls to host Bob Dylan musical tribute

October 20, 2016--The community is invited to a free celebration of the works of Bob Dylan, America's most recent winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, on Thursday, Nov. 3, beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the second floor breezeway of the Davee Library. Space is limited and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Dairy Science Professor Dennis Cooper, known on the local musical scene as the lead singer in The Roqonteurs and as the Doq of Roq, will be speaking, singing, and playing guitar as he presents a brief celebration of the life and works of Dylan. Cooper is known for punctuating his musical performances with his deep knowledge of the music and the musicians and has long been influenced by Dylan.

"Dylan spoke to my generation about the times we were experiencing in the 1960s," Cooper said. "And he still speaks to us today."

Dylan was born in Duluth and grew up in Hibbing, Minn., on the Mesabi Iron Range. He transformed the art of folk music, his lyrics creating a whole new body of poetry with a wholly American voice. He has been compared to the nonconforming great American poets Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson.

The event is sponsored by the UW-River Falls English Department. For more information, email [marshall.toman@uwrf.edu](mailto:marshall.toman@uwrf.edu)



Little Shop of Horrors promotional image. From left to right, Eric Cox, Corey Fern, Dallas Nicolai, Jonah Conway

Photo by Hailey Smith

## UW-River Falls University Theatre Presents 'Little Shop of Horrors'

October 17, 2016 --The University of Wisconsin-River Falls University Theatre will present "Little Shop of Horrors," a comedy rock musical. Performances are October 27-29 and November 3-5 in the Blanche Davis Theatre located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is a charming, kooky, and hilarious musical cult classic written by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman based on the 1960 black comedy film directed by Roger Corman. Hapless flower shop assistant Seymour Krelborn becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers a strange and exotic plant. He names the plant Audrey II in order to impress glamorous Audrey, the co-worker he is secretly in love with. He soon discovers that the plant thrives on human blood. How far will Seymour go to impress the woman of his dreams?

The production is directed by guest director Josh Campbell, a working actor, director, and producer in the Twin Cities. The cast, consisting entirely of UWRF students, includes Corey Fern (Shakopee, Minn.) as Seymour, Dallas Nicolai (Farmington, Minn.) as Audrey, Eric Cox (Maplewood, Minn.) as Mushnik, Jonah Conway (Ellsworth) as Orin, Whitney Owen (Ellsworth) as Crystal, Kayla Hanke (Hudson) as Chiffon, Mya Ennis (New Richmond) as Ronette, Sor Her (St. Paul) as the Audrey II Puppeteer, Nathan Thomas (White Bear Lake, Minn.) as the voice of Audrey II, Eve Burdick (Shakopee, Minn.), Ensemble 1, and Emma Johnson (Shoreview/Roseville, Minn.), Ensemble 2.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (60+) and \$5 for children and UWRF students with ID. The box office, located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On performance days, the Box Office opens at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person, by phone at 715-425-3114, or online at [uwrf.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre/](http://uwrf.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre/)

For more information, call Marty Donnelly at 715-425-4788 or email [martha.donnelly@uwrf.edu](mailto:martha.donnelly@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls workshop for Montessori educators explores strategies to teach boys

October 10, 2016 -- Educators in public or private Montessori schools can gain professional knowledge and skills through a series of one-day workshops offered by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The courses are approved by the American Montessori Society (AMS) and taught by nationally recognized Montessori educators. Each workshop covers a separate topic of interest to Montessori and other teachers and parents.

The next workshop, "Making It Stick - How We Make a Lasting Difference in Kids' Lives," is Friday, Oct. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the River Falls Public Library (lower level). It is presented by Biff Maier, director of faculty and curriculum development at Lexington Montessori School in Massachusetts.

"Mr. Maier is a nationally recognized speaker and we are fortunate to have him here," said Linda Jacobson, program manager in UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education. Maier has been involved with Montessori since 1974 and co-directs the Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative (METTC) in Lexington, Mass. He is a seminar presenter and consultant for the American Montessori Society (AMS), and, as former chair of the AMS Teachers' Section, he served on the AMS National Board of Directors.

An additional topic added to the October workshop will be "Boys Will Be Boys," which will introduce proven strategies and learning environment modifications to engage boys and close the growing achievement gap between boys and girls, Jacobson said. More information about the classes is available at <https://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/Educators/MontessoriProfessionalDevelopmentWorkshops.cfm>

Additional workshops will be held in November, February and April. Advance registration is required and is available online at [go.uwrf.edu/Montessori](http://go.uwrf.edu/Montessori). Fees for each workshop range from \$49 to \$89 and discounts may be available for early registrations and group registrations of five or more participants. The fee includes instruction, lunch, parking, and materials and five or six continuing education credits from AMS. Participants who are interested in earning graduate credits with additional tuition and coursework outside of the workshop should contact Jacobson at 715-425-3190 or email [linda.r.jacobson@uwrf.edu](mailto:linda.r.jacobson@uwrf.edu).

UW-River Falls provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at [www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation](http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation) or may be obtained by calling 715-425-3256, 1-800-228-5607 or sending an email to [outreach@uwrf.edu](mailto:outreach@uwrf.edu).



## WWI posters discussed at UW-River Falls in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the U.S. participation in the war

October 6, 2016 — Jason McDonald, assistant professor of history at Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo., will speak at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Thursday, Oct. 20, as part of the annual Edward N. Peterson Lecture Series. The free lecture will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center and will be preceded by a reception at 4 p.m. McDonald's lecture, "Hold Up Your End! Class, Gender, and Ethnicity in U.S. World War I Posters," is in commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the U.S. participation in World War I. The lecture is open to the public. Join the navy! Buy war bonds! Conserve food supplies! The American public was bombarded with messages like these during World War I, mostly via eye-catching posters issued by a host of governmental and voluntary agencies. McDonald will explain the origins and impact of this nationwide publicity campaign, the first of its kind organized by the federal government. He will also explore some of the key themes and recurring symbolism present in America's war mobilization effort. McDonald holds a doctorate in history from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom. He teaches courses on American history, historiography, and public and digital history, and history of migration, ethnicity, and race, such as African-American history, the Civil Rights Movement, and the American eugenics movement. He has authored books including "American Ethnic History: Themes and Perspectives" (2007) and "Racial Dynamics in Early Twentieth-Century Austin, Texas" (2012) and has published essays and articles in edited collections and scholarly journals including "Immigrants and Minorities" and "Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era." The event is sponsored by the UW-River Falls History and Philosophy Department and funded by the Peterson Lecture Series Endowment Fund and the Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professorship in History Foundation. For more information, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/HIST/Events/PetersonLectureSeries/Index.cfm> or call the History and Philosophy Department at 715-425-3164.

# UW-River Falls narrows search for next chief information officer

**By: Matthew Clark**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Officials at UW-River Falls are moving closer to filling the top technology management position.

UWRF has been without a chief information officer (CIO) since Steven Reed left in April for a similar position with Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. The position is in charge of all technical aspects of the campus including the operation of the Division of Technology (DoTS).

To fill the position, the UWRF Faculty Senate created a search and screen committee to seek and vet potential candidates. After narrowing the applicant pool down to four candidates, the committee is now looking for input from the campus.

"The CIO touches every aspect of the university from the student to the president and every branch and every organization in the university," said Dan Paulus, chair of the CIO Search and Screen Committee. "Therefore, I think it would be wise to get some feedback from those constituents — which is everybody — and hopefully get another perspective than that of the committee itself."

To elicit response from students, staff and faculty, the committee is hosting open sessions for the candidates to present on any topic related to technology. The presentation will be part of a longer interview process that each candidate will participate in with other campus officials. Sara Solland, one of two co-interim CIOs and a member of the search and screen committee, said the candidates have a wide range of backgrounds.

"It's a very diverse group of people who applied for the position — many different industries, not just higher education, that had applied for the position," Solland said. "Usually there's more of a technology generalist experience that gets people ahead in the pool because they've had different experiences with different areas within a technology division."

Currently, the responsibilities are shared between Solland and Co-Interim CIO Jason Winget while balancing the demands of their primary campus technology-related positions. Solland said finding a consistent CIO is essential to the advancement of the campus.

"I would say it's important to have a CIO because they're really the interface between all that technology does and serves, or the services we provide the students, and the administration on campus or different governance groups on campus so it's a very political type of position," Solland said.

Once the open sessions and interviews are over, the search and screen committee will review each candidate and will eventually recommend one of them to Interim Provost Faye Perkins, who will make the final decision. However, Winget said feedback from students will make a strong impact on the final decision.

"I think it's extremely important for students to come because one of the things that is obviously important for us is the student input because what we look at as needs from students, this is a great opportunity to find someone that may be setting the

course for what future students are looking for," Winget said.

Open sessions were scheduled start on Monday, Oct. 24, and will take place on select dates until Nov. 4.

DoTS is also looking to fill six other positions including a teaching and learning technology manager.

## UW-River Falls graduates and master teacher are panelists at national science teacher conference

October 24, 2016--Two graduates and the master teacher from the newest graduate teaching program of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls are presenting at the National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) Area Conference in Minneapolis on October 28.

Rachelle Haroldson, master teacher for the STEMteach program and Nichelle Wollberg and Chelsey Turner, who completed teaching licensing requirements through the STEMteach program this year, will lead a panel titled "The Transition from STEM Student to STEM Teacher." Wollberg is a science teacher at Lake Holcombe School in Holcombe, and Turner teaches science at Viking Middle School in Woodville.

"These first-year teachers who went through a STEM teacher preparation program will present their experiences transitioning from being a STEM student to a STEM teacher," said Haroldson.

The teachers will discuss ways the STEM teacher preparation program prepared them for their current teaching positions. Those attending this session of the conference will receive lesson plans that Wollberg and Turner developed to use in their secondary science classrooms. The presenters will also address the challenges they faced in transitioning from student to STEM teacher and provide advice for other new teachers or current STEM teacher candidates.

The UWRF STEMteach program offers an efficient route to become a teacher with a highly-marketable license within one year. Qualified applicants take graduate-level courses on the River Falls campus beginning in the summer and continuing throughout the year. Students will have opportunities for teaching experiences in the summer and finish with an apprentice teaching semester in the spring. Those who wish to complete a master's degree in secondary education may do so by taking additional graduate credits.

Interested individuals are encouraged to meet with an admissions adviser for a personal consultation and preliminary application review. The next cohort of students will begin in the summer of 2017. For more information, contact Outreach Manager Pamela Bowen at 715-425-0633 or send an email to [outreach@uwrf.edu](mailto:outreach@uwrf.edu).

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is an accredited institution offering a variety of degree and certificate programs designed to meet personal and professional educational goals. UWRF programs are built on a solid foundation of academic excellence and faculty are friendly, experienced mentors who take the time to address each student's professional needs and career objectives.

The UWRF graduate programs provide intensive, reality-based learning experiences, which often serve as a stepping stone to professional and career advancement. Browse the complete list of graduate programs online at [www.uwrf.edu](http://www.uwrf.edu).

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), founded in 1944 and headquartered in Arlington, Va., is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership of 55,000 includes science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in and committed to science education.

# New courses at UW-River Falls designed to keep freshmen in school

**By: Molly Kinney**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

UW-River Falls has been focusing heavily on retention of students, and a new program called First Year Adventure implemented this semester seems to be taking off quite well.

Cyndi Kernahan, assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), said that the program tries to ensure students stay at UWRF for their sophomore year. Faculty who developed the program also wanted the courses to be focused specifically on critical thinking, constructive teamwork and information literacy.

"What we're interested in ensuring is that students stay freshmen to sophomore year," Kernahan said. "One thing that's shown to improve retention is classes like this. It's partly an introduction-to-college course, but also featuring interesting content. And we have some very cool classes."

The program is specific to CAS. Freshmen enrolled with a major in CAS are required to take one of the 10 courses offered. The UWRF website describes the program as "experienced faculty engaging first year students in a shared process of inquiry in seminar-style classes."

"What that means is bringing students along," Kernahan said. "Instead of the traditional, 'I lecture to you and you pull in this content,' it's about involving students in the problem solving. Things that will allow them to test out of some of those higher order skills that are frankly more meaningful, and be able to answer questions like, 'What is art?' And we wanted the courses to be small enough that you know everybody's name, you can talk, and everyone can be a part of solving some larger question."

Course titles range from "What is Art?" to "The Universe in 14 Weeks," and many other subjects.

Casey Maude, an adjunct professor in the English Department, is teaching a course called "99 Problems But This Class Ain't One." He said the class allows him to try teaching methods he may not get to otherwise.

"As I started going through the application process, doing this was about things I wanted to try in English classes that just didn't quite fit," Maude said. "They were either too complicated, or I couldn't justify them because they weren't specific enough to English composition."

"So what we're trying to do in the class is tutorial-style learning," he added. "Students are researching together separate topics, but ones that have enough in common that we can discuss them together. I can ask what did you learn, and they'll come and inform me about it. That's the semester-long project."

Maude said that a particularly interesting project two students are working on surround police issues. One student is focusing on the tension between American communities and police forces, while another is looking at the influence of pop culture and

the movement of athletes kneeling during the National Anthem.

"These topics are different, but there's something they share," Maude said. "I'm hoping they can do the traditional research, but also get to know and engage with each other, and practice the teamwork component of this program."

He's also incorporating a community-based problem-solving project into the course. This will hopefully allow students to get better acquainted and at home in River Falls, another big part of retaining students.

Maude said he's enjoyed working with the students and teaching this course so far.

"We're doing this academic-type thing, but it's also a community thing," Maude said, "so they do feel invested in this university. Therefore, less likely to transfer. I hope it will create that community here for them. This is the only class I've taught that's had the chance to do that... It's real exciting. It's benefitted not just this class but my teaching as a whole."

Jake Till, a physics and engineering major, is in Maude's class. He said that the course isn't what he thought it would be.

"It's pretty interesting stuff, really," Till said. "It's not typical. It helps us look at problems on and off campus in different ways.

"We have a lot of reaching that actually reflect the real world, which makes it more interesting," he added.

He said his semester-long project is an interesting component of the course, too.

"We're getting to take a world problem, analyze it, and think about how we could solve it, what needs to be changed or fixed. I'm working on stuff around nuclear fission, issues surrounding that," Till said.

Tricia Davis, a sociology professor and associate dean of CAS, said that students in the program are being studied to see what the outcome of the program's first semester really is.

"It's on the books for any student that started this year, so we don't see ourselves canceling it," Davis said. "We're doing research, following students and looking at a lot of different factors. We'd like to see how they compare to students who haven't taken these courses."

# DECA chapter at UWRF, despite being young, does well in competitions

**By: Zach Bares**

## **Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

The UW-River Falls DECA chapter got off to a surprisingly good start in its first year of competition in 2015. The team placed five individuals in the top 10 at an international conference in Washington, D.C.

The chapter had 13 members qualify for the Collegiate DECA International Career Development Conference after placing in the top three at the state conference.

The national DECA organization was founded in 1946 and formerly was known as Distributive Education Clubs of America. The organization is active in high schools and universities across the country.

Stacy Vollmers, the UWRF faculty advisor for DECA, was pleasantly surprised with how the first year went.

"We went to the state conference just trying to get a feel for how everything works and did really well," Vollmers said.

DECA is for students who have an interest in developing leadership and entrepreneurial skills and competing. The competitions have four main categories: business management and administration, marketing and communication, hospitality and tourism, and finance and accounting.

Chapter President Alfonso Tolbert competes in the marketing sector. He and his team put together ad campaigns prior to the conference and are judged against other teams. Tolbert has found a lot of value in his experience with DECA.

"I think it's helped me think quickly on my feet, think under pressure and still come up with a good presentation or a good result to show to someone," Tolbert said.

Vollmers said she hasn't really played as big of a role as some might think, especially with the early success of the program.

"I said I would be the advisor, but the students put together the constitution and pretty much ran with it," Vollmers said. She gives all the credit to the students in the organization.

Vollmers, who is also an associate professor in the College of Business and Economics, travels with the chapter to all of its events.

"I missed nine school days last spring," Vollmers said. "That part can take its toll on my classes, but I knew what I was signing up for."

She said it's all worth it to see all the growth the organization has made in the short time of its existence.

"Watching them go to these competitions and develop their confidence and their speaking skills has been a lot of fun,"

Vollmers said.

Tolbert does a lot of the recruiting for the organization by going to classrooms and speaking about what DECA is all about. He said some students tend to think it's just for business majors or for communication majors, but it's not.

"These are skills that will help you no matter what you're doing in your career," Tolbert said. He said he always has to remind students that the organization is open to any major.

Vollmers said one of the biggest challenges with any student organization is transitioning leadership. The UWRF DECA chapter hasn't faced that transition yet, but Vollmers is confident that the foundation is solid enough that it shouldn't be that great of an issue when the time comes.

"They've handled everything well up to this point, so I'm not that concerned about it," Vollmers said.

## UW-River Falls presents 'Amazon: Wilderness, Technology and Society' panel discussion

October 27, 2016--In celebration of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Year of Brazil, the history, philosophy and geography departments will present "The Amazon: Wilderness, Technology and Society" on Monday, Nov. 7, from 3-5 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center. The event is free and open to the public and will include refreshments beginning at 3 p.m. with the panel discussion to follow at 3:30 p.m.

Four UW-River Falls faculty, John Heppen and Charles Rader of the Geography Department, and Imtiaz Moosa and Walter Wietzke of the History and Philosophy Department, will each give a 15-minute presentation with discussion with Q & A to follow. Presentations include: "Framing the Amazon" by Heppen; "Habitat loss, development and social justice in the Amazon" by Rader; "Wilderness and the Future of Humanity" by Moosa; and, "Technology and Humanity" by Wietzke.

Many diverse issues will be addressed during the event, including: What are the key geographical features of this amazing landscape? How much of it are we losing, and how much is still left intact? Is Brazil morally required to leave this majestic landscape in a wild and natural state? What are the uses of wilderness? What would our future on earth be like without vast wilderness areas? Can we blame technology for the unparalleled degradation of our natural environment?

For more information, call the Geography Department at 715-425-3164 or the History and Philosophy Department at 715-425-3264.

## UW-River Falls hosting New York visual artist Janine Antoni



October 28, 2016 --The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department is hosting New York based artist Janine Antoni as the Fall 2016 Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professor in Art Nov. 14-16.

Free public events with Antoni include a public lecture and roundtable discussions. Antoni will hold a public lecture, "At Home in the Body," on Monday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. in 222 North Hall. The first of two roundtable discussions is Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Willow River Room, 334 University Center. A second roundtable discussion is Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom, University Center.

Antoni is a visual artist who employs an amalgam of mediums including performance, sculpture, photography, installation, and video. Her body is both her tool for making and the source from which her meaning arises. She is known for transforming materials like chocolate and soap, and uses everyday activities like bathing, eating, and sleeping into sculptural processes. She carefully articulates her relationship to the world, giving rise to emotional states that are felt in and through the body. In each piece, no matter the medium or image, a conveyed physicality speaks directly to the viewer's body.

Antoni was born in Freeport, Bahamas, in 1964 and received a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Anonymous Was A Woman Grant, Creative Capital Artist Grant and the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

For more information, call the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266 or email Rhonda Willers, faculty coordinator, at [rhonda.willers@uwrf.edu](mailto:rhonda.willers@uwrf.edu) or Susan Zimmer, administrative support, at [susan.m.zimmer@uwrf.edu](mailto:susan.m.zimmer@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls to host discussion about presidential election outcome

October 27, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting "Journalism & the 2016 Presidential Elections: What Just Happened?" Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. in North Hall auditorium. The discussion is part of the Communication & Media Studies Department's Working Journalists Lecture Series.

Free and open to the public, the lecture features Dave Nimmer, legendary Twin Cities journalist, and Baird Helgeson, state government and politics editor for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis.

Nimmer has worked as a newspaper reporter and managing editor at the Minneapolis Star, as reporter and assistant news director at WCCO-TV and as assistant professor of journalism at the University of St. Thomas. Helgeson oversaw coverage of the current presidential election and has reported on the Capitol since 2009. He led the Star Tribune's coverage of Minnesota's long political battle to legalize same-sex marriage and has covered several elections.

For more information, call 715-425-3169 or email [journalism@uwrf.edu](mailto:journalism@uwrf.edu).

## Bowls for Hope event invites charitable organization requests for 2017 event

October 27, 2016--Each year the University of Wisconsin-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through the Bowls for Hope event in which proceeds raised help a worthy nonprofit organization make a difference in the St. Croix Valley. Applications are now open for the 2017 recipient of this charity event.

The 2017 Bowls for Hope event is Tuesday, March 7, from 5-7 p.m. at UW-River Falls.

To be considered for the 2017 Bowls for Hope proceeds to benefit your St. Croix Valley nonprofit organization, complete the Request for Funds form found at <https://www.uwrf.edu/BowlsForHope/>. Interested charitable organizations should submit their requests online by Monday, Nov. 21.

At the event in March, for an entrance fee of \$25/adult and \$5/children age 12 and under, participants may select and keep a bowl created in glass/ceramic/pottery classes at UWRF, River Falls High School, Meyer Middle School, the Renaissance Academy, or by area artists. Attendees may also sample, at no extra charge, soups donated and served by area restaurants. Participants have the opportunity to vote for their favorite soup and a Chefs' Choice Award will be awarded to the soup favored by the chefs participating in the event.

The 2016 Bowls for Hope event raised \$6,000 for the Assistance and Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) of River Falls. Since 2010, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$40,000 for St. Croix Valley charitable organizations.

For more information, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/BowlsForHope/> or email [mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu](mailto:mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu).

## UW-River Falls workshop for educators to address teaching children who experienced trauma

November 3, 2016 -- Children who have experienced early childhood trauma often display poor behavior in the classroom and are often misdiagnosed with a myriad of other disorders. These children can learn if they have supportive relationships, caring adults, and educators knowledgeable about trauma-sensitive learning practices.

Teaching trauma-sensitive children and appropriate learning strategies will be the topic of "Bridging the Relationship Gap: Becoming an Ally for Children Facing Adversity," a workshop offered by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on Friday, Nov. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the lower level of the River Falls Public Library.

"Dr. Sara Langworthy, a dynamic speaker, researcher, author and self-proclaimed nerd will tackle this difficult subject with creativity and practicality," said Linda Jacobson, program manager in UWRF Outreach and Continuing Education. Langworthy will address approaches for working one-on-one with children to build self-regulation skills and resilience, and share promising organizational practices that shape school environments to promote student learning and success.

Educators in public or private Montessori schools can gain professional knowledge and skills through a series of one-day workshops offered by UWRF. The courses are approved by the American Montessori Society (AMS) and taught by nationally recognized Montessori and other educators. Each workshop covers a separate topic of interest to Montessori and other teachers and parents. Additional workshops will be held in February and April.

Advance registration is required and is available online at [go.uwrf.edu/Montessori](http://go.uwrf.edu/Montessori). The registration fee includes instruction, lunch, parking, and materials and five or six continuing education credits from AMS. Participants who are interested in earning graduate credits with additional tuition and coursework outside of the workshop should contact Jacobson at 715-425-3190 or email [linda.r.jacobson@uwrf.edu](mailto:linda.r.jacobson@uwrf.edu).

UW-River Falls provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable.

## UW-River Falls senior presents 'Illustrating Medicine' exhibition

November 3, 2016--University of Wisconsin-River Falls senior Grace Sacher will present her series of work "Illustrating Medicine" in the Harriet Barry Gallery of the Chalmer Davee Library Nov. 14-29. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Sacher, a BFA candidate from Hudson, will display paintings, prints, and drawings illustrating multiple alternative and mainstream medical treatments in conjunction with the figure. The work is meant to focus discussion of medicine and healthcare back to what is at the heart of this issue -- the people lost in the statistics of the argument.

An exhibition reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 17, from 4-5:30 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Art Department at 715-425-4771.



L-R on the photo of the teachers with their former students: Roger King and Andrew Simon, Nathan King and Carrie Urbanek, Troy Talford and Sally Albers

## UW-River Falls agriculture students/alumni show influence of a great teacher

November 3, 2016 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls was front and center stage during the general session at the 89<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis Oct. 21. Six individuals, all connected to UW-River Falls, served as a real life testament to historian Henry Adams quote, "A teacher affects eternity; one can never tell where their influence stops."

Roger King, agriscience teacher at Holmen High School and 2016 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, began by noting how back in high school a suggestion by his own agriculture teacher encouraged him to become one, too. King in turn has impacted the career paths of several other individuals, among those his own son, Nathan. Nathan King is the agriculture teacher at Cashton High School and he paid tribute to his father during the general session.

"In high school even as other careers started popping into my brain, I was reassured that I wanted to be an agriculture teacher when I watched my dad teach," Nathan King said.

Troy Talford, agriculture teacher at Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, took the microphone next and described how he student taught under Roger King who showed him that not all students should be assessed by multiple choice answers or from textbook questions.

"I still reach out to Roger on a regular basis to discuss new ways to reach my students, and look to him as a forever mentor in my life," Talford said.

When Talford had the opportunity to host a student teacher, he specifically requested that Nathan King be placed with him.

Talford had met him as a high school student when he was student teaching with his father. Talford noted how Nathan King reaches out to him, much like he does to King's father.

"As agriculture teachers, we constantly are looking for ways to help each other out," Talford added.

But the ripple effect did not stop with these three educators, all UW-River Falls alumni. Three of their former students, Sally Albers, Carrie Urbanek and Andrew Simon, joined them on the stage. Albers described how each of them was influenced by one of these three educators and are now enrolled at UW-River Falls, all majoring in agricultural education.

Talford was Albers high school agriculture teacher, Urbanek's high school agriculture teacher was Nathan King, and Simon was taught by Roger King. Albers wrapped up the session noting how one simple suggestion and a bit of encouragement given to Roger King nearly 40 years ago has impacted the lives of all six of them on stage. Albers concluded by saying, "When I think about the ripple Carrie, Andrew and I can have as agriculture teachers, I can't wait to get started. I hope to have half the positive influence on my students as these teachers have had on me."

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).

## Award-winning author to speak at UW-River Falls about "Racial Purgatory? Racism and Inequality in Brazilian Families"

November 3, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will welcome award-winning author Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman as part of its Year of Brazil program as she presents "Racial Purgatory? Racism and Inequality in Brazilian Families" Thursday, Nov. 17, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kinnickinnic Theater of the University Center. A public reception will begin at 4 p.m.

The event is free and open to everyone. Hordge-Freeman is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Her talk is based on her award-winning book, "The Color of Love: Racial Features, Stigma, and Socialization in Black Brazilian Families." More information about Hordge-Freeman can be found at <http://www.drhordgefreeman.com/>

The event is sponsored by the UW-River Falls "Year of" program and the Sociology, Criminology & Anthropology Department. For more information, call 715-425-4614.



## Events honoring veterans scheduled at UW-River Falls

November 3, 2016—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls invites the community to attend upcoming events honoring and supporting veterans and active duty members of the military.

**Monday, Nov. 7** Vet Center representatives will be on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 22 North Hall. The Vet Center is a VA supported service that offers a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat veterans and their families. Vet Centers seeks to guide veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a veteran returns from combat. Representatives will also be available to speak with non-combat veterans who are looking for assistance finding services.

**Tuesday, Nov. 8** Military and Veteran Services Office Open House from 1:30-3 p.m. for students, staff, faculty, and anyone who would like to meet UWRF's many veteran and military students and families and to learn more about the mission of the military and the office. The Open House is in Rooms 20, 21, and 22 North Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

**Friday, Nov. 11** A traditional Veterans Day ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. near the flagpoles on the west side of North Hall to honor those who have served and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Speakers include Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Veteran and Military Services Director Tadd Heichel, and UWRF alumnus Stephen Hacken who recently made a generous donation in his brother's memory and honor to the UWRF Foundation to support the campus veteran population.

**Saturday, Nov. 12** The UWRF Veterans Club and the Pre-Vets Club are hosting a 5K Ruck March/Hike at 9:30 a.m. at Ramer Field, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The course winds through the campus and begins and ends at Ramer Field. There is no cost for students, but donations are encouraged. Donations will benefit Paws and Stripes, an organization that places service animals with veterans in need. First 100 students receive an event t-shirt. Open to the public.

For more information about these events or the educational benefits available to active duty military, veterans, and their family members, call the UWRF Military and Veteran Services Office at 715-425-3529.

# Western Wisconsin poised for growth as Minnesota companies cross border

**By: Lisa Erickson**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Three counties in western Wisconsin are among the fastest growing in the state, and they are attracting interest from businesses based in Minnesota.

"These are our fastest-growing counties based on percent growth," said Coleman Peiffer, the business and investment attraction director of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The population of St. Croix County, for example, is expected to grow by as much as 41 percent through 2040, according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

"Businesses are looking to expand and consider multiple states before making their decision," Peiffer said. "We have had recent success in winning these competitive projects against Minnesota and Illinois."

The WEDC has been receiving more inquiries from developers and consultants representing companies that are interested. However, availability of workers remains a concern for companies looking to expand or relocate business to those areas, according to Peiffer.

"Business owners see all these great things that the state is putting in place to become a more positive business environment in addition to the county growth," he said. "So while there has not been a huge increase in businesses jumping the border, I think it is something we will see in the near future."

Danielle Campeau, director of the Center for Innovation and Business Development at UW-River Falls, has already noticed a change.

"Some businesses are already beginning to move across the border," she said.

WinField Solutions, a subsidiary of Land O'Lakes, broke ground in September and is building what will be one of the largest businesses in River Falls, according to Campeau. Its 50,000 square foot facility is under construction in the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park on the north side of the city.

Other Wisconsin counties near the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, like Polk and Pierce, also ranked high for predicted growth.

Kage Innovation, a manufacturer of maintenance equipment like snowplows, is located in Stillwater, Minnesota, but is in the process of moving to Polk County.

"Kage is a good American success story," said General Manager Chris Halback. The company started in a garage 10 years

ago and has been growing ever since. Workers are hard to find and Wisconsin seems to be more of a working person's community, said Halback. He is excited about the move.

"People seem to know how to work hard in Wisconsin and business are recognizing that," said Campeau.

"It's about the people and that Wisconsin sees that," Halback added. There are many reasons for leaving Minnesota, but some of the most important were the location, tax advantages and that Wisconsin has great people, he said.

Minnesota doesn't seem to want Kage's style of manufacturing, Halback said. He doesn't know if that idea is pushed by the state or the residents, but he feels the kind of manufacturing Kage does isn't sought after in Minnesota.

Wisconsin incentive programs make it relatively easy for businesses to want to cross the border.

Communities such as Osceola in Polk County provide the near perfect home for Kage and its future. Halbeck estimates Kage will save \$250,000 to \$300,000 in taxes and incentives the first year. For a growing company, he said, that is a big deal.

Another opportunity will be the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator, a \$2.8 million facility that also will be located in the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park in River Falls.

"It will be a multi-use facility that will attract new businesses or business that are looking to grow or need manufacturing space," Campeau said. She said this is also great for people looking or find co-working space. It will all be under one roof, she added. She expects many business people from Minnesota will take advantage of the business incubator.

# Last season's Falcons goalie now in early stages of pro ice hockey career

**By: Ace Sauerwein**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Former UW-River Falls men's hockey goalie Tanner Milliron graduated last spring. His days playing for the Falcons came to a close, but his hockey career is far from over.

Milliron, whose hometown is New Richmond, Wisconsin, now plays with the Evansville Thunderbolts of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL). The Thunderbolts are the "A" team in the Minnesota Wild organization.

After receiving his diploma in May, Milliron went on to train with the Minnesota Wild organization. He performed well enough to earn a contract in the Wild's farm system with the Quad City (Illinois) Mallards of the East Coast Hockey League. Training camp came to an end, and Milliron made his way past the final cuts. He was primed for a season with the Wild's "AA" team, and was just two levels below the National Hockey League.

However, Milliron wouldn't start the season with the Mallards.

"The Minnesota Wild sent down a goalie (to Quad City) that they felt needed some development, and then I ended up in Evansville, Indiana," Milliron said in a telephone interview.

The SPHL season kicked off last week, and in the Thunderbolts' second game, Milliron stopped 40 shots but allowed two goals in a 2-1 loss, according to the SPHL. Despite the loss, Milliron was happy to get that first taste of professional hockey.

"It's just nice to get my feet wet, and kind of see where I need more development and tiny things I can pick up on to keep moving up the ranks," said Milliron.

During his senior season at UWRF, Milliron posted a 14-7-5 record and allowed 1.83 goals per game (first in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference last year). His time at UWRF prepared him for his professional career.

"The tradition of River Falls helped me a lot," said Milliron. "Coming out of River Falls, I was a more refined winner... Coach (Steve) Freeman put me in a good position to have a lot of minutes and it really helped me develop in that sense to move on to where I am now."

Freeman, who has coached at least five players who went on to play professional hockey, viewed Milliron as more than just a talented goalie.

"What really impressed me was his demeanor," said Freeman. "What a well-balanced person he was as far as academics and athletics. He was a terrific student-athlete. He was involved in so many things."

When it came to Milliron's time on the ice, Freeman saw Milliron as one of the hardest workers he's ever coached.

"If we had a night game at seven o'clock at night, he might be there at 10 in the morning getting ready for the game and stretching out in between classes... A very, very focused student athlete," Freeman said.

It's no coincidence players coached by Freeman are reaching professional levels.

"The biggest thing is that he treated us like professionals every single day," said Milliron. "He expected us to fulfill our roles. He really trusted his guys that he knew was going to perform, and just let them run with it."

Outside of playing hockey, Milliron works for a goaltender training group called ProHybrid Training. The group is based out of Minneapolis, but Milliron is able to train goalies wherever he goes during his hockey career.

At the end of his playing career, Milliron wants to be able to look back and acknowledge that he left everything on the ice and gave himself the best opportunity to succeed. However, his career is far from over, and he's got big aspirations of reaching the National Hockey League (NHL).

"That (reaching the NHL) has to be in the back of my mind all the time. And what's really good is the league I'm playing in is known for developing goalies," Milliron said. "I'm staying as positive as I can and just doing my best."

# UW-River Falls recognized as top performer in 2016 Sustainable Campus Index

November 10, 2016 – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been recognized as a top performer in the 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, achieving a top ranking in the area of Buildings among baccalaureate/master's institutions. The 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, a publication of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas and overall by institution type, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

UW-River Falls achieved top performer status by earning a high score overall in the Buildings subcategory in STARS. This subcategory recognizes institutions that have any building space that is eligible for certification under a green building rating system for new construction and for which construction or major renovation was completed during the previous five years. Jesse H. Ames Suites opened in fall 2012 and is the newest residence hall on campus. In 2013, Ames Suites was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the way the building was planned and constructed as well as how the building is maintained and operated. LEED certified buildings such as Ames Suites are resource efficient. They use less water and energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"UW-River Falls is continually trying to improve our building operations and energy efficiency efforts," said Mark Klapatch, sustainability and custodial supervisor. "Previous projects which contribute to UWRF being identified as a top performer in the Buildings category of STARS include the construction of the Chilled Water Plant, the KFA HVAC Replacement Project, the Library Data Center project, and several window and lighting replacement projects. These efforts are the direct result of collaborative efforts by many staff and faculty, as well as partnerships with the River Falls community and participation in programs such as the State of Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program."

"UW-River Falls strong performance in the area of Buildings demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability," said AASHE's Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. "We are pleased to recognize UW-River Falls for working to secure a thriving, equitable and ecologically healthy world by incorporating sustainability into campus operations, administration, engagement and academics."

UW-River Falls STARS report can be found at

<https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-wisconsin-river-falls-wi/report/2016-02-26/>

# Falcons basketball teams have high hopes for new season

**By: Zach Bares**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Coming off successful seasons last year, both UW-River Falls basketball teams have high hopes for the 2016-17 campaign.

Last year, the women's team finished 23-6, won the regular season Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championship and advanced to the Round of 32 in the NCAA tournament.

The men's team finished in a tie for second place in the WIAC and advanced to the championship game of the conference tournament before losing to UW-Oshkosh and missing out on the NCAA tournament.

The men's team graduated three seniors who saw a lot of playing time. The Falcons will look to Alex Herink, a transfer from Minnesota State, Mankato, to replace some of the production they got from Jon Christensen last year.

"We have a couple transfers we're going to rely on throughout the season," said Head Coach Jeff Berkhof.

Just one player from last year's women's team is not returning, but Coach Cindy Holbrook said that losing Richell Mehus was bigger than most people can see.

"She allowed us to do so many different rotations defensively because we knew we could trust her," Holbrook said, adding that a lot of the players are filling the void of leadership left by Mehus. Holbrook said that she and her coaching staff are still in search of a player who can step into those defensive shoes and can be relied upon.

Holbrook credits some of the team's success last year to the Falcons' overall healthiness. This year, the team is off to a little bit of a bumpy start in that category.

"We've got a couple different players banged up, so we're without them right now," Holbrook said.

Berkhof said he thinks because of the strength of the conference, his team can compete with the best of the best in the country.

"We play in a league where if you can compete for a conference championship, realistically you can challenge for a national championship," Berkhof said.

Only one team from the WIAC — the UW-Oshkosh Titans — made the d3hoops.com preseason Top 25, but four other schools from the conference, including River Falls, received at least one vote for consideration. This is a testament to how strong the conference is as a whole.

The women's team is ranked 12th in the d3hoops.com preseason poll, the highest ranking of any school from the WIAC. The Falcons start just ahead of UW-Oshkosh, which is ranked 14th in the country. Two other women's teams from the conference

received votes.

Holbrook said that she doesn't typically read a lot into preseason polls.

"I don't pay attention to that stuff. I don't even know if our players have talked about it," she said. What Holbrook does pay attention to is the schedule and in particular who her team plays in the nonconference portion. "Our nonconference schedule is ridiculous."

She also said that her players understand they need to be challenged and the NCAA committee looks at that when determining who gets into the tournament.

The men's team takes the same approach.

"Our first game is against the defending national champions," Berkhof said. The Falcons will play in St. Paul on Nov. 15 against a University of St. Thomas team that comes into the year ranked 10th in the country.

The men's coaching staff will stay fully intact from last year while the women's team retains its head coach but lost three assistants. Paul Richie is the new assistant coach for the women's team and, according to the UWRF athletics website, last worked for the Minnesota Suns and was previously an assistant at Southwest High School in Minneapolis.

In preseason polls conducted by the WIAC head coaches and sports information directors, the men's team was picked to finish fifth and the women's team second despite having a higher national ranking than the team picked to finish ahead of it — UW-Oshkosh.

Both teams will begin regular season play on the road on Nov. 15 and will each play their first home game on Nov. 29 against Viterbo University.



## UW-River Falls named a military friendly school

November 11, 2016 --The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has earned the 2017 Military Friendly® School designation by Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs®, STEM Jobs SM, and Military Spouse. First published in 2009, Military Friendly® Schools is the most comprehensive, powerful resource for veterans today. Each year, the list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university, or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. More than 1,600 schools participated in the 2017 survey while 1,160 were awarded with the designation. Ratings methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Victory Media with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community.

Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"2016 has been a pretty great year for the veteran population here at River Falls. We started it by moving into our new office and lounge area in North Hall, and got to cap it off with an inclusion in the Military Friendly Schools list," said Tadd Heichel, UWRF Military and Veteran Services coordinator. "This is just a physical reminder of what I see every day, whether it's faculty, staff or the students, UWRF is improved by the impact that military and veteran students and their families have had on campus."

"Our ability to apply a clear, consistent standard to the majority of colleges gives veterans a comprehensive view of which schools are striving to provide the best opportunities and conditions for our nation's student veterans," said Daniel Nichols, a

Navy Reserve veteran and chief product officer at Victory Media. "Military Friendly® helps military families make the best use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other federal benefits while allowing us to further our goal of assisting them in finding success in their chosen career fields."

For more information about UW-River Falls's commitment to attracting and supporting military students, visit [www.uwrf.edu](http://www.uwrf.edu)

UW-River Falls will be showcased along with other 2017 Military Friendly® Schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly® Schools, special education issues of G.I. Jobs® and Military SpouseMagazine, and on [militaryfriendly.com](http://militaryfriendly.com)



Photo: The UW-River Falls Animal Welfare Judging Team included (L-R): Kaleiah Schiller, Sarah Heck, Sara Odegard, Ashley Bue and Faith Baier.

## UW-River Falls animal welfare team scores high at competition

November 15, 2016 -- The team from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls was the high scoring team in the live assessment portion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment (AWJAC) Competition hosted by Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 12-13.

The five member team from UW-River Falls consisted of: Faith Baier, animal science-meat animal emphasis major from River Falls; Ashley Bue, biology major from Lanesboro, Minn.; Sarah Heck, agricultural business major from Durand; Sara Odegard, animal science meat animal emphasis major from Mondovi; and Kaleiah Schiller, animal science-companion animal emphasis major from Danbury. The team was coached by Kurt Vogel, associate professor of animal science and Kraft/Oscar Mayer Faculty Scholar of Livestock Welfare and Behavior.

Thirteen schools from the U.S. and Canada competed in the undergraduate division contest that consists of several virtual scenarios and one live or on-site assessment. The three species classes that were evaluated in the virtual scenarios this year were: laboratory guinea pigs, meat sheep, and purebred breeding dogs. Two hypothetical scenarios are presented for each class and include performance, health, physiological and behavioral data, husbandry and housing information, video clips and still photos. Each team evaluates the scenarios, determines which facility has a higher level of welfare and prepares, presents and defends their position to a panel of judges.

The live on-site assessment exercise is typically conducted at an operating animal facility. The student teams analyze the information presented and observed, and present their findings to a panel of judges, including any recommendations for welfare-related changes at the facility. For 2016, the species class for live, on-site assessment was laying hens.

In addition to the competition, there is an educational component featuring invited speakers with expertise in animal welfare. Together the program and competition further the goal of AWJAC, to train future professionals to gather and evaluate information for addressing societal concerns in an unbiased way.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu).



## Annual Art Scholarship Sale at UW-River Falls begins Nov. 28

November 16, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department's Annual Scholarship Sale is Nov. 28-Dec. 14 in Gallery 101 of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The sale is open to the public.

An extensive variety of studio arts including glass, ceramics, painting, fibers, printmaking, photography and mixed media are available for purchase. Pieces include work by current art students and faculty, alumni, and retired faculty. An investment in quality artwork for yourself or as a gift provides valuable contributions towards the continued education of art students at UW-River Falls.

Participating artists retain 65% of the proceeds while the balance remains in the Art Department for use towards scholarships, visiting artists and the student Art Society Fund.

Gallery hours for the sale are Monday-Friday from noon-8 p.m. and Sunday from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, call the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266.

# River Falls becomes magnet for thrift shops as consumers hunt for bargains

By: Molly Kinney

Falcon News Service

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

Since the recession of 2008, thrift shopping has made a comeback across the nation, and River Falls is no exception.

Treasures from the Heart, Fox Den Used Books, Second Star Clothing, Second Chances, ReStore and many other shops in Riverwalk Square are just a few of the many thrift, second hand and consignment shops located in River Falls.

Chris Blasius is the CEO of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce, which helps with promotional work for businesses in the city. She said the high number of these stores that already were doing business in town may have made River Falls more attractive to people looking to open one of their own.

"You know, since there were already a couple that have been established here for a while, it may look like an attractive place for others looking to open that type of store," Blasius said.

As far as city and county sales tax revenue, she doesn't think River Falls is comparable to places like Hudson, simply because there's not as much space available for retail stores to open.

"Our sales tax revenue is likely lower than St. Croix County likely just because we're a smaller city. There are more opportunities to open bigger retail stores in places like Hudson," Blasius said. "However, while we'd of course like all our storefronts to be occupied, we've been very lucky to have them almost all filled for some time now."

Blasius pointed out that many of these thrift stores are part of a non-profit business model, too. Second Chances, Treasures from the Heart and ReStore are a few of these.

Kelly Zillmer, manager of Second Chances, is the only full-time employee at the store. It's otherwise run on a completely volunteer basis. The store is associated with Turningpoint, a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. She said that because the shelter was located in River Falls, it seemed natural to open the store in town.

"We opened Second Chances about 11 years ago now," Zillmer said. "What we're focused on is both raising funds for the nonprofit, and helping clients get ahead after they leave."

And despite being in such close proximity to other stores on Main Street, Zillmer said there is little competition for consumers.

"There's really not much (competition)," Zillmer said. "If we don't have something that a client leaving needs, we'll send them down the block to Treasures from the Heart, or another shop that might have what they need. We all work together very well."

Zillmer added that the store is always looking for new volunteers, especially during the busy holiday season.

Thrift shopping also isn't just for stereotypical penny-pinching grandmothers anymore, either. College students are found browsing in all the shops along Main Street, looking for deals on vintage and unique items.

Nicole Mortenson, a junior studying art at UW-River Falls, said she likes to frequent thrift shops because of the many items to choose from.

"I really enjoy going to thrift stores because of the lower prices and abundance of different items and brands the stores have," she said. "I always hope to find an item that is a quality brand I know of, because if it's still in good condition after being used, it's probably going to last me a long time."

She added, "Really, some of my favorite things have been from thrift stores. It could be that I only paid about \$3 for it, or maybe it was the almost treasure-hunt endeavor to find the item, but in the end I find a lot of satisfaction from shopping at thrift stores, for my wallet's sake and the excitement of finding some rad second-hand gear."

# Awards for top alumni part of outreach to UW-River Falls graduates

**By: Matthew Clark**

**Falcon News Service**

*Falcon News Service is part of the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. News stories are prepared by student journalists.*

UW-River Falls is accepting nominations for awards given to alumni during the spring, including one for relatively recent graduates.

Members of the UWRF External Relations Committee and the Alumni Advisory Board are encouraging people to submit nominations for three different awards honoring outstanding alumni. Selected nominees will be eligible to receive the Outstanding Alumnus award, the Outstanding Young Alumni award or the Lifetime Achievement award.

UWRF Director of Alumni Relations Dan McGinty said it is important for the university to recognize students after they have graduated.

"We are an institution of higher education and we're putting students out there in field," said McGinty. "For us as an institution to come back and recognize an individual who's done some exemplary work, it certainly seems to be very rewarding and beneficial from our perspective as well."

After the nominations are submitted, a selection committee reviews candidates for each award. Developed in 2014, The Outstanding Young Alumni award is considered only for those who have made great accomplishments in their field since graduating during the past 15 years.

The Lifetime Achievement award and the Outstanding Alumnus award are considered for older alumni. The Outstanding Alumnus award is the most prestigious award and requires a selection committee made up of members from the UWRF Faculty Senate as well as the Alumni Advisory Board. Once deliberations on the candidates are finished, Chancellor Dean Van Galen approves the Outstanding Alumnus award recipient. However, McGinty said the awards share similar qualifications.

"Someone with high integrity is a very high value that we take a look at," he said. "Obviously, recognition from their peers is also a very important credential, too."

According to statistics provided by McGinty, UWRF has graduated a total of 46,132 living alumni as of July 2016. Reaching out to them through awards is only a small portion of what the university does to maintain a relationship after graduation. The university connects with alumni through outreach programs including fundraising, facilitating mentorships with current students and scholarships.

Assistant Chancellor of University Advancement and President of the UW-River Falls Foundation Chris Mueller said having a connection with alumni is essential to the university.

"The quality of the university is directly correlated to the level at which alumni are willing to support it," said Mueller. "That support can be volunteer work, it can be financial support, it can be advocacy work on behalf of the institution or it can be any of the three in combination."

The university even has an engagement model designed to help the university determine if an alumnus is actively involved in the university. Alumni receive points based on the different areas they fulfill such as alumni-sponsored event attendance, university volunteer work and participation in affinity programs through Westconsin Credit Union and Liberty Mutual. One point is earned for every example of involvement and if a alumnus gains three points, they are considered active in the program. During the 2014-2015 school year, 27 percent of living alumni were active participants.

The Lifetime Achievement Award as well as the Outstanding Young Alumni Award will both presented at a banquet held the night before the spring commencement ceremony. The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be given out on the day of the ceremony.

Anyone wanting to nominate an alumnus must submit the nomination by Wednesday, Nov. 23. The nomination form can be found at [uwrf.edu/Alumni/AlumniAwards/](http://uwrf.edu/Alumni/AlumniAwards/).



## Global Gratitude

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 | by Dean Van Galen

Over the years, many people have told me that Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. Perhaps it is the harvest-inspired food, the time spent with family and friends, or the absence of any expectation for exchanging of gifts. I think it is also the way Thanksgiving invites us to step back from our daily routines and reflect with gratitude on the many good things in our lives.

On Sunday evening in the Ann Lydecker Living and Learning Center, Mary and I hosted what has become an annual event at UW-River Falls: the International Student Thanksgiving Dinner. This year, 70 international students from over a dozen different countries gathered, joined by a few friends from campus and the broader community, to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and learn about this American holiday. Collectively, those students travelled about 400,000 miles to live and study at UW-River Falls. At the event, many stories were exchanged regarding how other cultures celebrate harvest-time or designate special holidays for appreciation and gratitude.

Our international students seemed to appreciate hearing about the popular origins of the holiday, as well as how President Abraham Lincoln first declared a U.S. national "day of thanksgiving and praise" in 1863 at the height of the Civil War. They were particularly amused by the story of how in 1989, President George H.W. Bush began the tradition of granting a presidential pardon to one turkey who then lives out the rest of its days at a beautiful historic estate in Virginia.

With events like this I am reminded not only of our university's commitment to global education and engagement, but also of the value of providing opportunities for all diverse people and communities to respectfully come together. Opportunities like this are important, enhancing understanding and helping us learn to tolerate and even appreciate differences. This Thanksgiving, such ideals seem more important than ever.

Part of the university's mission is to provide our students the opportunity to learn about those with different backgrounds and

perspectives from their own. Interacting with people who are different from us is a great reminder of the value of all types of intercultural experiences, be they exposure to other political systems, religions, ethnicities, traditions, or nationalities. It is in this way that we learn the most about the many human traits and values that we all share. One such universal human trait and value is to feel and express gratitude. In that spirit, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving, with ample time to reflect on all for which we can be truly grateful this year.



## UW-River Falls' Vogel named Future Icon

November 21, 2016 -- Kurt Vogel, associate professor of animal science at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls was named one of the 25 Future Icons in the November 2016 issue of The National Provisioner magazine. As part of their 125th Anniversary celebration, the editorial board of the magazine took on the challenge of identifying 25 individuals they expect to change the industry over the next decade or two.

"Being named a future icon was a great honor and quite a surprise," said Vogel. "There are several people that I would have nominated for this honor if I had the chance because they have been models for how I try to do things. I've always been a believer in letting the results of my work speak for the quality of my effort. With that in mind, there is a lot to do to fulfill the expectations that go along with being identified as someone that will have a substantial influence on the future of animal welfare in the meat industry. I'll continue to give it my best."

"We are very pleased to have an animal science faculty member who is nationally recognized as a leader in his discipline," said Gary Onan, chair of the Animal and Food Science Department. "This award will certainly help Dr. Vogel achieve his professed goal of making the University of Wisconsin-River Falls animal welfare program the "best in the nation." We wish Kurt all the best as he pursues that goal, and continues his strong commitment to our students."

In 2014 Vogel was named the Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer Faculty Scholar when the Oscar Mayer brand established a partnership with UW-River Falls. This collaborative effort is facilitating development of additional animal welfare courses in the animal science program and supporting research in the area of food animal welfare. The focus is on training the next generation of animal welfare leaders, including farmers, scientists, processors and veterinarians.

Vogel received his BS and MS degrees in animal science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his PhD in

animal science from Colorado State University, under Temple Grandin. Vogel joined the UW-River Falls Animal and Food Science Department in 2011, where he has taught animal welfare, quantitative animal welfare assessment, meat and meat products, and animal physiology. He is very involved in undergraduate student research, and he and his student collaborators have received five Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity grants from UW-River Falls since 2013. Vogel serves as coach for the Animal Welfare Judging team that was the high scoring team in the Live Assessment component at the annual intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment competition earlier this month. He is also the faculty advisor for Alpha Zeta – Wisconsin Gamma chapter, a professional honor society for students and industry professionals in the agriculture and natural resources fields.

For more information, email [laura.walsh@uwrf.edu](mailto:laura.walsh@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425- 3535.

## UW-River Falls Masquers present 'Willa Wonkie and the College Tour (Chocolate Not Included)'

November 28, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls University Theatre Masquers will present "Willa Wonkie and the College Tour (Chocolate Not Included)" Dec. 6-10 in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

The play, written by E.S. Follen, is a scrumdiddlyumptious parody of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The bright Charlie Pail wants nothing more than to go to college. But first she has to survive an extraordinarily bizarre campus tour, full of student-snatching eagles, intelligence-enhancing food, and secretive mole-people.

The production is directed by Mady Davis. The cast, consisting entirely of UWRF students, includes Nick Churchill of Minnetonka, Minn., as the Narrator, Lauren Morris of River Falls as Charlie Pail, Emma Johnson of Shoreview, Minn., as Willa Wonkie, Grant Morrison of River Falls as Grandpa Joe, Kat Rokenbrodt of Chippewa Falls as Snailsworth/Mrs. Pail, Mya Ennis of New Richmond as Veruca Pepper, Mikaela Sharon of Ham Lake, Minn., as Violet Turpisgarde, Evan Budge of Woodbury, Minn., as Mike Nintendo, Matt Griffin of Savage, Minn., as Augustus Brown, Tiffany Schiwichtenberg of Victoria, Minn., as Mrs. Brown, Kelsey Tyznik of Medford as Mrs. Nintendo, Karsten Halverson of Menomonie as Dr. Pepper, Eric Cox of Maplewood, Minn., as Mr. Turpisgarde, Ha Yang of St. Paul as Uni Loonie 1, and Nathan Thomas of White Bear Township, Minn., as Uni Loonie 2.

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, \$5/under 18, and free with ID for UW-River Falls students. The Box Office in Kleinpell Fine Arts will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning Nov. 28. On performance days, the Box Office opens at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in person, by phone at 715-425-3114, or online at [uwrf.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre](http://uwrf.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre).

For more information, call the Box Office.



## Observatory talk/viewing session Dec. 7 at UW-River Falls

November 28, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Physics Department is presenting a free, public observatory viewing and astronomy discussion on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

At 8 p.m., "Location, Location, Location: Milky Way Stars Have Moved" is presented by faculty member Eileen Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear. Uranus should be visible. A faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions. Objects to be seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons, and double stars.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit [www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm). The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather. Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

For more information about the observatory, email [glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu](mailto:glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu) or for more information about pre-observatory talks, email [eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu](mailto:eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu) or call the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

## Former UW-River Falls Montessori program director honored with innovation award

December 22, 2016—University of Wisconsin-River Falls Professor Emerita and former Montessori Program Director Gay Ward was honored with the Dennis Schapiro Award for Innovation in Montessori Teacher Education earlier this month. The award, presented by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) is given annually to a member of the Montessori Teacher Education community that has brought about significant change. Ward was recognized for her multitude of contributions to Montessori education throughout Wisconsin, the United States, and internationally.

In 2012, Ward spearheaded efforts to create a Montessori Teacher Education Program at UW-River Falls. As the visionary behind the program, she designed the first blended learning format program approved by the American Montessori Society (AMS). Her tireless efforts secured \$43,000 worth of Strategic Initiative Funding from UW-River Falls. The funds were the cornerstone of a vision that expanded from an original plan for an EC and E-1 (ages 2.5 -9 years) program to also include E2 and Sec 1-2 (ages 9-18).

As part of the formation of the UWRF program, over the course of a year, Ward wrote and oversaw the creation of over 40 Montessori graduate courses. In addition to blueprinting the coursework, Ward envisioned an innovative infant toddler course that embraced both Montessori and traditional programs. She was instrumental in identifying Montessori infant toddler educators who assisted in revamping and teaching the course.

Prior to the founding of the Montessori program at UWRF, Ward incorporated hands-on learning during her time as an instructor in the UW-River Falls elementary teacher education program. She played an instrumental role in introducing pre-service teachers to Montessori education by incorporating visits to Montessori schools into her curriculum. Additionally, she assisted in the planning and launching of a Montessori charter school in River Falls (River Falls Public Montessori Elementary) and served on the board of Heartland Montessori, an AMI Montessori private school in River Falls.

Ward's commitment to Montessori education, both through her time teaching and founding the UWRF Montessori Teacher Education Program reinforces the distinctive academic excellence found throughout UWRF's programs. Thanks to her tireless efforts, UWRF's Graduate Montessori Teacher Education Program now offers Montessori Credentials for three separate age levels. The program is MACTE accredited and AMS affiliated for all levels (EC, E1, and E1-2) through 2020. The UWRF program is one of only two MACTE accredited programs in Wisconsin.

In addition to her work in River Falls, Ward co-chairs the AMS Research committee and played an instrumental role in the launch of the Montessori Research Journal. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Montessori Association and assisted in the organization of Wisconsin's first Montessori administrator's conference in September. Ward also co-authored a book, "Reading Development: A Handbook of Assessment and Instruction," that is widely used in MACTE Montessori EC and elementary reading and language arts courses.

The Dennis Schapiro Award for Innovation in Montessori Teacher Education is presented in honor of Dennis Schapiro, an innovator in the Montessori world. Recipients of the award showcase numerous accomplishments and characteristics, including the development of an innovative approach to Montessori Teacher Education and the address of specific need in

Montessori Teacher Education.

For more information, email [graduateadmissions@uwrf.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@uwrf.edu) or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/Academics/GraduatePrograms/Montessori.cfm>.



## Make Falcon Foods part of your holiday tradition, while supporting the educational mission of UW-River Falls

The holiday season is here. Let Falcon Foods give you a hand with your holiday preparation. Students are hard at work making Falcon Foods cheese, ice cream, and summer sausage in the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Dairy Pilot Plant and Meat Pilot Plant. Cheese and ice cream are produced using milk from the UW-River Falls Mann Valley Farm and summer sausage is produced from livestock raised on the Mann Valley Farm, as well as from local farms.

The goal of the UWRF dairy and meat pilot plants is to provide students with valuable, hands-on learning experiences that will be directly applicable to their future careers. Under direct supervision of licensed faculty, students gain practical experience in production, sanitation, and quality assurance.

For this holiday season, give the gift of a Falcon Foods holiday cheese box. Boxes include combinations of pre-selected blocks of cheese with some also containing Falcon Foods summer sausage or a custom multi-wood cheese board. You may also create your own custom cheese box. New this year, 8 oz. containers of honey from the UWRF Bee Club can be substituted in place of a cheese block or summer sausage in any holiday box. To make a substitution, simply add a note in your shopping cart stating which item you would like substituted with honey.

Falcon Foods holiday gift boxes can be picked up at the Falcon Foods Store in the Food Science Addition on campus or we can ship orders placed prior to Dec. 16. Credit card payment is now accepted both online and in-store. Visit <http://marketplace.uwrf.edu/collections/falcon-foods-holiday-gift-boxes> to order your Falcon Foods holiday cheese box. The boxes make wonderful gifts for you and your family and friends this holiday season all while supporting programs at UW-River Falls.

**Falcon Foods Store**

149 Food Science Addition

715-425-3702

falconfoods@uwrf.edu

**Hours**

Thursdays 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Fridays 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

# Meditation, biofeedback among ways to help anxious students at UW-River Falls

**By: Tori Schneider**

**Falcon News Service**

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With final exams quickly approaching, Student Health and Counseling Services at UW-River Falls has a few options to help students who are anxious or need a moment to decompress.

Mark Huttemier, a personal counselor, has started a weekly program in the meditation room located in Hagestad Hall.

"Meditation has a lot of impact to kind of deprogram some of the distraction stuff I think that happens to us in our culture, how fast our culture is," Huttemier said.

Huttemier said he believes that meditation allows students to step back and experience themselves as they are doing something in a way that they might not have been able to do before.

The room is open every day of the week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for anyone wanting to use it, but Huttemier leads a guided meditation every Wednesday from 3:30-4 p.m. The class averages about 10-12 students attending each week.

The meditation room was opened three years ago, but this is the first year that a guided meditation class is offered.

Student Health and Counseling Services also offers a biofeedback program. Biofeedback is a computer program that helps a person monitor emotions by looking at their breathing and heart rate.

Kaleah Bautch, a personal counselor, has taken a special interest in the program.

The program works by monitoring a person's heart rate through a device, attached to the ear, that reads the heart rhythm while the participant uses games or programs on the computer.

"You're kind of trying to switch your body from those negative emotions to the positive. It's a way to soothe your body but have an alert, focused mind," Bautch said.

The program allows a person to see the impact of their emotions on the body's breathing and heart rate in order to help increase awareness of those emotions and to help learn to better manage them.

"It's kind of, in a way, a self-soothing technique," Bautch said.

Bautch recommends the program to anyone with focus issues, anxiety, trying to learn coping skills, and for athletes.

Bautch has also started doing animal-assisted therapy this semester. This is different from the pet therapy program that takes place the first Friday of every month.

Bautch's dog, Mocha, is a certified therapy dog. She brings the dog in two days a week for anyone who wants to partake in one-on-one therapy with Bautch and the dog.

"She's really good for people with high anxiety or (that) kind of aren't sure about the whole therapy process. It's been really successful so far," Bautch said.

If a student wants to get active to beat the stress, counselors may also recommend yoga.

"Yoga is a way to experience your body and your body relaxing to relax your brain. That's a great lesson," Huttemier said.

Student Health and Counseling Services also offers a lightbox for those suffered from seasonal affective disorder, as well as a massage chair for those just looking to unwind. These can be found in the relaxation room in the Student Health and Counseling Services office, 211 Hagestad Hall. The relaxation room is available for any student and can be reserved for up to an hour.

Guided meditation, biofeedback, use of the relaxation room, and yoga do not require a student to be enrolled in counseling.

# Renovation of UW-River Falls hockey arena gets positive fan reaction

**By: Zach Dwyer**

**Falcon News Service**

*Permission to republish this story is granted provided credit is given to the author and to Falcon News Service.*

Recent renovation of Hunt Arena on the UW-River Falls campus have improved many amenities and created an entirely new fan experience for those in attendance at Falcons hockey games.

Updates to the arena will have an impact on how fans experience Falcons hockey. Interim Athletic Director Crystal Lanning described some of the most noteworthy additions fans can look forward to.

"One of the biggest concerns with Hunt Arena previously was the sightlines and the number of seats. The way the seating was arranged spectators would walk in front of the seats and between the seating and the boards," Lanning said.

This concern was rectified by moving the seating up and allowing better sightlines for spectators sitting above the glass. Fans also now have the option of sitting right up against the glass around the whole arena to get close to the action. Lanning also promised that chair back seating is in the works to be completed this season on the far end of the arena.

Construction of the new Falcon Center has led to improvements across the board. Updates to Hunt Arena and the addition of Page Arena for basketball have led to a very busy construction zone surrounding the new arena.

Construction started on Hunt Arena in March as soon as the men's and women's hockey teams hosted their final home games of the year. The push to be ready to open for this season was completed when the men's hockey team hosted its first game on Oct. 28.

A few fans who were interviewed had positive things to say about the new arena. John Parsons, a 51-year-old resident of River Falls, was one who voiced his approval of the new seating.

"You definitely have a lot better sightline on the end where you get a little bit higher and you can look down over the goal. I'm looking forward to when they finally get all the cosmetics finished up in here," Parsons said.

While the seating is one added bonus, it doesn't begin to sum up the other improvements that have been made. The added upper walkway to navigate the arena was another big plus in Lanning's mind.

"Spectators having the ability to walk around on the mezzanine level is just an added feature that you don't often see in Division III hockey," Lanning said.

Even with all of the new additions, changes still need to be made to complete the arena. Two other Falcon hockey fans noted the lack of a permanent concession stand and the journey through the new Falcon Center hallways to the arena doors as the main improvements that need to be seen.

"There's always growing pains when you move to a new facility when it's still an active construction zone," Lanning said. "But on the main concourse level will be a shared concession stand for the entire facility, whether it be Page Arena, Hunt Arena or Knowles. It will be very nice when we have multiple events going on"

The facility is still in the growing phase, but Page Arena is on its way to being finished. This will correct the problem currently forcing fans to take different entrances into the facility.

But even with all the additions and work in progress, fans like Parsons are excited for what the future holds.

"With the new basketball arena behind us going up and to have the doubleheaders of hockey and basketball playing Saturday nights, it should be quite the hopping area around here," Parsons said.

Lanning's final thoughts on the renovation also point to high hopes for the future of the venue.

"Hopefully next year, when we're fully renovated and fully functional, we will have one of the best arenas in Division III hockey," Lanning said.

Parsons and the two other fans agreed about one aspect of the improved fan experience: The quality of the hockey will be the key factor in keeping people coming back. With the men's team coming off a conference championship and the women's team ranked No. 2 in the country, fans will have plenty to cheer about in the new arena this season.



Last spring, UWRF student Angela Ludvigsen, a senior majoring in physics and mathematics, shared her project "Whispering Gallery Modes Used to Determine the Changing Size of Levitated Aerosol Droplets in a Fluctuating Optical Trap."

## Undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities showcased

December 1, 2016 – The public is invited to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls 2016 Fall Gala, an annual showcase event to celebrate the research, scholarly and creative activities of more than 150 undergraduates, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. Stop in anytime as your schedule allows during the free, child-friendly event.

Interested in seeing a dissecting microscope used for the study of live cancer cells? How about viewing an innovative new saddle mount or taste the honey from hives studied by student researchers interested in rearing honey bee queens and creating sentinel apiaries? Undergraduates from all disciplines have been involved in innovative research in subjects ranging from piglet health to GIS mapping to cutting-edge cancer research.

Students present their work at the URSCA Fall Gala through interactive displays, research posters, slide shows, short films, and art exhibits, in a lively and content-rich environment. Student-made cheeses and sausage from Falcon Foods will be available for sampling along with other refreshments.

Throughout the year, UW-River Falls fosters the development of student research skills through trainings and workshops; grant funding to conduct and present research; and local, state, and national dissemination opportunities. Regularly scheduled trainings include workshops on research ethics, grant and proposal writing, research budgets, presentation skills, and research poster design.

UWRF undergraduates are encouraged to present their work at other state and national venues such as Research in the Rotunda in Madison, UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (at the University of Memphis in 2017), and at a wide range of discipline-specific conferences.

"UW-River Falls has long been recognized for the exceptional strength of its undergraduate research programming and opportunities, and we remain state and national leaders in this area," said Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, URSCA director.

The URSCA Fall Gala is a clear demonstration of the university's commitment to fostering hands-on learning and creative inquiry as early as a student's freshman year of college, Schneider-Rebozo said.

For more information, call the URSCA Office at 715-425-3902 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/URSCA/FallGala.cfm>.

Recognized as one of the Midwest's Best Universities by U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minn. UW-River Falls students are empowered, beginning in their first year, to participate in undergraduate research, study abroad, and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty. UW-River Falls partners with leading businesses and non-profit organizations to conduct research, offer student internships, and serve as an economic engine for western Wisconsin.

## UW-River Falls alumnus receives national award for opioid treatment work

December 21, 2016--UW-River Falls alumnus Richard Moldenhauer has been named the 2016 recipient of the National Nyswander/Dole "Marie" Award presented by the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) for his extraordinary service in the opioid treatment community. Moldenhauer was presented the award at the National AATOD Conference in Baltimore, Md., in November.

Moldenhauer has spent 33 years working in the addictions field and has served as the Minnesota State Opioid Treatment Authority for the last 15 years. He received both his BS and MSE from UW-River Falls and serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Counseling Program at UW-River Falls.

In addition to presenting at state conferences, Moldenhauer was a participant in the Minnesota Public Broadcasting Service presentation series, "Heroin at Home: Rise of Opiate Use" and "Heroin at Home: Response to Opiate Use." In 2011, he was instrumental in the declaration of a public health emergency on three Indian reservations and the resolution to gain greater tribal acceptance to provide medication-assisted treatment.

In their award announcement, the AATOD praised Moldenhauer's work, saying he is "recognized for his encyclopedic knowledge of regulations, deep commitment to serving patients in need of treatment, and not being afraid to take political risks. He has successfully advocated for patients in Opioid Treatment Programs against burdensome regulation, increased the access for naloxone, and continues to assure accessibility for treatment."

"To be recognized by your peers, friends, and colleagues is an incredible thing," said Moldenhauer.

The Nyswander/Dole "Marie" Award is presented annually by the AATOD. The association describes recipients as "individuals who have shown extraordinary service in the opioid treatment community. These successful award recipients have devoted themselves to improving the lives of patients in our treatment system."

The AATOD has been responsible for awarding this honor since 1984 and all recipients are nominated and selected by their peers.

For more information about the UW-River Falls Counseling Program, call 715-425-3890.



Students from the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at UW-River Falls participate in a warehouse tour at Uline in Hudson as part of the inaugural Career Treks series at the university.

## UW-River Falls Career Treks connect students to industry professionals

December 22, 2016 (updated February 16, 2017)--A popular event connecting students to industry professionals is returning to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for spring semester 2017. The second semester of the Career Treks series, co-sponsored by UWRF Career Services and the College of Business and Economics (CBE), will feature student visits to five area businesses. The new treks are a follow-up to the program's initial lineup in the fall of 2016.

Over the course of three months during fall semester 2016, College of Business and Economics (CBE) students at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls visited four companies as part of the inaugural Career Treks series sponsored by UWRF Career Services and CBE. The free event series provided unique opportunities for students to connect with industry professionals, broaden their awareness of career paths, and develop and expand their professional networks.

Students had the opportunity to participate in three treks throughout the fall. September's event was held at Uline in Hudson while students traveled to Bremer Bank in Lake Elmo, Minn., in October. November's trek split time between two companies: Kwik Trip in La Crosse and Fastenal in Winona, Minn. Each event featured facility tours and company presentations. The day trip to Bremer Bank also featured a networking session with UW-River Falls alumni employed by Bremer.

According to McKenna Pfeiffer, assistant director of Career Services at UW-River Falls, these trips gave students the opportunity to directly interact with the companies in a distinct manner.

"They learned what made a successful candidate at each company," explained Pfeiffer. "By physically visiting these

companies, our students were able to visualize if they could see themselves working there."

Visiting employers at their home facilities provided students with a different perspective that they might not have experienced otherwise.

"At Bremer Bank, we had several off the cuff conversations with employees," Pfeiffer said. "The enthusiasm they conveyed to our students was incredible. They each spoke with such passion about their career and employer and we really got a sense that it was a special place to work. The conversations were so significant because they were candid -- these were employees that we just ran into during our tour -- and those exchanges would not have been as meaningful anywhere else."

"I was most interested in seeing if the specific locations we visited would not only have jobs that I would enjoy doing, but also have jobs where I could use my education," said Michael Steinkraus, a UWRF senior business administration-management major from Woodbury, Minn., who attended all three Career Treks. "I could then try to visualize myself at that specific company, which is much easier to do if you see it in person on the Career Trek as opposed to imagining it. I also enjoyed seeing the employees of each job site, as their faces would say quite a bit about the level of happiness they held at their job."

As part of their interaction with each employer, UW-River Falls students broadened their knowledge of not just the particulars of the companies, but of potential career paths.

"Students learned what positions the company sought out, many of which weren't necessarily positions the students had thought of before. Their eyes were opened to new job areas and many students walked away armed with new information about their fields," explained Pfeiffer. All participating students are studying within CBE, while all of the participating employers have opportunities for each major within CBE.

The treks attracted more than 75 students, with over 50 attending the Kwik Trip/Fastenal event, and many attending multiple treks. Participants ranged from first year to graduate students and included faculty members. Professor Claire McCarty, a member of the graduate faculty in CBE who teaches management/human resources and organizational behavior courses, attended multiple Career Treks and found the events informative and relevant to her teaching. McCarty said she learned so much.

"From Uline, I found examples in plant safety, in organizational culture, in benefits, use of cross-training, and empowered customer service positions that I brought back to the classroom to use as illustrations for concepts discussed," McCarty said.

The opportunity to get off campus and interact with employers was beneficial to all participants, McCarty said.

"I always appreciate experiences like these to learn, to see how organizations differ, change, grow, and get a sense of their culture," she said. "It gives me the opportunity to bring to class local, relevant, and current information."

According to Steinkraus, a key benefit of the Career Treks was the ability to link a student's UW-River Falls education to real-world business settings.

"Career Treks are extremely beneficial and worthwhile events. They allow students to visually see what they have been learning for years, and they also give new students a chance to see the different faces of the business world before committing. Organized events like these are opportunities everyone should be utilizing," explained Steinkraus.

"Employers are always so gracious about coming to campus and this was our opportunity to visit them. Students have a more holistic presentation of the companies. When these employers visit campus in the future, students who participated will already have the backstory of the company. This creates more meaningful future interactions," added Pfeiffer.

Visiting companies in the area highlighted UWRF's commitment to regional economic development. A targeted audience was provided, both for employers who may look to hire graduates in these fields in the future, and CBE students who may seek employment within these companies after graduation. Organizers felt the narrowed audience contributed to the initial success of Career Treks.

"This structure really allowed us to get this project off the ground," Pfeiffer. "These Career Treks give UW-River Falls momentum in strengthening our relationship with employers."

Pfeiffer and Laura Boche, a senior academic adviser in CBE, spearheaded the efforts behind Career Treks. Following the success of the fall events, three new treks have been added for spring semester. February will feature a visit to Knoke's Chocolates and Nuts and JETPUBS, Inc. in Hudson and Rise Baking Company: New French Bakery and Best Maid Cookie Company in River Falls. March's trek will be to American Family Insurance in Eden Prairie, Minn., while April's will consist of a visit to Andersen Windows in Bayport, Minn.

For more information, contact UW-River Falls Career Services at 715-425-3572 or email [career.services@uwrf.edu](mailto:career.services@uwrf.edu). The Career Treks web page can be found at <https://www.uwrf.edu/CareerServices/Students/CareerTreks.cfm>



## UW-River Falls Fall Commencement is Dec. 17

Dec. 8, 2016--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will hold its fall commencement at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Robert P. Knowles Physical Education and Recreation Center on campus. A total of 470 bachelor's and master's degree candidates have applied for graduation.

A commencement concert by the River Falls Brass begins at 12:30 p.m. Geology Professor Ian Williams will be recognized as the Distinguished Teacher and the recipients of the Outstanding Service Award, the highest honor given to an individual or organization outside of UW-River Falls, will also be recognized. This year's recipients are CHS Inc./CHS Foundation and the DeLonais Foundation.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen will confer degrees. Presenting candidates for degrees are: Faye Perkins, interim provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs; Brad Caskey, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dale Gallenberg, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; Michael Fronmueller, dean of the College of Business and Economics; Michael Harris, interim dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies; and Wes Chapin, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies.

For more information, call the Registrar's Office at 715-425-3342 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/Registrar/CurrentStudents/CommencementInformation/Index.cfm>