

FALCON

FEATURES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UW-RIVER FALLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL 2005

Writing a New Chapter

Chancellor
Don Betz

Plus
General
Education's
Renovation

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Distinguished
Alumnus
Steve Swensen, '78

Two-Hemisphere
Coach
Mike Young, '79





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...and Music Fills the Air

Each Tuesday during the summer months, serene Wall Amphitheatre on campus sprouts lawn chairs, colorful blankets, picnic coolers, little red wagons, dancing children, extended family, doting grandmas and grandpas, and hopeless romantics—people of every age and stripe—all converging in glorious celebration of music, nature and community. The free summer concert series, paid for out of summer school student activity fees, features a wide range of musical styles and groups. Here, on June 21, the Max Allen Band out of Indiana entertains the assembled with its selection of rock, blues, jazz and funk tunes.



Dear UW-River Falls Alumni and Friends:

This is a memorable moment for Susanne and me.

As I begin my responsibilities of serving this exceptional university community as chancellor, I am quickly learning about the many outstanding programs and degrees offered at UW-River Falls.

UW-River Falls is uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of our increasingly globalized environment. UW-River Falls gifted faculty and committed staff work daily to enhance the quality of life and the quality of education. We are here to help students learn and we are committed to "model the way" as lifelong learners.

Our focus is student success and community responsibility. Here students have the opportunity to explore their interests and to develop and refine lifelong learning skills and habits. These include critical thinking, writing, speaking, listening, technology, communication skills and leadership. These abilities prepare students to become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders. We strive to offer students the understanding, skills and motivation to shape the society we all share. In this pursuit, UW-River Falls is an able and steadfast partner in preparing students for lives of opportunity, purpose and engagement at home and around the globe.

Above all, UW-River Falls is a community of caring educators and learners striving each day to effectively serve the needs and aspirations of the faculty, staff, community and, importantly, our students. Here, learning, service and involvement are our passions.

Inspired by a clear set of values and by the hundreds of faculty and staff who are the life force of this university, we invite you to join with us in shaping the next generation of citizens and leaders for Wisconsin, our country and the world.

To facilitate us in fulfilling this responsibility we will be conducting a UW-River Falls stakeholders' survey. In the coming weeks we will be asking you to help us identify the core values, mission and vision for the institution in the coming era. There will be just a few questions, and I hope that you will participate. Then the responses will be aggregated and presented at a stakeholders meeting later in the fall. Your comments are important to UW-River Falls continuing success.

Our thanks to all of you who have greeted us with encouragement and genuine warmth. Susanne and I are eager to meet you here in River Falls and in your community.

With sincere best wishes,

Don Betz, Ph. D.
Chancellor

Please Respond

As UW-River Falls celebrates our strengths and plans for the future, your participation is essential. Please complete the **Vision and Values** survey on our Web site at uwr.edu/vision. I look forward to your responses.

Don Betz, Chancellor

Falcon Features strives to:

- educate readers on significant challenges facing the campus, the region, the nation, and the world;
- enlighten readers on the wealth of expertise represented by faculty, staff, students, and alumni;
- encourage readers to take an active role in the mission of UW-RF; and
- entertain readers with stimulating writing, eye-popping photography, and dynamic design.

We welcome your reactions and input. You are encouraged to contact us at the address below.

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Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please contact the Alumni Office at the address below and provide a correct mailing address. If you prefer to call, the number is (715) 425-3505 or 1-877-258-6647. We appreciate your cooperation.

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