Rising to Distinction

Falcon Center

a new era in education, health and wellness
With the help of alumni and friends

The administration and faculty at UW-River Falls have developed plans for an innovative facility that will meet the educational, recreational, and athletic needs of our community. In addition, this new building will serve to attract and retain students, staff and faculty while contributing to wellness and competitiveness in the region.

In the 2012-2013 academic year, there are 460 declared majors and/or minors in Health and Human Performance (HHP) programs at UWRF. It is typically estimated that between 3,500 and 5,000 of all UWRF students use the rec facilities an average of 3-4 times a week for intramural athletics, sport clubs, recreation and fitness programming - not counting student athletic teams. Around 30-40% of UWRF faculty and staff will utilize the new facility for their own health and wellness pursuits or to attend events. Significant usage of the Falcon Center by the greater River Falls and St. Croix Valley community members for fitness or as fans is also foreseen.

By replacing 50-year-old facilities, we will be fulfilling a decades-long dream held by many of us. However, in order to do this, UWRF was asked to raise $2 million in private support in order to ensure the $61.5 million budgeted by the State of Wisconsin: that’s a 30:1 match!

Several supporters have committed to helping fund this project and we are close to the $2 million goal; to them we say THANK YOU! For those of you who haven’t made a gift yet, there is still time to assist us in ensuring that the construction of the new Falcon Center will begin in 2014. Please consider helping us raise the additional resources necessary to fully fund the project and see our new building ready for our students and faculty in January 2017. Please join us in this effort and make your gift today!

Mike Davis and Connie Foster
Co-Chairs, Falcon Center Volunteer Fundraising Committee

A dream come true

On March 21, 2013 the Wisconsin State Building Commission confirmed that UW-River Falls would be receiving $61.5 million in funding toward their $63.5 million Falcon Center project. The UW-River Falls Foundation has had to commit to raising the remaining $2 million. To date, thanks to the generosity of many, over $1.5 million has been raised towards that goal! If you haven’t made your gift yet, please consider helping make the Falcon Center a reality today!

Falcon Center – a landmark on our Path to Distinction

Academic Excellence: The Falcon Center will provide new academic spaces for UW-River Falls’ renowned Physical Education and Health and Human Performance programs. HHP programs will be consolidated from eight separate locations in 30-to 50-year old facilities into one state-of-the-art building.

Long overdue: Current facilities were first deemed substandard in a comprehensive analysis in 1994. With support from the Board of Regents, the university has included the project for a replacement facility in its capital budget requests since 2001.

Benefits for all: By improving UWRF’s athletics and student recreation offerings, we will not only improve student wellness and campus experience but also enhance community and regional engagement at UWRF.

Recruit and Retain: Discerning students and parents expect to see modern and contemporary facilities when visiting prospective colleges. Without them, students often go elsewhere.
Falcon Center Project Schedule

- March 2013: State Building Commission confirms $61.5 million funding
- August 2013: 35% design submittal
- October 2013: Board of Regents/State Building Commission authority to construct
- June 2014: 100% bid documents complete
- July 2014: Project bidding
- September 2014: Begin construction
- October 2016: Substantial completion
- January 2017: Occupancy - Final completion

Falcon Center

Falcon Center replaces the 1959 Karges Athletic Center and will be built as an addition to the existing W.H. Hunt Hockey Arena and Robert P. Knowles Center field house, both of which will be completely renovated. The new facility will be 162,300 square feet, more than doubling the size of the current Hunt/Knowles complex.
Gifts ranging from $10,000 to $1.2 million can name almost any space in the building: from offices to study rooms; from locker rooms to classrooms; from the climbing wall to the Human Performance Lab.

So far, thanks to donors, the Falcon Center will have the following named facilities:
- Paul Dykstra Men's Hockey Locker Room
- HealthPartners/Hudson Hospital Wellness Suite
- St. Croix Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Athletic Training Room
- Greg and Donnette Wheelock Commons
- Dr. Keith Wurtz Classroom

Donations are still being accepted to honor three important figures in UW-River Falls history:
- Don Page Arena – fundraising goal: $1,000,000
  Don Page will long be remembered for the friendships he made as a leader and educator. He had a long and distinguished career as a teacher, coach, and administrator at UWRF. Don served the university in many capacities from 1957 until his retirement in 1992. Family and friends are now seeking to raise $1 million to name the new arena in his honor. $750,000 has already been generously committed to this effort by Don’s former UW teammate and lifelong friend, Ab Nicholas of Milwaukee, WI.
- Bowen Court – fundraising goal: $160,000
  A group of former athletes is raising money in an effort to honor former UW-River Falls Men’s Basketball coach Rick Bowen, who won more games than any coach in UWRF history. The former Wisconsin Badger coach served as head basketball coach at UW-River Falls from 1987 to 2005. He remained the UWRF Director of Athletics until his retirement in 2010. He has since continued to raise money for UWRF Athletics as the director and chairman of the annual Don Page Golf Outing.
- Emogene Nelson Classroom – fundraising goal: $87,500
  Emogene Nelson touched many as a teacher, colleague, coach, friend, mentor and role model. A pioneer in physical education and competitive sports for women, and a 1944 River Falls graduate, Nelson served on faculty and held leadership roles at UW-River Falls from 1959 to 1984. She was named Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished Alumna and the first woman in the Athletic Hall of Fame. She also helped lead colleges and universities into women’s competitive sports when the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference was created in 1978.

There are many naming opportunities still available for individuals, organizations and groups, including:

**Academic spaces**
- Human Performance Lab: $237,500
- Classrooms (2 available): $87,500
- Computer Lab: $31,500
- Departmental Reception Area: $17,500
- Conference Room (3 available): $15,750
- Small Group Study (4 available): $15,750
- HHP Chair Office: $10,500
- Faculty Offices (8 available): $10,500

**Recreation and Athletics spaces**
- Fitness Center: $1,200,000
- Aux. Gym: $1,000,000
- Arena Concourse: $479,500
- Group Exercise spaces (var. sizes): $105,000 - $210,000
- Arena Lobby: $140,000
- Men’s / Women’s Locker Rooms: $19,250 - $87,500
- Climbing Wall: $70,000
- Concessions: $70,000

You can also have your name on an athletic locker for a gift of $500. Recent graduates (2000-2012) can sponsor a locker for just $250!

Please contact the UW-River Falls Foundation if you are interested in naming these or other spaces in Falcon Center.

Donors making any gift of $500 or more will be recognized on the Donor Wall.
Gifts of $3000 or more (just $1000/year for three years) ensure donor recognition on an Individual Donor Wall Plaque.

Making a gift to the Falcon Center is easy!
Visit www.uwrfgiving.com to make a credit card gift now! (Check “Falcon Center” and add any instructions for how to direct your gift, such as “Emogene Nelson Classroom” or “Named Locker”.)

Make a gift commitment to Falcon Center now, and you can take up to three years to fulfill your pledge. Payments can even be divided into automatic recurring monthly credit/debit card payments. Just thirty dollars a month for three years turns into a $1080 gift! Contact us to request a pledge form or set up a recurring payment.

Don’t forget to check with your employer to see if they will match your gift: an easy way to double or even triple your contribution!

The UWRF Foundation can also help you make a gift by transferring stock or including us in your estate plans. Just contact us to find out more!
To make a gift, or for more information on how to support the Falcon Center:

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