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# STUDENT VOICE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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## Sodexo wins next year's dining contract

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Starting next fall, UW-River Falls students will have a new provider for their meal plans and dining on campus.

The current contract with Chartwells, the dining services company that is currently used by UWRF, will run out May 31.

The decision to not award Chartwells the new contract was made April 29; the contract was given to Sodexo the next day.

"It was not really a decision to not re-award to Chartwells as much as it was a decision to establish a new contract," Director of Purchasing Tom Weiss said. "And at the point

of establishing a new contract, there is always the possibility you will end up with a new vendor."

The decision was made by a committee of students and staff. The committee evaluated the bids and gave scores to the potential providers. The scores were sent to UW-Madison and put together with the cost proposals, and the highest total won the contract.

"[The committee] was particularly impressed with some of the food selections, what appeared to be quality of food and their efforts towards sus-

tainability," Weiss said. "They were also impressed by the continuous dining option."

Continuous dining means that the food service lines for students on a meal plan will be available from open until close.

Currently, Riverside Commons has gaps in service between 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 2:30-4:00 p.m.

"The C-Store or downstairs is always open, so you can always get food until midnight," junior Bobby Russ said. "They have enough food, but the main courses could have more variety."

Russ added that he was

unsure whether a new provider would really affect students.

"I don't think it will matter; not many students even know what Chartwells is," he said.

Both providers are used throughout the UW System; Chartwells is contracted by UW-La Crosse, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Superior and UW-Whitewater, while Sodexo is used by UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh.

The current contract has been in effect since the 1994-95 school year, but Chartwells has been active at UWRF for over 20 years.

Sodexo's contract will begin in June and run until May 20, 2009. At that time, UWRF will have the option to extend it for six more years.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

**UWRF's contract with Chartwells will end May 31.**

"There are a lot of unknowns with a new contract, but I am very optimistic," Weiss said. "I think a year from now the students are going to say 'it was a

great year with Sodexo - the food was great, the availability was wonderful, the hours were outstanding,' and I think they will be clamoring for more."

## UWRF service extends advice, career tools

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Students looking to brush up on their interviewing skills and build a stronger resume are flocking to UW-River Falls' Career Services (CS) for assistance.

CS offers a wide array of resources to students, including career counseling advice, a large resource library filled with computers and individualized books for different majors, a digital scanner for creating an electronic portfolio, mock interviews and resume critiques.

Using the resources available to them, students master the art of self-assessment, occupational exploration, decision-making, goal-setting, self-marketing, job search skills and developing meaningful connections in the workplace while offering an instructional link between students, faculty, prospective employers and the global community, according to the CS mission statement.

Students making an appointment to use office resources and obtain career counseling will have to wait a week or two to get in, CS Technology Professional Matt Fitzgerald said.

However, a variety of online resources are also available to students through the UWRF Hire a Falcon System (HFS), which provides information about jobs and internships in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Before using the system, students first have to register—a process that takes about 15 minutes. Students are then able to search for jobs or internships and sign up to receive a daily e-mail list of all jobs that CS receives relating to a student's preference. CS also goes beyond waiting for employers to send them information on openings.

"We go out to different Web sites and gather different jobs," Fitzgerald said. "We don't wait for the jobs to come to us."

HFS allows students to upload their resume, which is then printed and critiqued by

## River Falls cycles for a cause



Tyler Liedman/Student Voice

**Riders prepare for the start of River Falls' first "Critical Mass" bike ride May 3 by donning pro-biking signs. The event was to raise awareness and appreciation for bicycles. More than 30 students and community members participated in the bike ride.**

## UWRF examines issues of transition to wireless

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Student Senate voted in favor of an Information and Instructional Technology Council (IITC) plan to form a task force to determine the best strategy for UW-River Falls' transition from traditional stationary labs to wireless labs that move with the students. However, a lot of issues need to be resolved before a final plan can be implemented.

"Whether we want to do it or not, that's question number one," Hossein Najafi, computer science professor and chair of the IITC, said.

Budget and space limitations, as well as students' access to wireless computer devices, namely laptops, led the IITC to suggest that UWRF stop investing money in

permanent labs and become a "Wireless-Portable-Computing Campus."

The four new labs requested in the 2007-2008 school year would have cost over \$250,000 to set up and an additional \$29,500 to maintain each year, excluding the cost of upgrades typically done every five years, Najafi said.

Additionally, the space to add new computer labs is limited, and existing labs are not always an efficient use of space.

"These labs are sometimes 100 percent used ... but there are some hours where there are two or three people in there," Lisa Wheeler, IITC vice-chair, said.

More than 68 percent of UWRF students in the 2006-2007 school year who responded to a technology use survey said they owned lap-



Niki Paton/Student Voice

**UWRF student Tyler Rheineck studies in Chalmer Davee Library.**

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See Wireless, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

College of Arts and Sciences receives grant

The College of Arts and Sciences received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to be used for the Undergraduate International Studies and a Foreign Language Program. The grant will enrich the existing international education programs by incorporating the study of Asia. The funding will be dispersed over two years: \$89,000 the first year and \$82,000 the second year. The program will create a new area of learning for research and scholarship opportunities for faculty and students and will set in place co-curricular and extra-curricular activities focusing on Asian topics and issues.

Use of D2L extended until June

The East Texas Circuit Court judge that ruled against Desire2Learn in a patent infringement case has agreed to extend the deadline of use for the infringing versions of the software to be used until June 11. UWRF will continue to use D2L through the end of the term without interruption. D2L will then be upgraded to a version that does not infringe on Blackboard patents before the summer term begins.

"Lunch & Learn" to be offered for UWRF staff

The next "Lunch & Learn" will be offered from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. by the Classified Employee Development Committee May 14, in the St. Croix River Room of the University Center. "Gardening—Getting Your Garden Beds Ready" will be presented by Diana Alfuth, Pierce County horticulture extension agent. All UW-River Falls staff are welcome to attend. Those interested can register for this free offering by May 12, with Doreen Cegielski at (715)-425-3704 or doreen.m.cegielski@uwrf.edu.

Falkon Foods has end of semester sale

Falcon Foods’ end of the semester sale will be going until May 16. The store will be closed for the summer so it is time to clear out product. The sale is for dairy products only. These include whatever ice cream is in stock in pints, quarts and half gallon sizes, and retail cuts of cheese (Cobblestone Red will not be available). The sale price is 15 percent off the original. Supplies are limited. It is located in Room 149 of the Food Science Building.

New group promotes Islamic culture, tradition

UW-River Falls faculty and staff can learn more about the Sisters and Brothers of Islam, UWRF's newest student organization, from noon - 1 p.m., May 9 in the Alumni Room of South Hall. The group was created to help provide and promote wider understanding of Islamic culture and tradition within the campus community, officers and members of SBI look forward to sharing information on upcoming events and activities. Tea and traditional dessert pastries will be served. Contact Carolyn Brady at (715)-425-0683

Voice Shorts compiled by

Joe Nourse

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**Friday:** "Wisconsin and World Issues," with Ben Plunkett.

ALL NEWS AND INFORMATION BLOCKS: 5-6 p.m.



Final Senate meeting run by new leaders

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Cindy Bendix was deep in slumber when she was elected president of the Student Senate for the 2008-2009 school year. Bendix was studying abroad in Italy as part of the International Traveling Classroom while trying to run a campaign back home.

“I was incredibly excited. I didn’t have any idea that I won. I had no idea until I opened Facebook, and I was like ‘Wow,’” said Bendix.

Bendix is a TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages) major with a Spanish minor. She was the shared governance director.

“I really felt there was more I can do. And with Derek [Brandt] stepping down, I thought I would give it a try and see if I could move up and do what I could for the campus,” Bendix said.

She credits her election to e-mail,

Facebook and friends back home.

Vice President selectee Casie Kelley found out she was victorious using her new BlackBerry.

“Right away when [former president] Derek [Brandt] sent the e-mail, my phone vibrated and I checked it out. My boyfriend was actually with me and he insisted on checking it before I read it. So he read it and jumped up and down. He’s like ‘You did it! And you got the most votes on the ballot,’” said Kelley.

Kelley is an elementary education major with psychology. Last year she was the representative for the College of Education and wanted to be more involved in the Senate next year.

However, one of the major issues Bendix and Kelley need to address is the disappointing voter turnout of this year’s election. Around 400 people participated in this year’s elections. Out of a population of roughly 6,000, that is only 7%. To compare, the U.S. has a relatively low voter turnout, but it still has a turnout of around

61%, according to the United States Election Project.

Bendix and Kelley plan to combat the low turnout through the power of information. First on the agenda is to inform the student body of what Senate does. The Student Senate makes decisions about the disbursement of segregated fees, the dining service, the increases in tuition and renovations to infrastructure such as Ramer Field and the former Hagestad Student Center.

“I want to adamantly get students’ input,” Kelley said. “I feel like students don’t know we exist, and they don’t know what we are here for, and they need to know that we’re there for them. We’re here to lobby for them to the Chancellor, to the school to get what they want and to best represent them to the best of our ability. I think we just need to work on getting out to the students more and meeting as many as we can face to face, letting them know that we’re here, why we’re here.”

Online survey assesses alcohol consumption

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Student Health Services provides an on-line survey called e-Chug that assesses an individual's alcohol consumption and compares the results to other UW-River Falls students as well as other college students in the nation.

The survey first asks demographic questions. Then it asks many questions about the student's drinking habits, such as how often they drink during the week and what their drinking experience is like. There are also questions regarding tobacco and marijuana use.

"It makes the student think about what that means to them," Keven Syverson, health education coordinator, said. "It gets you to think about [drinking habits]."

The survey is operated and maintained by San Diego State University and is purchased by over 400 colleges and universities in 42 states as well as Canada and Australia to attack underage drinking issues. UWRF's health services program purchased the

survey with grant funding in August 2006.

"I've never heard of the survey, but I do think that it is needed," student Beck Forsland said. "I think a lot of students think it's normal to drink that much. It's just stereotypes."

One student does not seem to think that drinking is a problem or that the survey is that important.

"I drink probably three days [out of the week]. People seem pretty responsible about it," student Kue Lor said. "The only reason I would the do it [the e-Chug survey] is to find out the results."

The survey results are characterized with visual pie charts and by cheeseburgers in a beer glass indicating the amount of calories consumed within a month.

"We encourage students to check it out. Personal counseling is available as well as other services," Syverson said.

If students feel that they have a problem with alcohol, tobacco or drug use, the counselors at Student Health Services are available in their new office in 211 Hagestad Hall.

Finals cause extra stress for seniors

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The end of the semester can mean a lot of work and stress for seniors trying to finish final projects and land a career.

UW-River Falls Counseling and Career Services staff see an increase in senior students March through April every year, Gretchen Link, lead personal counselor at UWRF, said.

Various factors contribute to stress for seniors nearing the transition between school and a career.

"Some people will get to the point of graduation and second-guess their abilities and skills," Link said. "The other kind of stressor is just the current economy and job market." Students see reports of downsizing in their prospective employment sector and worry, "Am I going to be able to find a job?" Link said.

If not dealt with, stress can lead to physical symptoms like nausea, insomnia, migraines or even ulcers and can leave students feeling overwhelmed and indecisive.

"So then they can't tell where to start to get things done," Link said.

Link recommends students visit both a personal counselor and someone in Career Services if they feel overwhelmed by balancing school and the job-hunting process.

A personal counselor can help students overcome self-doubt while Career Services helps them develop the skills needed to get hired, Link said.

Staff at Career Services offer students preparing to enter the job market mock interviews and tutorials on filling out a resumé and cover letter.

They also help students develop a strategy for the sometimes difficult process of networking with others in their prospective field of employment.

"You can have all the technical knowledge in the world, but...a lot of it's about building relationships," Carmen Croonquist, director of Career Services, said.

Sometimes, the only way to learn about a job is through word of mouth within a given field; knowing someone within that field can keep a student informed of all available job opportunities, Croonquist said. Megan Rademacher, double-majoring in marketing communications and speech communications, said that her job search is going "awful" because she's having a hard time forming connections with people already employed in her chosen job field.

"I found that it's more about who you know than what you know in the business world when you go out there to find a career," Rademacher said.

"I think also parents add to the stress of what a student is going through," Career Advisor and Recruitment Coordinator Melissa Wilson said.

Students may dread visits with their families for fear of again being asked "Do you have a job yet?" Wilson said.

The issue of parental pres-



Niki Paton/*Student Voice*  
**Student Hailey Voll studies for a social work course while Alyssa Bruley takes a nap in Chalmer Davee Library.**

sure arises most commonly among first generation students whose parents don't understand that, even with a college degree, the job search can be arduous, often lasting six months to a year. This adds a layer of stress for students already struggling to balance final projects with a search for a career, Wilson said.

Hillary Lindbom, a broad area communications major with a management option, said she hasn't had time to start searching for employment opportunities in her chosen field yet.

"I work fulltime so I've just kind of been putting off looking for a job until after graduation," Lindbom said.

School takes up another share of her time.

"I have two Spanish classes, which is a lot of homework," Lindbom said.

No matter how busy they are, Wilson recommends seniors set small goals for job-hunting and meet them.

The prime months—October

and March—for recruiting employees close to graduating college have already passed.

If students wait any longer to begin applying for jobs, the positions they are seeking may already be filled by their peers, Wilson said.

There are ways students can make the transition between work and school more manageable.

"Focus on the present moment, set goals, take care of yourself ... let go of perfection," Croonquist said. "Perfection is the enemy of progress."

Not all students struggle in their search for a job.

LeAnne Holden is an office aide for a telecommunications company based in Menomonie, Wis., where she worked through high school and college. She was told she could continue working for the company after graduation if she wanted to, Holden said.

Holden will work as directory manager for the company after she graduates.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Public Safety incident reports.

May 1

--Scott L. Hanna, 20, was cited \$298 for second offense underage drinking and \$109 for loud and unnecessary noise.

May 2

--Karwee A. Marshall, 22, was cited \$235 for possession of a facsimile firearm.

May 3

--A bike was stolen from the May Hall courtyard.

Public Safety and Parking Note

Public Safety and Parking will be enforcing all student permit spaces through finals week, ending at 4:30 p.m. May 16. All employee permit spaces and posted spaces are always enforced 12 months a year.

Loading Zones near academic buildings will be strongly enforced. If you need access via one of these loading zones and do not have a permit, you must contact the Parking Office at ext. 3333. All posted spaces, fire lanes and time limitations will also be strongly enforced. Special accommodations will be made in lots O, T, G, P and E for move-out parking from May 14-16.

Designated spaces in these lots will be marked with "20 minute move-out parking" signs. Parking in non-designated spaces within these lots will result in a citation. Additionally, accommodations for textbook drop off will be made in J lot meters (the circle of meters between Ag. Science and Hagestad Hall) from May 4-16. Designated spaces in this lot will be marked with "20 minute textbook drop off" signs. If parking is unavailable, you must wait for a designated space or find legal parking in an alternate location.

# Changes in dining services will require all students on campus to purchase meal plan

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UW-River Falls will be requiring all students living on campus to purchase meal plans beginning in the fall semester 2008.

The change will mean that juniors and seniors living on campus will now be required to purchase meal plans. The student run Dining Services Advisory Committee (DSAC) is the student oversight for dining services procedure. They were involved in the process and held a mock vote but the decision was ultimately up to the University.

The meal plan prices are based on the amount of students purchasing meal plans. Therefore, if more students are purchasing meal plans, prices are cheaper for all students, Jerry Waller, director of dining

services, said.

Food costs are expected to increase by about 20 percent next year. In order to keep meal plan prices the same, juniors and seniors will be required to purchase meal plans, said Waller.

Safety is a primary reason for required meal plans at UWRF.

“None of the residence halls are designed to allow for extensive food production,” Waller said. “The Health and safety of the residents is very important, not only from a food safety standpoint, (storing and preparing food) but also from a general public safety of both nuisance alarms from burnt food to concerns of real fires resulting from food production.”

At the beginning of spring semester the University campus, excluding South Fork (not part of required

meal plans) housed 2007 students. 325 of these students are juniors and seniors.

The University could not provide statistics for next year because registration is currently in process. However, the statistics should be very similar for the beginning of fall semester 2008, said Residence Life West Area Coordinator, Jason Neuhaus.

“I see the required meal plan fair in some ways, and not in others. First, I enjoy lots of freedoms, and I do not like being forced into purchasing a meal plan,” student Forest Kirschbaum said. “On the other hand, the previously listed reasons for the required meal plan, give the change positive aspects, as well as a low-cost meal plan available only to juniors and seniors.

# UWRF to award Swensen doctorate for achievements

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For the first time in over 12 years, an individual will be receiving an honorary degree from UW-River Falls.

David Swensen, an institutional fund investment expert at Yale University, will be presented a honorary doctorate degree in humane letters during the May 17 commencement. He will be honored at both the 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. ceremonies.

Chancellor Don Betz said the number of people who have received honorary doctorates in the past is not clear.

"We have three that we can identify," he said.

Swensen graduated from UWRF in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He was also honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1996.

Swensen's family also has ties to

UWRF. His father, Richard, is one of the former deans of the College of Arts And Sciences. He also has two brothers and one uncle who have been recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Public Affairs Web site said.

"I am humbled by the extraordinary honor conferred on me by the University of Wisconsin at River Falls," Swensen said in a Public Affairs press release. "The education that I received from the University's extraordinary faculty provided a strong foundation for my post-graduate studies and contributed immeasurably to my lifelong love of learning. I owe UWRF a great deal."

"While this is his first honorary degree, it certainly won't be his last one," Betz said. "Others will be in the future because of his record."

Attempts to reach Swensen by phone and e-mail were unsuccessful.

# Wireless: IITC designates task force to address issues with technology

from page 1

tops, but limited power sources and software that can only be used on lab computers make laptop use in the classrooms an infeasible solution right now.

"We felt like today, students who have laptops have the burden of not being able to use their technology to the full extent," Najafi said.

New lab additions have been frozen until the IITC can work out a plan that addresses these primary issues.

If the resolution is approved by the Faculty Senate, the IITC will name a task force to start developing specific solutions that best fit UWRF.

One of the task force's responsibilities will be to develop a "financial plan for establishing and supporting the program," according to the resolution.

Rooms would need to be rewired to allow the use of laptops in more places around campus, in a way that

will accommodate a whole campus of laptop users. Other updates yet to be determined may require additional financial investment.

One critical issue will be figuring out the financial impact on the individual student, Wheeler said.

A laptop may be too expensive for some students to purchase. The University would have to implement some system of ensuring every student has access to the mode of wireless technology being used in the classrooms, though a specific solution will not be decided on until the task force offers its recommendations.

The task force will also face the challenge of working out a system for licensing necessary software pro-

grams and loading them onto each wireless device so every student can access them, Wheeler said.

Biology professor and IITC member Brad Mogen said finding a way to keep students who may be distracted by e-mails or Facebook on task is another issue that will have to be resolved.

"That's one of the concerns that we actually have is students showing up and not actually being engaged," Mogen said.

Some students who do not currently own wireless technology may worry that they will be forced to buy a laptop and then find that the teachers are not incorporating them into the curriculum anyway, Mogen said.

For this reason, the task force will organize faculty development programs to help professors better incorporate wireless technology into their

lessons.

"Faculty teaching faculty is what's going to happen," Mogen said.

Wheeler said that one other reservation students voiced was the potential for theft that could arise in a wireless campus.

"If there's a laptop in every cubbyhole [outside of Riverside Commons], that's going to be a security issue," Wheeler said.

Item five on the list of task force duties concerns developing a plan for dealing with such security issues.

"None of these [challenges] are insurmountable," Wheeler said.

Despite the potential drawbacks, laptops and other wireless technology allow students immediate access to information during class sessions and make group work in places outside of labs possible.

"I guess the way I see it ... the lab

will be anywhere you want to go, anywhere you feel comfortable in," Michael Bell, a student member of the IITC, said.

Computer science and information systems major Michael Hovestol, also a student member of the IITC, said he originally opposed the idea of UWRF going wireless because he worried that upgrades would cost UWRF, and in turn students, a lot of money, and that teachers would not have the incentive to incorporate wireless technology into their classrooms.

Then, Hovestol said that the IITC's final resolution addressed these issues, and he got on board with the plan, he said.

"I think that it has some huge benefits on campus, and obviously wireless is the future," Hovestol said.



Hossein Najafi

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**#16 CLUB LULU™**  
Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

OK, SO MY SUBS REALLY AREN'T GOURMET AND WE'RE NOT FRENCH EITHER. MY SUBS JUST TASTE A LITTLE BETTER, THAT'S ALL! I WANTED TO CALL IT JIMMY JOHN'S TASTY SANDWICHES, BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO STICK WITH GOURMET. SHE THINKS WHATEVER I DO IS GOURMET, BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS. SO LET'S STICK WITH TASTY!

*Jimmy John*

# CS: Campus service suggests effective tips to acquire jobs

from page 1

considered to aid students.

"I think they do a great job providing fundamental skills for job searching," Student Senate President and soon-to-be graduate Derek Brandt said. "The one area that should be expanded is the search for internship opportunities."

Brandt also said he thinks CS should do a better job offering advice to younger students who need to obtain internships and prepare for future employment.

"[CS] needs to do a better job of getting students over there," Brandt said. "They need to hammer it out right away and get students comfortable right away."

Resources provided by CS are available to all UWRF students, past and present. UWRF is the only school in the UW System that provides career services to alumni.

CS recently moved from Hathorn Hall to their new home on the second floor of Hagestad Hall. Students and alumni interested in meeting with a career counselor, peer adviser or other CS employees can do so by making an appointment online or by calling (715) 425-3572.

CS.

"We usually recommend two to three different people to view [a] resume," Fitzgerald said.

Suggestions for improvement are then e-mailed back.

One suggestion for building a strong resume is doing your homework on a specific employer.

"People should tailor their resume to the job and the company," Fitzgerald said. "It's more effective than sending out 1,000 general resumes to 1,000 different jobs."

The online system also offers opportunities to sign up for on-campus interviews with local employers, and resume referrals that allow for CS to send them out to inquiring employers.

Perhaps the most effective online resource offered by CS is the mentor network, which allows students to speak with someone in their desired field of interest and learn more about that field. The mentor network is seen by some as a resourceful way for students to build strong relationships with employers.

"The single most effective way to uncover jobs and land a job is through networking," Fitzgerald said. "The more people know you, the more your name will stand out in a large pile of resumes."

Despite the multiple services offered by CS, some students think there are a few needed improvements that should be

**"I think they do a great job providing fundamental skills for job searching. The one area that should be expanded is the search for internship opportunities."**

Derek Brandt, Student Senate president

Check out the Student Voice online:  
www.uwrfvoice.com

EDITORIAL

# Custodial staff deserves respect

It never seems to fail. College students make messes. We here at the *Student Voice* are no different than you, our readers.

We have messy desks, spill on the floor and can’t help but let our trash overflow, especially since we received 11 cases of Vault from the Coca-Cola promoters.

And who is there to help out and clean up after us? Simple, it’s the wonderful custodial staff in the residence halls and the academic buildings.

We feel that the custodians at UW-River Falls do not get as much credit as they deserve. We can’t thank them enough for all that they do to help us out. We appreciate what they do more than they might ever know.

Early in the morning, they are there to fix what we may have messed up the night before. They are there to clean our bathroom so we have a nice, clean shower, which is not filled with hair. They wash toothpaste off the mirror so we can see our pretty faces. They make sure we have toilet paper so we can ... blow our noses.

They replace our light bulb so we can see and study in good light. They fix windows when we fall out of our lofts or have snowballs thrown at them.

Their hard work makes our living and learning environments much better places to be. They are the ones who make our environment a healthy and sanitary one.

Who wants to walk down a hallway that is covered in trash or try to make it into a residence hall’s bathroom jumping over a pool of vomit? Nobody does.

But besides cleaning up after us, they are always there to provide us with a cheery hello or a smile when we walk by. For an individual to do this after cleaning up what we refuse to is pretty amazing.

It doesn’t matter what kind of mess we make, they are there to help us out.

Appreciate it while you can, because once you get into the real world you will have to take time out of your busy day, spend money on cleaning supplies and clean all your messes up yourself.

So before the end of the year, if you see a custodial staff, stop and thank them for the wonderful work that they do.

Editorials represent the opinion of the *Student Voice* Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Thursdays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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

All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Single copies of the *Student Voice* are free. Printing is paid for through student fees.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Motorcycle safety not just for bikers

As the weather improves the number of motorcycles on the road will increase. May is National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and the ideal time to refresh road skills in order to avoid serious accidents.

Take extra care at intersections, keeping in mind motorcycles are easily missed or

hidden behind various objects. Follow at a safe distance and be prepared for the motorcycle to stop or change lane positions quickly as small obstacles create large conflicts.

Whether you take transportation with two wheels or four wheels, stay alert on the roads this summer and save lives.

Mandie Lombardo, Student

### Services should relocate to campus

It is likely that the demolition of the Ingram Center will cause some disruption to the important services offered by Pierce County Reproductive Health Services.

However, there is also an opportunity here:

Why not relocate PCRHS on-campus? Surely some space could be made available

to them. It is no exaggeration to say that students’ lives could be saved because of convenient access to free condoms, etc.

My fellow students: if you care, speak out and make your opinion known.

The Chancellor’s office may be easily contacted just a few clicks away from the [uwrf.edu](http://uwrf.edu) home page.

Brent Hopkins, Student

# Photographer reflects with words, not pictures

I look back on the time and laugh a bit about how I made it as a journalism major, mainly because I don’t have the strongest writing ability.

Growing up, I was diagnosed with dyslexia, by all means which made things interesting. My friends find it humorous that I made it this far without writing for the paper, and managing to make it by with the papers I wrote for classes.

I remember as it if it was just the other day, when I first came to UW-River Falls in the spring semester of 2005. I transferred to UWRF because I needed a change of scenery and to start over, but I have to admit, when I first came, I wanted to leave right away.

Knowing hardly anyone, I just sat in my dorm room, lonely and bored. But I sucked it up and ended up staying here. I would have never thought I would end up in the position I am in today.

I would have never thought I would of made many friends, take pictures of the DTS fraternity calendar and be involved with the *Student Voice* for four semesters as chief photographer.

It started off with meeting with the head of the journalism department, Colleen Callahan, at the old Rodli Commons.

I asked her if there was a photography major on campus. Unfortunately, there wasn’t, But that didn’t stop me.

I went on and started to pursue becoming a photojournalist. The only way I could get experience was to be part of the *Student Voice*. Eventually my time came, and I got really lucky in the fall of 2006, when the head photo editor quit in the middle of the semester. I got the opportunity to take pictures and eventually move on to hold the photo editor position the following semester.

Along the way I met lots of people—ones who were quite the characters as well. I met one of the most memorable individuals during this past homecoming football game, when a naked student sprinted across the field.

Running into him at the bars that night, I told him that I got a picture of him. His first words to me were “you took a picture of my wang!” That’s just one of many examples of how I ended up meeting people on campus.

The part that surprised me since I came to UWRF was that since I started to work for the *Student Voice*, I found

myself becoming responsible. It kind of pains me to say this, but I started to become a workaholic. It’s pretty bad when you decide to postpone or cancel a date just so you can take pictures at a sporting event. It’s a little sad, but funny, when I look back on it.

So as I come close to the end of my college days, I am sincerely going to miss staying up all night, whether or not it includes alcohol.

I’m going to miss the times I woke up and harassed whomever I ran into that day on campus—thanks to those who put up with me when I did that, you know who you are.

I’ll always remember the brutal drunken walks back from the bars, and all the pranks I pulled throughout the past few years, and the RAs and hall managers who didn’t fine me for it.

I went from basically kicking and screaming when I first got here, to not wanting it all to end.

Kenny is a journalism major and art minor with an emphasis in photography. He has aspirations to pursue a career in photojournalism.



Kenny Yoo

## The United States falls short on humanitarian aid

The United States is the world’s lone superpower. Whether you like it or not, the U.S. is the strongest

power in the world; it has more resources, more money and more sway than any other nation.

The U.S. uses this power to shape global policy. It uses its power to affect diplomatic relations with countries and shape trade agreements. The most visible use of power the U.S. has displayed is its military strength, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For all intents and purposes, the United States runs the world, for better or worse. Why, then, doesn’t the U.S. use its considerable power and influence for good?

The argument for the invasion of both Afghanistan and Iraq has been the perceived threat to American security.

Iraq was an especially dangerous threat to the United States through its attempts to create weapons of mass destruction.

In the process of assisting the people living in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States has destroyed their infrastructures and tens of thousands of citizens have died or been severely injured.

The U.S. still has one of the strongest economies in the world, even despite the recent economic crisis.

The United States does send more aid than any other nation, proportionally it does

not add up.

The U.S. gives far less than the one percent goal of aid set by the United Nations. In 2004, of the budget over \$11 trillion, the United States only earmarked a little over \$19 billion for aid. This means only .17 percent of the U.S.’ budget was spent giving aid to those in need.

It wouldn’t be enough even if it was going to people who are suffering, but it isn’t even going to them. The money the United States uses on aid does not go to giving people in need a check for the money or even directly for food. It goes to governments—often times in the form of equipment or military aid. The money isn’t always going to the countries that truly need it either.

Then there are emergencies. In 2004, a tsunami hit much of southeastern Asia. Tens of thousands of people were

killed, and the U.S. was among the first countries to give money to help with the relief effort. Last week, a cyclone hit Myanmar. It is reported that at least ten thousand people have been killed. Because the amount of aid the U.S. gives to other countries is already small, it will take away from money that could go to other needs.

While it is important to give money in emergency situations, it is difficult to place more importance on one need than another.

In terms of numbers, the United States gives more aid than any other country in the world. However the United States lags far behind many other countries in the world in the percentage used on aid. The United States should step up to the plate and give more.

Joe is a political science and international studies major, graduating this May.



Joe Eggers

# Happy cows come from smart management choices

You’ve seen those “Happy Cows Come From California” commercials advertising California cheese, right? Those Cali. cows have it made—they’re free to roam endless acres of meadows with soft, luscious grass, and the sun shining all the time. They love everything in California, including the earthquake “foot massages.”

There’s the grandcow who doesn’t like to talk to her grandcalves about her past because she was once stuck outside during the middle of a Midwestern blizzard. Check it out on YouTube.

Ugh, it must be rough for Wisconsin cows; they have to be absolutely miserable.

Even though I grew up around Wisconsin cows, I really wanted to know what makes cows happy. So I dug in:

Happy cows appreciate soft, clean places to lay. Cows like routine—they’re creatures of habit and they don’t like to be rushed.

The ideal temperature for cows is around 50 degrees and they like things well ventilated.

Cows drink about 55 gallons of water a day. If they don’t get enough water, they won’t eat.

They like to be able to chew their cud for at least eight hours of the day so they can digest forages better, eat more feed and ultimately make more milk.

Cows like to be dewormed (much like your dog) to get rid of any intestinal, lung and stomach worms, ticks and parasites.

Allowing cows access to pasture makes cows extremely happy. It’s easier on their feet and joints when they can walk on grass or dirt. When a cow has healthier joints, her longevity increases.

The cows depicted in the California Cheese commercials are seen roaming around in a setting that is perfect for them. However, a couple of cows on these enormous acres just isn’t realistic.

It isn’t efficient or feasible for all dairy farmers to keep their cattle on pasture, and we all know that the temperature isn’t always around 50 degrees—especially in California.

Dairy farmers have to figure out different ways to keep their cows happy in an efficient manner. Cows that have feet and leg problems aren’t going to want to stand and eat to get the nutrients and energy to produce milk. And in

the world of dairy farming, no milk equals no money.

Simply put, happy cows equals money. Dairy cow barns are designed for cow comfort. Did you know that some farmers install mattresses for cows to lie on?

Everything from ventilation to lying space to ally width is thought out carefully. But with the cost of everything rising, especially feed and gas, it’s becoming inefficient to build barns that house less than 400 cows. Actually, farmers have to go big to cover fixed costs.

So those “factory farms” that PETA is constantly jumping on can’t really be that bad. For them to be profitable, they have to have big numbers of happy cows. Some big farmers hire people just to manage the comfort of their cows—if they treat the cows properly (like not rushing them), they get a bonus.

As I mention PETA, there’s probably some people thinking about the poor conditions animals are housed in and how they’re jacked up on antibiotics and growth hormones.

Dairy farmers are not allowed to sell milk laced with antibiotics. Before milk is loaded into a truck to be taken to any creamery it’s tested for antibiotics. If there are any detected, the milk is dumped and the farmer doesn’t get paid. Once milk is delivered to a creamery, the

truck load of milk is again tested. If there’s any trace of antibiotics then, the samples are checked and the guilty farmer has to pay the creamery for the entire contaminated truck of milk. (Last month’s base milk price was \$17.40 per hundred pounds.)

Growth hormones, however, are not yet illegal. This is mostly because cows naturally produce a growth hormone nicknamed rBST. rBST is a synthetic growth hormone administered to increase milk production about 10 lbs. a day.

Since cows have to produce more when given rBST, they’re on their feet more and eating more. According to Monsanto, the maker of this synthetic growth hormone that goes by the trade name of Posilac, one-third of the nation’s dairy cattle belong to herds treated with the hormone.

According to USDA’s February 2008 Milk Production Report, California had 1,960 licensed dairy herds averaging 925 cows per herd in 2007. Wisconsin blows Calif. away with 14,170 licensed dairy herds, but Wis. only average 88 cows per herd.

In 2007, the average milk a California cow produced was 22,440 pounds. The average Wisconsin cow produced 19,310. Why the difference? Are cows happier in California? Is it better management? Or is it something else?

## Need for philanthropy org recognized

I never liked clubs. Going to first meetings of any club was always awkward, and there were hardly any enthusiastic attendees. The first meeting was always the last meeting I would attend. A club or organization should consist of people who encourage and influence each other positively within an area of interest.

Communication is vital for an effective, successful organization, and in this age we have the means to accomplish that communication. A strong will is also important if you want anything to get done. Add these qualities to a group of people with big hearts, who want to change the world, at least a little bit at a time, and you have something like the Peace Corps or Greek fraternities and sororities.

But if you are an undergraduate who does not want the baggage that Greeks carry, and who still wants to do work for the community, or rather, international aid, then perhaps UW-River Falls is in need of a philanthropy club.

Alyssa Olsen and I are organizing a donation drive for clothing and school supplies, as well as other items, for orphans in a slum of Nairobi, Kenya.

With guidance and enthusiasm from multicultural director Linda Alvarez, we were inspired to bring the project a step further and extended it to the River Falls community.

You could help prevent the blisters on a child’s feet with donated shoes; you could prevent diseases by giving clothing or donating money to build latrines that would eliminate the waste that covers Kiambiu, the slum in which these children live.

After learning more about the conditions and the lack of necessities that these children and their community have, and the things that they have lost, it has enticed the two of us into giving a helping hand. As Linda put it, “think of it as giving a hand up rather than a hand out.”

Alyssa and I are both geography students, and with that comes a love for the world and all its contents.

Beyond your Wii and color assorted wardrobe are nations with people that struggle for food everyday.

Yes, we are all affected by the world’s food crisis, but at least we are able to pay for that head of lettuce.

A philanthropy club would help to further our plans with Project Kiambiu. This would entail a group of people with a desire to change bad to good in a place outside of our country. There would be several projects throughout the year to work on, because there are many places in the world that need help from those that have the ability to give it.

The projects would be a great way for students to feel good about themselves as they utilize their status as middle-class Americans for the best.

The philanthropy club would encourage contribution, but the level of commitment is obviously optional. Any help is beneficial to someone, whether it be to the orphans in Kiambiu, starving Haitians, the homeless in Myanmar or the organizers of the project to help further the plans to help people less fortunate than us.

Teresa is a journalism major and a geography minor in her senior year. She enjoys kangaroo burgers and creating pretty maps.



Teresa Aviles

## Natural escape necessary

While reading Jon Krakauer’s “Into the Wild,” I realized how much we’ve become detached from nature as a society. Being in such a technological age, we find it easier to log on to the Internet in our free time than to go outside and enjoy the natural splendor of the great outdoors.

Chris McCandless may seem like a crazy, irrational character at first, but as I read farther into the book, I began to connect with McCandless’ alter ego, Alex Supertramp.

Not many people you know would leave everything to go on an Alaskan adventure, especially someone with a well-to-do background. McCandless was a wealthy, intelligent young man with his whole future ahead of him, who gave up a future at Harvard Law to escape into the wilderness.

Sometimes I think that something made him snap, but maybe he was just tired of always doing what was expected of him, and wanted to break out of organized society.

In some ways, life would seem much more complicated living in the wild and having to fend for yourself, but in many ways it would be much

simpler. Away from the constraints and limits of society, one can live by one’s own rules. But without the rules of society, can we truly function?

To McCandless, getting away from his destiny and place in society was his paradise. I always wondered what he was planning to do after he returned from Alaska, or how long he was planning to stay there. Could he have ever found his way back?

Even though his trip to Alaska seems like such a drastic adventure, I think we can all relate to his desire to escape, whether it be to the backyard



Natalie Conrad

or across the country. Thoughts of escape consume students especially around this time of year, with papers, projects and finals piling up.

With the weather getting nicer, it creates more anxiety and an increased urge of escapism.

Don’t escape yet; but after finals, go and have your own “wild” adventure—just don’t get lost!

Natalie is a journalism major who enjoys running, reading, lacrosse, shopping and writing.

## STUDENT Voices

### “Do you think violent video games increase violence?”

**Marlon Fields, freshman**

“If a person has the violence and hatred in them, the video game might bring it out. But if a normal person plays it, I don’t think it’s going to make them a violent person.”



**Chris Becker, sophomore**

“For the most part, playing violent games won’t make a person violent. If they let the violence in the game become a lifestyle it could pose a problem.”



**Jason McConnell, sophomore**

“No, although violent video games may help to manifest innate violent characteristics in some individuals.”



**Francis Freeman, junior**

“It depends if they’re at-risk youths. I’d rather not see at-risk kids being exposed to that.”



**Charlie Guerin, freshman**

“I think that the issue is parents need to stop buying their kids GTA IV and Halo III and need to start kicking them out of the house and get them to do something.”

## Violent games decrease real-life violence

My friends and I have come to the conclusion that Grand Theft Auto IV, the amazing new felony simulator from Rockstar Games, really brings out the worst in people.

This was finally proven to me after we had a little party with some of our favorite pacifists. What transpired was nothing less than shocking.

GTA IV is an organized crime-themed action game that takes place in an incredibly detailed digital version of New York City (renamed “Liberty City” in the game).

The game allows you to live out your wildest gangster fantasies in the soft, pale underbelly of Liberty City.

Mother Teresa, one of our GTA party guests, really

took things too far when it was her turn to explore the digital New York.

First, little old Mother Teresa hijacked a Buick, cracking the driver in the neck before kicking his ass to the curb.

She revved up the engine in her new car and drove wildly through Liberty City’s version of Times Square, crunching pedestri-

ans and bouncing off parked cars like they were guard rails.

Mother Teresa finally leapt out of the Buick, sending it flying into a group of passersby, busted out a 12-gauge combat shotgun and laid waste to a platoon of cops trying to end her wild rampage.

When Mama T’s turn was over, I saw a wild-eyed look of sadistic glee in her wrinkly little eyes. Good thing it’s just a game!

Nelson Mandela was next, and boy did he inflict some damage! After casually rolling a frag grenade under a semi-truck stuck in traffic, Mandela whipped out his knife and approached the explosive scene with murderous intent.

He ripped an older gentleman out of his rusted-out jalopy and forced a knife-fight, which he won, of course. Mandela played around with traffic, parking a Hummer in the middle of an intersection. As cars began piling up in the ensuing chaos,

Mandela cleaned the place up with several well-placed rockets from his military-grade bazooka. The only

sound Mandela made while playing? Laughter. Evil, maniacal laughter.

Martin Luther King Jr. wanted to try out the game as well.

Though confident he could maintain a manner of lawful obedience and order, Luther fell quickly to the lucrative seductions of crime.

He began by pushing a Hispanic gangster into traffic. After being clipped in the hip by a passing sports car, the gangster got angry in a hurry. He whipped out a pistol and began firing at King Jr., who reacted viciously and mercilessly.

With the help of a newly-purchased Uzi, King Jr. quickly disposed of the gangster, only to find the victim’s gangster friends standing ominously behind him.

Amid angry cries of “Eat a dick, motherfucker!” and “What the fuckin’ fuck, man?” (real lines of in-game dialogue),

King Jr. kept his cool and switched to an assault rifle, which proved to be a most convenient (if not the ultimate) solution. Who says violence can’t solve problems?

I let Bono, lead singer of the crappy band U2, play as well. However, the generous schmuck gave up soon after finding out that the only thing you can actually GIVE to people in Liberty City is a gut (or face) full of lead.

Yes, our pacifist guests certainly became giddy with

the power of a 12-gauge shotgun and a rocket launcher. But that doesn’t mean that they’ll one day take their rude shenanigans to the

real streets.

Politicians and parents love to insist that GTA will one day destroy the ethical integrity of our children. But this simply isn’t happening—if anything, the more one plays Grand Theft Auto, the less one becomes interested in real-life crime.

How boring must a car-jacking be in real life when compared to the marvelous, pulse-pounding, ultraviolent chaos of crime in Liberty City? Once you experience the glory of video game crime, the real thing just seems to lose all its shiny charm.

Joe is a marketing communications major and creative writing minor. He is interested in movies, religion, politics, culture and people.



Joe Hager



Becky Ponick, Krista Hasselquist, Vicki Cooper and Kim Altenhofen are Falcon throwers. The women’s team received numerous awards at the WIAC Championship meet May 2-3.

# Women’s track, field excels at conference

Alayne Hockman  
alayne.hockman@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s track and field team is doing well in the 2008 outdoor season, with several of the team members already qualifying for the NCAA Div. III Championships. Nationals will take place at UW-Oshkosh May 22-24. The women’s track and field team competed in the WIAC Outdoor Championship at UW-Eau Claire May 2-3. Senior thrower Vicki Cooper was named Field Athlete of the Meet, adding 22 points to the team’s overall score of 118 points. Cooper won the shot put with a toss of 44-11 3/4, her best distance of the season. Her score provisionally qualifies for the national meet, and Cooper said she thinks the mark will be high enough for her to compete there.

Cooper stresses the vitality of each and every member on the team. “We have a really good chance at doing well at nationals,” Cooper said. “The more I can do as a thrower, the more I can help the team.” Cooper also placed in the other three events she competes in at the meet: the discus, javelin and hammer throws. She placed third in the discus with a distance of 145-5, which also earned her a provisional qualification for nationals. Cooper threw a 103-2 1/2 in the javelin, placing fifth and 148-6 in the hammer throw. Falcon Becca Jordahl was named Track Athlete of the Meet, adding 20 points to the team’s total with two first-place finishes. According to the Falcon Athletics Web site, she won the 10,000-meter run with a time of 36:53:43. She also won the 5,000-meter run in 17:01.58. Both times provisionally qualify her for the NCAA meet.

Senior Krista Hasselquist won the discus competition with a throw of 154-6. She also placed third in the shot put with a throw of 41 11-1/2. The women’s track and field team has been set back in its outdoor season by poor weather, which has caused the cancellation of several meets. “Our women’s team has made some huge improvements in specific areas and as a team as a whole,” Cooper said. Several last-minute meets will give the team a chance to make its final scores for the season before nationals. The Falcons will compete at the University of Minnesota Friday. The team will also compete at the La Crosse Last Chance Meet May 15, and will host the UWRF Multi-Qualifier May 15-16.

# World-class competition on display at 2008 Olympics

At 8:08:08 p.m. on the eighth day of August 2008, the 39<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympic Games will kick off in Beijing, China. Amidst recent controversy regarding Chinese-Tibetan relations and the air quality in Beijing, the world’s top athletes will be looking to rewrite the history books and strike gold. The perennially strong American contingent looks well poised to build on their success of the Athens games, where they led the medal count with 102, including 36 gold.

## Tennis: Will the Williams sisters regain their title?

In 2000, Venus and Serena Williams were the best doubles team in the world, and their Olympic gold medal only solidified that status. However, a knee injury forced Serena to withdraw from the 2004 games in Athens. At the Australian Open earlier this year, both verbally committed to the 2008 Games, and they seem a near lock for regaining the gold. In women’s singles action, Russian superstar Maria Sharapova, currently ranked No. 3 in the world, has won three titles so far this year, including a Grand Slam at the Australian Open. On the men’s side, world No. 1 Roger Federer of Switzerland will be making his third Olympic appearance, and the gold medal is his to lose.

## Swimming: Can Phelps finally get 7 gold medals?

An outstanding Olympic experience in Athens—in which he won a record eight medals (six gold, two bronze)—left American Michael Phelps at the top of the swimming world. Though he fell just shy of Mark Spitz’s record of seven gold medals in one Olympics (Spitz did it in 1972), Phelps has another chance to match it in Beijing. At the 2007 world championships, he won seven gold medals and broke five world records, many of which he already held. The 6’4” Phelps will race in eight events in Beijing, and, barring anything unusual, should take home a medal in each of them. The swimming events at the 2008 Games look to be some of the most interesting, as U.S. stars Brendan Hansen, Katie Hoff, Kaitlin Sandeno and Aaron Peirsol take on the world’s best: Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands, France’s Laure Manaudou, and Grant Hackett and Leisel Jones from Australia.



Eric Pringle

## Gymnastics: Just how good are the US women?

They’re good. Very good. And as the reigning world champions, they have the goods to take them to the top of the medal stand. Though they are arguably the deepest and most talented team in the world, the U.S. women aren’t the only ones in contention for the gold. Enter the Chinese women’s team: the 2006 world champions and runners-up last year. However, perhaps more powerful than world medals is the fact that the Chinese will be competing on home soil in Beijing. It will be interesting to see if they crumble under the weight of expectations, or are inspired by the home crowd (a la the Magnificent 7 in Atlanta in 1996). The American women have something to prove as well. In 2004, when gold was expected, silver felt like a disappointment to many. They’ll hope to redeem themselves this time around. In addition to winning a team gold medal, the American women will contend in the all-around competition as well as on all four event finals. Sixteen-year-old Shawn Johnson of West Des Moines, Iowa, is the reigning world all-around champion, as well as the gold medalist on the floor exercise. In Beijing, she definitely has the potential to win individual

medals in the all-around, balance beam and floor exercise. Her teammate, 18-year-old Nastia Liukin, is stellar on the uneven bars and balance beam (she’s the 2007 world champ on this event), but needs to remain completely healthy if she is to have any shot at an all-around medal. Liukin recently tied the great Shannon Miller’s record of most world medals for a U.S. gymnast (9 total). Other U.S. contenders are Alicia Sacramone, the best vaulter on the American team and three-time world medalist in that event, as well as the reigning world silver medalist on the floor exercise. Florida’s Shayla Worley could find herself on the team as well, due in large part to how much she can contribute on the uneven bars. Rounding out the rest of the six-member team could come down to a few different athletes: Sam Peszek, Ivana Hong, Jana Bieger and 2005 world all-around champion Chellsie Memmel are strong contenders. In the men’s event, 2004 Olympic all-around champion Paul Hamm of Wisconsin is back leading the U.S. team. The American men won the silver medal in Athens, but a medal of any color would be considered a success for this young team, which will most likely include the University of Minnesota’s Guillermo Alvarez.

Eric is a sophomore journalism major and international studies minor. He is the Etcetera editor for the Student Voice and coaches skating at the Hunt Arena.

# Falcon chases after last opportunity for nationals

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Senior track athlete Jason Phillippi may have accomplished a lot in four years of running, but his goal of running in a national championship still remains, and this weekend will be his last chance to qualify for it. “I’ve kind of accomplished pretty much everything, I just want to make it to a national meet, that’s my big goal,” Phillippi said. “And it’d be nice to steal an All-American award there.” Phillippi holds four UW-River Falls track records for the indoor 1,000-meter race, mile and distance medley, and has one outdoor record in the steeplechase. Phillippi won the steeplechase at the Phil Esten Challenge April 14 in La Crosse, in preparation for the WIAC meet. “The one at Phil Esten was just a tune up before conference, didn’t really have much competition at all,” Phillippi said. “I just kind of ran to get used to steepling, not for a time or anything like that.” Phillippi followed up his win at the Phil Esten Challenge with his personal best finish in the WIAC meet in his four years at UWRF. “At conference I was seated like sixth or seventh with that time from the previous meet,” Phillippi said. “I wanted to try to win or get top three, that was my goal. I felt pretty good when I got done.”

Phillippi will now travel down to Naperville, Ill. to run in the Last Chance race at North Central College. “The last two years he has been one of the first ones left out,” track distance coach Keven Syverson said. “This year’s honor role doesn’t appear as tough, if he can run a good race he has a good opportunity to get there.” Phillippi has been a provisional qualifier for nationals twice for the steeplechase, and once for the indoor mile. Phillippi is also one of the top runners for the Falcon cross country team, and will run in the fall after sitting out last season. “We had a couple other top guys sitting out as well, I figured I might as well wait with them,” Phillippi said. “Then come back this fall and be that much stronger, it just made sense.” Phillippi has one year left before he graduates with a degree in Health and Human Performance. He said after graduation he plans to go where his resumé takes him and said he will continue to run, but he doesn’t know about competitively. But right now Phillippi is focused on this weekend’s race in Illinois. “I just want to go down there and run a fast time. If I can run about as fast as last year at the end of the season, that should be enough to hopefully get me into nationals,” Phillippi said. “I just want to get into a fast race with some more competition and just roll with them.”

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# Prologue honors students' creativity

Katrina Styx  
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Campus media—when students hear this term, many of them may think of such news organizations as WRFW and the Student Voice. But there is one campus medium that has a more creative bent: *Prologue*.

*Prologue*, UW-River Falls' literary magazine, is published once yearly every spring. It showcases creative works submitted by UWRF students, including poetry, short stories, essays, non-fiction, two- and three-dimensional art and even a graphic story.

Students submit their work to the eight-person staff for review. *Prologue* staff members rate each work on a scale of one to five, five being the best. The average of scores is taken and used to determine which pieces get published.

"We don't have a magic number of pieces we put in; that all depends on the lengths of the pieces," senior

*Prologue* editor Alli Malkmus said. Though there is no technical standard the works have to meet, the staff is looking for quality.

"Originality is the biggest thing," Malkmus said.

There are other requirements as well.

"It has to grab your attention almost immediately," co-editor Brad Brookins said.

Brookins also said that works must be grammatically correct, address issues and not be cliché.

Because of the stress put on grammar and literary merit, staff members are chosen out of the English department or other major fields that require strong English language skills, Brookins said.

Student exhibitors, however, can be from any department on campus.

"[*Prologue*] gives all students an opportunity to creatively express themselves," Malkmus said.

Jenny Brantley, *Prologue's* academ-

ic adviser, said that the magazine also acts as a historical record.

"It serves the University by providing a history and future record of the accomplishments of our students," Brantley said in an e-mail interview. "It has become a community constant-changing with the times yet still providing a link to the past."

The publication is an opportunity for creative writers on campus to get their work into the public sector without having the difficulties associated with higher-end publications.

"It's a way for somebody who's serious about writing and is good at writing to get published," Brookins said. "Your work has a much higher chance of getting published with us."

Brookins will take over the senior editor position next year.

"Typically there are two editors for *Prologue*," Malkmus said. "The senior passes on the ropes to the junior to keep the *Prologue* traditions going."

While most of the traditions will

remain the same, Brookins said that he plans to start accepting submissions much earlier next year, beginning as early as December and possibly earlier, as opposed to waiting until spring semester.

"We'd like to get a head start on it," he said.

Malkmus has also made suggestions, including using color on the cover and developing a multi-member art staff. Traditionally there has only been one art editor to select and edit non-text submissions.

Brantley also said she hopes to see some new developments, including color art, longer issues, and contributors from every department.

"I know that every department on campus has a writer," she said, "and they need to go public in *Prologue*."

This year's publication has met with high readership.

"In half a week we have handed out more *Prologues* than we did for a week last year," Malkmus said.



## Tolerance, appreciation required for all types of music

If music be the food of love, play on/Give me  
Excess of it, that, surfeiting / The appetite  
may sicken, and so die." Though  
written nearly 400 years ago,  
Shakespeare's famous lines ring  
as true today as "All you need is  
love," "The times they are a-  
changin'" and "Seacrest out!"

Seriously, how often are you  
listening to music? Car, home,  
computer, iPod—the list goes on,  
but needless to say, we fill our  
lives with it, and rarely a day  
passes when our ears aren't pleased with it.

Still, as abundant as it is, music in general  
seems to be in a state of decline, and I'm not  
talking about the plummet of record sales since  
the late 90s as digital downloads are at an all-  
time high. I'm talking about the "appetite"

which Shakespeare mentioned all those years  
ago, and the idea of music being something  
deeper than a simple matter  
of taste.

It happened when Tom  
Yorke sang to me: "You can  
scream and you can shout / It  
is too late now / Because you  
have not been paying atten-  
tion." I listened to the  
screeching, distorted guitars  
scream in my ear while  
walking along campus, iPod  
on, and observing fellow music lovers, each  
equipped with ear buds reaching into their  
pockets. He was right. Music has changed  
without us even realizing it.

The digital era has turned music from a  
social experience to one of solitude, fueled by  
our own narcissistic attitudes. Think about it.



Matt  
Loosbrock

How many times have you judged someone  
else's tastes, or cringed when riding in the pas-  
senger's seat of a friend's car while the radio  
blasted a certain song you loathed? Whether  
you're the type that listens to pop radio exclu-  
sively or that guy who digs deep into the  
underground, we're all at fault. We put on our  
headphones and walk to our own beat so as not  
to be disturbed by the sounds of others.

There's nothing wrong with having opinions  
on what music is preferred—that's what makes  
us individuals—but it's how we express them.  
"American Idol" is a prime example, as a TV  
show that thrives on opinion. While the show  
is nothing more than a glorified karaoke com-  
petition, its audience feeds on the ability to  
decide the direction the show takes and plays  
out. The ability to hold the fate of contestants  
through text messages is tasty, and we cheer on  
the "good" ones and laugh at the train wrecks,

while failing to realize none of the perform-  
ances are really that good, at least in the shad-  
ow of the original artists. But it doesn't matter.  
Complete control is hard to let go of.

We need to go back to the roots music was  
built on—an experience that brings people  
together and expands on events and ideas rele-  
vant to history and today. Let's not judge  
musical tastes, but instead, share what we  
enjoy. Expand your library, be diverse in what  
you listen to, and experiment with musicians  
and genres you wouldn't normally give the  
time. You may be surprised at what you find.  
Most importantly, remember that music isn't  
just something to move your feet to, but a  
force that feeds the human soul.

Matt is a senior double majoring in music and creative writing  
who likes both old and new music, especially if it's good.

## Strong cast, script lay foundation for enjoyable 'Iron Man'



A.J.  
Hakari

Just as Iron Man the charac-  
ter is of a different school  
than super-powered characters  
like Spider-Man or the X-  
Men, "Iron Man" the film is  
the same as far as comic-to-  
screen adaptations go. Those  
expecting a slam-bang, explo-  
sion-a-minute blockbuster out  
of this flick will be sorely dis-  
appointed. "Iron Man's"  
duties lie with being a charac-  
ter-driven yarn with particu-  
larly explosive set pieces,  
rather than using constant  
pyrotechnics to woo the ADD-  
afflicted masses.

But as much of a downer as  
it sounds, such care given to  
the script  
and story  
only serve  
to strength-  
en "Iron  
Man," put-  
ting it in  
the same  
league as  
films like  
"Batman  
Begins," which capture the  
soul of superheroes instead of  
just recanting their adven-  
tures.

Robert Downey Jr. top lines  
as Tony Stark, gazillionaire  
playboy and all-around tech-  
nological dynamo. While in  
the Middle East to demon-  
strate his company's latest  
military weaponry, Stark  
becomes the victim of his own  
merchandise after his convoy  
is attacked by a terrorist cell.  
Initially forced to build the  
group their very own missile,  
Stark revolts, whipping up a  
suit of armor with which he  
escapes his captors.

He emerges from the expe-  
rience a changed man,

announcing upon his return to  
American soil that he intends  
to shut down production on all  
weapons of mass destruction.  
In the meantime, Stark con-  
centrates on perfecting the suit  
that saved his life, tweaking  
and modifying it until he's  
ready to take on evil across  
the globe as the metallic  
defender of justice, Iron Man.

At heart, "Iron Man" is the  
story of a flawed genius who  
comes to see the error of his  
ways, who puts his vast intel-  
lect towards helping people  
instead of being the source of  
their destruction. Of course,  
Stark isn't a complete Boy  
Scout once he dons Iron  
Man's iconic red and gold  
suit, but the journey he goes  
through leaves him a little  
wiser, a convincing character  
arc that director Jon Favreau  
pulls off brilliantly.

But "Iron Man" couldn't  
have come together as well as  
it did without Downey's  
dead-on per-  
formance as  
Stark, a  
career-defin-  
ing turn that  
does a great  
job of bring-  
ing out the  
man behind  
the mask.

Even if you  
shift "Iron Man's" more dra-  
matic and character-based  
aspects to the side, it still  
emerges as a pretty damn fun  
popcorn flick. It doesn't have  
a great number of action  
sequences, but those it does  
include are tons of fun, espe-  
cially a scene in which Stark  
defends a Middle Eastern vil-  
lage for the first time as Iron  
Man.

After licensing their charac-  
ters for a few years, Marvel  
Comics has made "Iron Man"  
the first film in which their

people are in creative control  
of the production. As it turns  
out, this choice was a wise  
one, for as easily as Tony  
Stark could've ended up as  
some jerk running around in a  
titanium suit, the filmmakers  
excel at proving how, as the  
movie's tagline states, heroes  
aren't born—they're made.

A.J. is a senior journalism student  
who has been reviewing movies for  
almost 10 years. He digs horror movies  
and documentaries the most.



Ratings for movies are based on a scale from one to five.  
A film that scores five stars is worth seeing at least once.  
A film that scores one star is horribly acted or directed,  
with no substance.

comfortably in the middle,  
being not too thought provok-  
ing but at least an enjoyable  
action go-around. And that is  
precisely where "Iron Man,"  
Marvel's latest cash-cow-  
come-home, finds itself.

While making a sales call in  
the Middle East, playboy bil-  
lionaire and weapons industri-  
alist Tony Stark (Robert  
Downey Jr.) is captured by  
insurgents who order him to  
build them a very powerful  
bomb. Stark, gravely injured,  
is kept alive by fellow inmate  
Yinsen (Shaun Toub), a for-  
mer physicist who develops a  
special electromagnet chest-  
plate to keep the shrapnel in  
Stark's chest from piercing  
his heart.

Stark uses the terrorist's  
workshop to secretly con-  
struct a powerful suit of  
armor, and escapes the caves,  
returning to the U.S.

Refining his design, this new  
iron pugilist takes to the  
world stage in an attempt to  
curve the illegal buying of  
weaponry by his former cap-  
tors.

"Iron Man" will be first  
and foremost regarded as a  
crowd-pleasing popcorn  
action flick and, for the most  
part, it doesn't disappoint.  
There are plenty of "whoa!"  
moments as helpless bad  
guys are thrown around like  
rag dolls by the impressively  
rendered Iron Man.

Director Jon Favreau films  
his action as shots of pure  
adrenaline, condensed into  
shorter, yet more intense,  
jolts. He is a Baz Luhrmann  
on steroids, directing his  
Moulin Rouge of steel and  
explosions to an entropic  
crescendo.

Some sequences may be, in  
the grand scheme of things,  
ultimately just for show—  
designed to inspire the



Ken  
Weigend

inevitable video-game spin  
off—but who cares? These  
moments come as welcome  
shots of excitement. They are  
easily forgiven in the wake of  
Downey's commanding pres-  
ence, every bit the sex-symbol  
merchant of Marvel. Downey  
plays Stark like an alcoholic  
Bond, aloof with a biting  
tongue defense.

His supporting cast is not so  
brilliantly realized, however—  
star power in pursuit of prof-  
its, never profundity. Gwyneth  
Paltrow turns her hand as  
Stark's gorgeous and pining  
secretary Pepper Potts; remi-  
niscent of Kirsten Dunst's  
Mary Jane, Paltrow goes  
through all the motions but  
never captures that depth of  
soul.

The hardest character to  
swallow, however, is Jeff  
Bridges, Stark's shady busi-  
ness partner. Forever typecast  
as "The Dude"—and acting  
very un-dude-like here,  
Bridges is never allowed the  
opportunity to become his  
character, detaching viewers  
with every line of dialogue.

"Iron Man" is tremendous  
entertainment, a well-crafted  
action romp that kicks off the  
summer blockbuster series  
with a bang. It serves as an  
impressive exposition for the  
sequel sure to follow (make  
sure to stay through the cred-  
its, wink wink). It doesn't  
quite match the depth or qual-  
ity of recent DC superhero  
movies, but that's fine.

Ken is a junior journalism major with a  
film studies minor. He has aspirations to  
write film reviews as a career. His favorite  
genres are drama and comedy.



# 2008-09 Hall Managers ready to take charge

Sarah Packingham  
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Seven new and three returning hall managers will be in control of the campus residence halls for the 2008-09 school year.

The three returning include Mike Bremer, Jessie Gadach and Mallory Schultz.

“We are excited to have them back,” Jason Neuhaus, west end area coordinator, said. “At the beginning of the year it can get a little overwhelming with questions from the hall managers. This should help spread it out a little.”

Mallory Schultz, from Minnetonka, Minn., will be working in Johnson for the upcoming school year. She said she is looking forward to getting to experience working with the substance free wing.

“I think one of the challenges for me will be adjusting to living on the west side of campus for the first time,” she said.

Jared Acker will be the hall manager in Stratton Hall next year. Acker is a food science and technology major who said he is looking forward to having a cohesive staff that goes above and beyond the expectations of all the hall’s residents.

With the experiences Acker has, he knows that one can never know what to expect and he said that will be his biggest challenge.

“[It’s] being prepared for the unexpected,” Acker said. “Even with two years experience in



Jason Neuhaus

residence life, unusual circumstances will arise.”

Acker said he is looking forward to getting to work with his staff and the other hall managers on campus.

Nicole Grundtner, a junior elementary education major, will be in charge in Prucha Hall when school begins in the fall.

“I hope to have a great hall community atmosphere,” she said. “I hope people will be excited about things going on in the hall and about the staff.”

And although Grundtner said it will be challenging to remember everyone’s name, she is excited to be a part of the campus and Prucha community.

Patricia Fredricksen is the hall manager in May for next year.

Fredricksen is from Stewartville, Minn. and will be a senior in the fall. She is a communicative disorder major.

Fredricksen said she looks to create a positive academic and social environment, but knows there will be some challenges that go along with the job.

“The most challenging thing for me will be to delegate different tasks to the RAs and to the residents,” Fredricksen said. “I have a tendency to want to do everything a certain way to get it done right. As hall manager I have to learn to delegate.”

Jessie Gadach, from Elk River, Minn., will be

graduating next spring with a degree in biology and chemistry. She will be spending her final year as the hall manager in Hathorn.

“Overall, this job is can be very busy at times, but the experience is worth it,” Gadach said.

“Working in the residence halls is great.”

Kayla Haines will be the hall manager in Crabtree. She is an elementary education major from Scandia, Minn.

“I am looking forward to working with first year students,” she said. “There is a lot of growth during our first year of college and I am excited to provide programming and opportunities in Crabtree that aids students in this growth.”

Junior Ken Weigend will be the hall manager in Grimm for the upcoming school year. He is from Jackson, Wis. Weigend said he will miss the one-on-one interaction with residents that you get being an RA.

“I look forward to the challenges and rigors that will obviously be afforded me through hall manager,” Weigend said. “I am honored to have been selected and I hope I don’t let everyone down to much.”

Mike Bremer will be the hall manager in McMillan for the 2008-09 school year. He is a marketing communications major.

“... I hope to create a hall that is accepting of all types of people and their different beliefs. [I want] a place where everyone can be safe, relax and have a really great year gaining new friend-

ships and living in McMillan Hall,” Bremer said.

Becca Peine, a junior from Cannon Falls, Minn., is a communications studies major and will be the hall manager in Parker next year.

Peine knows it will be difficult to balance school and the job, but said she is excited for the challenge.

“As a former resident of Parker Hall I am really excited to become the hall manager,” she said. “I had so many positive experiences there my freshman year that I would like other residents to have.”

Daniel Scott will be the hall manager in the apartment style living for students next year in South Fork Suites. Scott is a sociology and psychology major who is looking forward to working with the generally upperclassman living in the Suites.

“The opportunity to work in an upper class student environment is going to be fun one, but also a challenging one,” Scott said. “The RAs and I are going to utilize our experiences we’ve had as staff members to create an environment that appeals to the interests of upperclassmen. This is going to be a challenge, but I am looking forward to meeting this challenge head on, and so is my staff. We are all very excited for next year to come.”

Neuhaus said he was confident in new hall managers and looks forward to working with them next year.

Hall managers had the opportunity to meet with their staff and brainstorm ideas for next year at RA camp April 25-27. Staff worked on teambuilding and came up with their halls’ themes.

# Resident Assistants pivotal part of campus life

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An old saying says there are only two constants: death and taxes. For student residents of UW-River Falls, there is a third constant: resident assistants.

Out of 69 total positions, 38 new RAs have been hired for the 2008-09 academic year at UWRF. These new staff members will be placed into positions in all 10 Residence Halls on campus, affecting the lives of every student living in the halls. These 38 new members of Residence Life were selected through a two-tier application process aimed at sifting out the most qualified applicants.

Students interested in the position were required to submit an application along with resumé, cover letter and three reference forms by Feb. 15. The number of open positions vary from year-to-year, but on average, 100 students show interest and submit applications each spring.

According to the resident assistant position description available online through the school’s Web site, an RA is a “live-in student staff member ... [who] contributes to the student life program and works specifically to develop and enhance community for residents.” Therefore, resumés must reflect emerging leaders willing to step up and “work with student residents to create an open, inclusive and supportive residential community.”

Coordinators within Residence Life reviewed applications and selected which applicants would receive interviews. Since there is more to being an RA than a free single room and a free meal plan, coordinators looked for applicants that were willing to bring something unique to the role.

“Resumés need to capture experience that can translate into the [RA] position,” said Jason Neuhaus, the west area coordinator for Residence Life. “[But] if their GPA meets the requirements they’ll [probably] receive an interview. We almost always try to offer the chance to students.”

Interviews took place during the final two weeks of February. Panels of interviewers were made up of one to four Residence Life staff members, at least one of them being Neuhaus or Kristie Feist, the east area coordinator for Residence Life.

“We try to ask questions that will allow the applicant to share examples of experiences they have that will illustrate their ability to succeed in the position,” Feist said in an e-mail interview. “We want to see ... how they will handle certain situations if hired.”

Once all the interviews were completed, the professional staff within the department of Residence Life reviewed all the applicants and their impressions of them from face-to-face interaction. In most cases, interviewees were asked if they had any preferences to the type of com-

munity they would most like to be placed in: first-year student wings, returning student wings or substance-free lifestyle.

The different personalities of the applicants were also matched up to create diverse staffs that will mesh well together, bringing unique viewpoints and skill sets to each hall.

It is also important to find individuals who are able to connect with residents. For that reason, a variety of personalities were hired.

“We’d be in trouble if we hired 100 percent extroverts or 100 percent introverts—we wouldn’t be able to connect with residents that way,” Neuhaus said.

This concern for a healthy and effective staff is reflected in residents’ attitudes.

“My overall opinion of UWRF RAs is positive and I feel that they are effective in their position,” said junior Heather Pederson. “I do feel that this University can hire competent RAs.”

“It’s hard to know for sure how people will handle the job with just one interview,” said Jared Fritz, a first-year student. “But I think they’ve [the administration] done a good job at it.”

“We have been fortunate to have enough returning RA’s to place in each building to act as mentors and role models for our

new staff,” Feist said.

This year, Residence Life is test-driving a new method of bringing returning RAs closer together with newcomers. On March 27, an RA social was held in which staff members from different halls were paired up into buddy teams. The goal was to provide new RAs with an experienced individual that could answer questions and be a general resource. The staff for 2008-09 seemed upbeat for the upcoming year, with first-time RAs excited for the opportunity to be young leaders.

“[It’s a] really awesome position to be a part of,” said Hannah Tjoflat, a first-year student and a new RA for next year. “I’m really excited to get involved.”

The RA position is one that can really help with outreach to students, according to Hailey Samples, a sophomore hired for next year.

“RAs can do a lot to show students what they can do on campus,” Samples said.

Applications for the RA position are accepted at the beginning of each spring semester. Applications can be found at the Involvement Center desk or online through the University’s Web site. Resident assistants, hall managers and area coordinators can answer questions about the position as well.

## The *Student Voice* staff says “You stay classy, UW-River Falls!”



Aaren Manering

The spring 2008 *Student Voice* Staff. Front row: Sally King, Sarah Packingham, Katrina Styx, Sarah Schneider. Middle row: Alayne Hockman, Jenna Nelson, Abby Maliszewski, Kenny Yoo. Back row: Eric Pringle, Ken Weigend, Megan Leoni, Joanna Mastley, Andrew Phelps, Ben Brewster (Not pictured: Phillip Bock and Kirsten Blake).