



CASCADE AVE, PAGE 2
Surveying begins in Cascade Ave. reconstruction

MOVIE REVIEWS, PAGE 7
Reviewers split over violent new flick "Punisher"

HOCKEY, PAGE 6
Falcon forwards lead team to top of conference rankings



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE

December 12, 2008

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 95, Issue 12

Miscommunication causes changes in Senate

Caleb Stevens
caleb.stevens@uwrf.edu

The Shared Governance committee appointed a new chair to the subcommittee in charge of the budget for all student organizations after the former chair resigned due to a communication breakdown in Student Senate.

Junior Theta Chi member Joshua Brock was appointed chair of the Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB) at a Shared Governance Committee meeting Nov. 30.

"We felt that [Brock] was qualified for the position, and introducing a neutral viewpoint to both of the groups might help solve some of the conflict that has been going on," Shared Governance Director Sara Deick said.

Former LDPB Chair Michael Defenbaugh resigned Oct. 31 after two former members of LDPB were not appointed to LDPB with the rest of the appointees. That was just one of the actions that Defenbaugh said impeded the progress of LDPB.

"I was not going to serve on a committee that doesn't really go

anywhere because of Senate putting a hold on what we do," Defenbaugh said. "I feel that there were personal opinions that got in the way of getting [Rebecca Peine and Kayla Haines] on board. That was another reason for my resignation."

After being held off the Oct. 28 motion, Haines followed through with her resignation whereas Peine rescinded hers and was then named interim LDPB chair the next week. Peine could not be reached for comment.

Last semester Student Senate received numerous complaints from various Greek organizations that LDPB did not have hearings regarding their budgets. The then LDPB Chair, Defenbaugh, denied that being true when Student Senator Matthew Dale inquired about the issue.

"I asked the LDPB chair if this was true and he said no," Dale said. "I then asked if I could see a record of the minutes, because if they did hear the Greek organizations' requests in meeting there should be a written record of it. They then informed me that they did not take minutes."

According to Dale, this created a



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

Members of the UW-River Falls Student Senate at a meeting earlier this year. Recently, UWRF junior Joshua Brock was appointed the new chair of the Leadership Development and Programming Board.

controversy because LDPB was unable to provide any evidence that it did, or did not, hear the Greek organizations' budget requests. Student Senate rejected the budget

because of this reason and sent LDPB a list of requests, among those, taking minutes during meetings.

The Wisconsin Open Meetings

Law states that governmental bodies are required to conform to Article

See Student Senate page 3

Higher education gender gap a growing concern

Joy Stanton
joy.stanton@uwrf.edu

Female enrollment at UW-River Falls has remained ahead of male enrollment by 17 percent this year, a growing trend that mirrors the nation.

Males are not being encouraged to go onto post secondary education. Unaddressed, this trend will affect the economy, make-up of the workforce and society, according to Alan Tuchenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services.

Nationally, female college

enrollment passed male enrollment in 1978, and the gender gap has widened and is expected to grow, according to a 2006 press release from the U.S. Department of Education.

"In this day and age, it is brain power that gets you the jobs," Tuchenhagen, who has presented on the gender gap issue at national conferences, said. "[The data] behooves all of us to be conscious about who we are leaving behind."

An educated workforce attracts businesses and leads to higher incomes. The higher income translates into more

tax revenue for the state, Tuchenhagen said.

Based on the largest workforce education in the United States, Wisconsin ranked 25th while Minnesota ranked seventh. Education includes advanced degrees, bachelor's degrees, associates degrees and some college, according to the 2008 State Economy Index report from Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

The UW System has a total of 94,387 females enrolled and a total of 79,006 males, according to a UWS informational memoranda released in

March. Closing the gender gap difference of 15,381 potentially could increase tax revenue in the future.

"One of the [state's] goals is to get more people have more education," Tuchenhagen said.

The increase of educated women in the workforce is the success of affirmative action that began in the 1960s.

Women are projected to account for 49 percent of the increase in total labor force growth between 2006 and 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

One male student at UWRF said that he would have trepidations about competing against a female for a job.

"It's almost come to the point where if a guy does do something better than a girl for some reason he feels guilty about it," junior Samuel McCutcheon said. "I know this is true for myself. It's almost like that no hitting girls rule has morphed into don't challenge what girls do, at all."

According to Tuchenhagen, a segment of the population understands the need for higher education.

"Women are grasping the importance of education more so than guys, he said.

Elementary education senior Katie Lynn Anderson said that she wants to make a difference in the world with children and the question was where-not if-to go to college.

"In my mind it wasn't if I was going to go [to college]," Anderson said. "That question never even crossed my mind; it was just the next step."

Males have not been encouraged into social work,

See Gender gap page 3

Falcon Foods offers hands-on experience

Collin Pote
collin.pote@uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Falcon Foods store sells food produced at the plant in the Ag Science building, while offering students involved experience in food production.

The food plant has been operating since 1984 and aims to give students hands-on experience working in a commercial plant setting. The food manufactured by the plant includes meat products, such as snack sticks and summer sausage, various flavors of ice cream and several varieties of cheese.

"It's great working here. The hands-on learning is a great way to learn how to make cheese," Student Manager Josh Burgan said.

UWRF students may have actually tasted the food without even knowing it. In the dining hall all shredded cheese, bratwurst and ice cream other than soft serve is actually made in the food plant. One of the most recent successes of the food plant was the creation of a new variety of cheese called Cobblestone Red which was developed entirely by UWRF students and staff.

Ranee May, the professor responsible for overseeing plant operations, issued a challenge in 2006 to develop the new product as part of their curriculum. The cheese debuted at the World Dairy Expo in Madison and sold out before the last day. It has been well received, according to May, and has even been featured in a



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice

Maria Holle, right, places goods from Falcon Foods into a gift box for a customer. The store sells food made in the Ag Science building food plant.

handful of publications.

Cobblestone Red is an American type of cheese with wine added for flavor.

The cheese was meant to be representative of the St. Croix Valley. To that end, all ingredients are from the area, with milk coming from the UWRF Dairy Learning Center and the wine, Chateau Rouge, being a specialty blend from Chateau St. Croix Winery and Vineyard. Students have already begun development of another new product.

May said that this time the product is going to be a fermented base and the end result will be like a spread, not unlike

cream cheese.

Despite the overall success of the Falcon Foods store and plant, May wishes the student body was more aware of its existence.

"A lot of students don't realize that it's there for their benefit," May said.

The plant is largely self-sustaining with all profits made being used to keep the plant supplied and running as well as to support classes. Falcon Foods is located in room 149 in the Food Science Addition and is currently selling gift boxes in anticipation of the holiday season.

Operation Christmas Child falls short of expectations

Renae Bergh
renae.bergh@uwrf.edu

As Christmas soon approaches, many children can barely contain their excitement as thoughts of shiny new presents flood their minds. Unfortunately, many children living in poverty-stricken areas all around the world never get to feel the joy a gift can bring.

The Journey House hosted the sixth annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox wrapping party at UW-River Falls to bring a little excitement to these impoverished children on Christmas morning.

The purpose of the event is to get students involved in wrapping shoeboxes filled with basic toiletries, toys and school supplies that have been donated by students and members of the community. The boxes are then sent out as Christmas gifts to children ages two to 14 all over the world.

Cultural Awareness Through Talking and Sharing (CATTS) organizes the event each year. CATTS held its first Operation Christmas Child event at UWRF in 2003. The group decided to get involved in Operation Christmas Child because of previous Co-President Micaela Rodriguez, who had participated in the program at her high school, said CATTS advisor Linda Alvarez.

CATTS was also inspired to work with Operation Christmas Child when they discovered that one of its members was touched by the program. The member, former UWRF student Zer Vang, received a shoebox gift during his stay in a refugee resettlement camp in Thailand.

"He said that it was a remarkable experience, because for one thing, he had never received a gift before," Alvarez said. "[Zer] found it absolutely incredible that someone on the other side of the planet would be interested in what was happening to him."

Sophomore Alice Hibbler said she volunteers to wrap shoe-

See Christmas Child page 3

VOICE SHORTS

Music department hosts concert

The St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra will collaborate with the Shepherd of the Valley Choir in concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Afton, Minn. The Borderline Brass Quintet and the Children's Choir will also perform. The concert will also feature an audience sing-along of Christmas carols. Dr. Kristin Tjornehoj will conduct the concert and Michael Norman will serve as narrator with poetry and prose. A freewill offering will be taken, but there is no charge for the event. For more info call 651-436-8248.

Effective meeting focus of lecture

Leadership Instructor Jeff Russell will present a one-hour lecture on how to manage meetings more effectively from 3 to 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center. Some topics to be presented include how to develop an outcome-based agenda, keep your meeting on track, dealing with people who go off on tangents, starting and ending a meeting to ensure the best results, developing effective ground rules and managing the flow of the meeting. The event is free and there is no need to register in advance.

Sodexo hosts honorary brunch

Sodexo Dining Services will host a commencement brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, in the University Center Ballroom. The event will celebrate Fall 2008 graduates. RSVP by Monday, December 15th. The event will cost \$14.95 for adults and \$7.25 for children 10 and under. For more information call Sodexo Dining Services at 715-425-3274.

FalconFile receives update

FalconFile will be updated over J-term, receiving a significant upgrade that includes improvements and enhancements specifically targeted at the student body. The update includes a file sharing system, an improved Web interface with drag-n-drop capability, RSS feeds, wikis and dropboxes. IT Services has scheduled several workshops to help acclimate students to the changes. Students can sign up for a workshop at <http://its.uwrf.edu/support/training/welcome.php>.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Student Voice staff

Corrections:

In the Dec. 5 issue, the name Santa Claus was misspelled on the front page. The name was improperly spelled Clause.

Like what you see?
Read more articles
and columns
online at:

uwrfvoice.com

Full articles, archives, online
polls and more...

OUR
SECRET SAUCE
IS
SPEED!

AMERICA'S SANDWICH DELIVERY EXPERTS!™

TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU
VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM

WE
DELIVER!

JIMMY JOHN'S

Since JJ 1983

WORLD'S GREATEST
GOURMET SANDWICHES

JIMMY
JOHNS
.COM

©1985, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008 JIMMY JOHN'S FRANCHISE, LLC

UWRF receives grant to develop safety program

Blake Gandrud
blake.gandrud@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls received a grant from the state to create a safety training course for employees and students workers on the lab farms.

The grant application requested \$8,300 from the Wisconsin Bureau of Risk Management and calls for six two-hour training sessions, each covering a different area of farm safety. The sessions will be created by Jonathan Chaplin, an engineering consultant and faculty member at the University of Minnesota. He was chosen because of experience in engineering safety and because he can act as an unbiased third party when reviewing the current safety situation at UWRF.

"It's too easy when it's your own thing to say, 'Ah, things look fine,'" Laura Walsh, CAFES administrative program manager, said

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S. and results in 120,000 injuries and 700 deaths every year, according to a UWRF press release. Over the last three years, injuries on the lab farms have included a crushed hand and a finger tip amputation, resulting in \$11,800 in worker's compensation.

"I think one dollar is too much," Connie Smith, UWRF risk management officer, said. "I want to have no injuries and that's the goal we'll be working

towards."

The training sessions, expected to be ready by February, will be in the classroom, but it will eventually become an online course worth one credit and available through D2L, so farm employees and students can take it at their own pace. The initial sessions are to gain feedback and audience reaction, so Chaplin can better design the online course, which can then be updated and changed with ease. Other UW System programs and state institutions will also have access to the information, which can be used as is or modified to their specific needs.

"[An online course] is our goal because we can only contain people in the classroom for so long," Smith said. "We want to make sure that when we have new people coming through, and there's an issue to retrain, we have the training available in a more convenient venue."

The safety training that currently takes place is more individual, and consists of supervisors explaining how the equipment works, whereas the training course will be more formalized, giving everybody the same message.

"There hasn't been any specific spike in



Sally King/Student Voice

Harry Larson, an employee at Lab Farm 2, stabilizes himself on a wobbly ladder while working on the feed elevator. The Lab Farms received a grant to improve safety.

problems, it's just a way to improve what we've been doing when we hire both the farm crew and students," Walsh said. "It's a way to make sure we're covering all bases and making sure everybody gets the broad picture of safety information."

Surveyors prepare for Cascade Ave. reconstruction

Lindsey Rykal
lindsey.rykal@uwrf.edu

The River Falls City Council approved \$245,000 on Nov. 11, to prepare preliminary plans for upgrading Cascade Avenue. This takes the concept plans prepared last year and develops them in more detail.

"The money will pay for surveying and pulmonary engineering, where roads will be, how intersections will layout, full layout of the landscape and a very detailed cost evaluation," Dale Braun, UW-River Falls campus planner, said.

The new road design was presented at a public meeting last November and includes a two lane road, one eastbound and one westbound, three roundabouts and a wider bike path and pedestrian walkway. The plans also include eliminating on-street parking as well as access to certain side streets, including Third Street.

The conceptual design was done without surveying, now it is the surveyor's job to figure out how everything will really fit in and where easements and land purchases are needed.

The actual reconstruction of Cascade is expected to begin in 2011 with the project being split in two sections.

"We envision it to be a two phase project. First, Spruce Street through Second Street and then Sixth Street through Wasson Lane," Reid Wronski, River Falls city engineer, said. "[It will be] a complete reconstruction of the street as wells as everything that lies beneath it."

Parking will be eliminated along Cascade from Second to Sixth Street. On-street parking will be displaced by vacating



Lindsey Rykal/Student Voice

A River Falls surveyor takes measurements for the planned Cascade Ave. reconstruction project. The project is expected to begin in 2011 and will remove on-street parking as well as add three roundabouts and a bike lane.

Third Street between Cascade Avenue and Spring Street, to expand the parking lot east of North Hall and adding a parking lot in front of the residence halls east of Sixth Street on the south side.

"By moving the parking off the street it will eliminate traffic on the street, stopping traffic in order to park and circling around looking of parking," Wronski said.

The roundabouts included in the design will be located at Second Street, Sixth Street and Wasson Lane.

"We had to choose between signal lights or roundabouts, we choose [roundabouts] to help pedestrians," Wronski said. "[It will] let the driver be aware that they entered a different zone."

The roundabouts will cause traffic to slow down. Vehicles will be able to go straight through instead of stopping and the roundabouts, in replacement to signal lights, will save a tremendous amount of energy, Wronski said.

"I think roundabouts can be confusing and tricky to maneuver," Margaret Nelson, UWRF student and commuter, said. "It will be more dangerous, it won't necessarily slow people

down. It will just be more hazardous because people will be in a rush to get through it."

Sidewalks will be added on the north side down to Wasson Lane and the south side will have a wide multiuse trail for pedestrians and bicycles. The road will also have a wide shoulder for bicyclists in addition to the trail.

"Sidewalks will be improved and there will dedicated bike lanes for pedestrian and bicycle safety," Braun said. "We want to make the area as safe as we can and still recognize that we

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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

November 30

- A cat was stolen from 208 West Cascade Ave.
- Matthew B. Miller, 20; Loren V. Perron, 20; Jenna M. Ohlrogge, 18; Angela W. Haag, 19 were cited for underage consumption.

December 1

- Karwee A. Marshall, 23, was cited for driving without a valid divers license.
- Caroline R. Hendricks, 22, was cited for performing an unlawful u-turn.
- Mindy J. Haas, 28, was cited for speeding and driving without a valid drivers license.

December 2

- A car parked on Wildcat Court was damaged when the driv-

er side mirror was broken off. There are no suspects.

December 3

- Jaime N. Bergstrom, 20, was arrested for operating while impaired on several medications.

December 4

- Shawn D. Overton, 19, was charged with disorderly conduct after being removed from 106 North Main St.
- A full-size refrigerator was stolen from the basement of Crabtree Hall.

December 5

- A cat was reported at large from 1350 South Main St. The cat was found caught in a rabbit trap.

Campus Radio
88.7 WRFW

Student hosted music shows, talk shows, sportscasts and more...

For complete schedule,
and to listen live,
log on to:

www.uwrf.edu/wrfw

Student Senate: Ad-hoc committee of Student Senators, LDPB members formed to deal with ‘communication breakdown’ dissipated after first meeting

from page 1

IV, section 10 of the Wisconsin Constitution that states: “Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and publish the same.” According to Article VI, section four of the Student Senate Constitution: “Student Senate meetings shall be held in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.” “The subcommittees of Student Senate, and the subcommittees of the subcommittees all have to abide by the open records law,” Associate Student Services Coordinator Jon Levendoski. Levendoski also said that abiding by the open records law is something that subcommittees sometimes have a difficult time doing. “When we approached them LDPB members said they didn’t know how to take minutes properly,” Student Senate President Cindy Bendix said. The communication rift continued into the current semester, prompting resignations along with bogging down the governing process.

“Student Senate meetings consist of bickering back and forth,” Defenbaugh said. “Nobody can really come to an agreement on anything; it harms the student body and slows down progress for student organizations.” In order to deal with the breakdown, Student Senate formed an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of Student Senators and LDPB members that dissipated after only one meeting. “They [LDPB members] viewed the ad-hoc committee as Senate telling them what to do, that’s why they walked out,” Bendix said. Even with the failure of the ad-hoc committee, the Student Senate appears to be taking steps toward remedying the communication problems between the two groups. The appointing of Brock as chair is the latest effort to fix the broken situation, something that Brock is already aware of. “I was brought in as a neutral party for the position,” Brock said. “I don’t really know too much about the problems before hand. I think everything seems to be going real well.”



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice
Student Senate members discuss items at a meeting earlier this year.

Gender gap: Issue a matter of equity, not discrimination

from page 1

nursing or teaching in the same way females have been encouraged to pursue careers in math and science, according to Tuchenhagen. A balance of males and females makes for the best work environment, according to Anderson. “I’m picturing the workplace like how my classes are-more female populated. I couldn’t handle it first of all,” she said. “Men create stability for women and women create stability for men.” The lack of encouragement for men into non-traditional male careers may be what is holding some guys back, McCutcheon said. “I think if you made it clear to men that it was a viable option and that you can show them there is a career in these different areas some guys might go into it,” he said. The gender gap in post secondary enrollment is an equity issue rather than a matter of discrimination. “When we kicked down the doors [for women] we put a lot of apparatus in place that were encouraging and supporting for women to go onto higher education,” Tuchenhagen said. “There is not a really strong apparatus right now that encourages guys onto higher education.” A four-year university is not the only option for higher education. Student Organizations Coordinator Jon Levendoski said what should change is the mindset that everyone must get a bachelors degree. Junior Kelly Bryant said that she noticed girls at her high school in La Crosse, Wis. were more focused than boys on school. “I felt like more girls were more motivated to go to college than guys-[girls] seemed to care a lot more about their grades,” she said. Post secondary options encompass not only includes a four-year college degree, but vocational training, a two-year college degree or certificate programs as well. “Technical schools can be perfect for some people,” Levendoski said. “[Changing this mindset] has to start in high school.” Family encouragement helped agriculture engineering senior Tyler DeWolf make the decision to attend college. DeWolf grew up on a farm in Stillwater, Minn. and said that his father pushed him to get an education. “He wanted me to have more opportunities that he did and not want me stuck with one career my whole life,” he said. Sandi Scott-Duex, the first female director of Residence Life at UWRF, said that an important step is being aware of both genders and the different thought processes that each possess. “What does it mean to be a male in college?” is an important question to ask, but we can’t do that at the expense of leaving out the females,” she said. “I think it’s a huge challenge.”

“When we kicked down the doors [for women] we put a lot of apparatus in place that were encouraging and supporting for women to go into higher education.

Alan Tuchenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services

Christmas Child: 70 shoeboxes filled, wrapped at UWRF

from page 1

boxes because she knows that her time is going to a good cause. “I don’t mind wrapping shoeboxes,” she said. “Christmas is always exciting and it’s important for all children to have gifts and experience that excitement.” Junior Haruka Kanaguchi said she was inspired to participate because of other people’s participation. “My host mother Linda Alvarez did it last year,” she said. “I thought that it would be a good thing to help others.” Senior Megan Wisbar has been wrapping shoeboxes for three years. The program has been a big success in past years and she said she expected it to be especially successful this year. “My first year at UWRF we packed about 400,” she said. “My second year we packed more than 500 and this year



Rena Bergh/Student Voice
UWRF students Megan Wisbar and Alice Hibbler inspect and stock finished boxes as part of the Operation Christmas Child drive.

was supposed to break all the records.” Unfortunately, this year’s expectations did not break any records as Wisbar had hoped. “Due to time constraints, economic hardships and organizational difficulties, we only were able to send about 70 boxes out,” she said. Wisbar said that every little bit counts and, even though this year was not as successful as those in the past, she is glad for those 70 boxes. “It means that 70 more children in this world will get a Christmas present,” she said. Student efforts at UWRF are

just a small part of the much larger story of Operation Christmas Child, which is part of the group Samaritan’s Purse. Samaritan’s Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world, according to their Web site. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has yielded more than 61 million shoeboxes that have been packed, shipped and delivered to children around the world, according to the Web site.

Now offering **Free**

RewardsChecking

Patent Pending BankVue

A Greener Checking Account for a Greener Tomorrow

Stop by today to find out how you can qualify for unbelievable rewards!

'Tis the Season . . . to Extend Thanks & Holiday Wishes.

Please join us for a Holiday Open House, Wednesday, Dec. 17... Lots of goodies to eat.

Drawing for a great gift basket!

1 FIRST NATIONAL BANK of River Falls

www.fnbrf.com

www.rewardscheckingfnb.com

RT12/08

Looking for something to do this weekend?

BADLANDS SNO-PARK

SNO-TUBE ◊ SNOWBOARD ◊ SKI

OPEN THIS SATURDAY! DECEMBER 13 11AM

772 Kinney Rd, Hudson ◊ 715-386-1856 ◊ www.badlands-snopark.com

RT12/08

CLASSIFIEDS

To learn more about classified or display ad rates, contact the business office.

Student Voice Business Office

410 S. Third Street, 304 North Hall
River Falls, WI 54022
(715) 425-3118
advertising@uwrfvoice.com

Employment

We are currently looking for sales people and sales mangers, no experience necessary, will train.

If interested please contact Jeff @ 715-760-1484

CAUTION:

Binge Drinking

FREE ALCOHOL ASSESSMENTS

Go to www.uwrf.edu/studenthealth

click on **e-CHUG**

Counseling and Student Health Services
715-425-3293/3884

Student Affairs

G:\Career Counseling Health Svcs\Student Health\Marketing\Poster Series\2008-2009

Created by: Cayla Wencl

EDITORIAL

Holiday season for giving and sharing

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. There are toys in every store, and candy canes and silver lanes aglow. But perhaps the prettiest sight to see these days is not holly on your own front door, but the generosity people show—or are supposed to show—during this special time of year.

Many of us will have food to eat, shelter from the cold and a decent number of presents to open this Christmas. But this holiday is about more than just food, shelter, family and presents; it’s also about their absence. People may not have all those things should have our attention too, and there are several organizations right here on campus that will be taking donations for those less fortunate.

First, there is a new United Way chapter on campus that will be placing boxes in the Residence Halls during finals week to collect canned goods and clothing. Even your average poor college student can probably spare a few cans of soup or a few items of clothing they never wear anymore.

The Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Club (SACJ) has placed boxes of its own in the academic buildings. The club is focusing on the needs of the community, with all donations going through a shelter to local families. Items they need the most include clothes, shoes, blankets, and toys for young children and teenagers.

Sodexo, UWRF’s food service provider, will also be doing its part through the end of finals week. Their table in the commons area of the University Center will take anything non-perishable and non-breakable. The food will go to the River Falls Food Pantry. Sodexo has only been serving the campus since May, but they are wasting no time trying to help out the community.

The Salvation Army will have volunteers outside local businesses ringing their charity bell. It’s truly a mystery how these people can stand out in the cold all day for the sake of low-income families; we can at least offer them a few coins or dollar bills for their trouble.

If you live off-campus, your own community is almost certain to have donation areas and food shelves of its own. So if you do not donate here, at least you can give something there.

Christmas is a time for enjoying ourselves and appreciating the things we have. But there are plenty of have-nots around too, so don’t be a scrooge this year.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

Editor Phillip Bock
Assistant Editor Ben Brewster

Front Page Editor Eric Pringle
News Editor Ken Weigend
Viewpoints Editor Abby Maliszewski
Sports Editor Alayne Hockman
Etcetra Editor Jenna Nelson

Chief Photographer Sally King
Staff Photographers Sarah Schneider
Jonathan Lyksett

Assistant Sports Editor Joe Engelhardt
Assistant News Editor Natalie Conrad

Cartoonist Emily Eck
Chief Copy Editor Andrew Phelps

Proofreader Aaron Billingsley

General Manager Kirsten Blake
Ad manager Megan Leoni

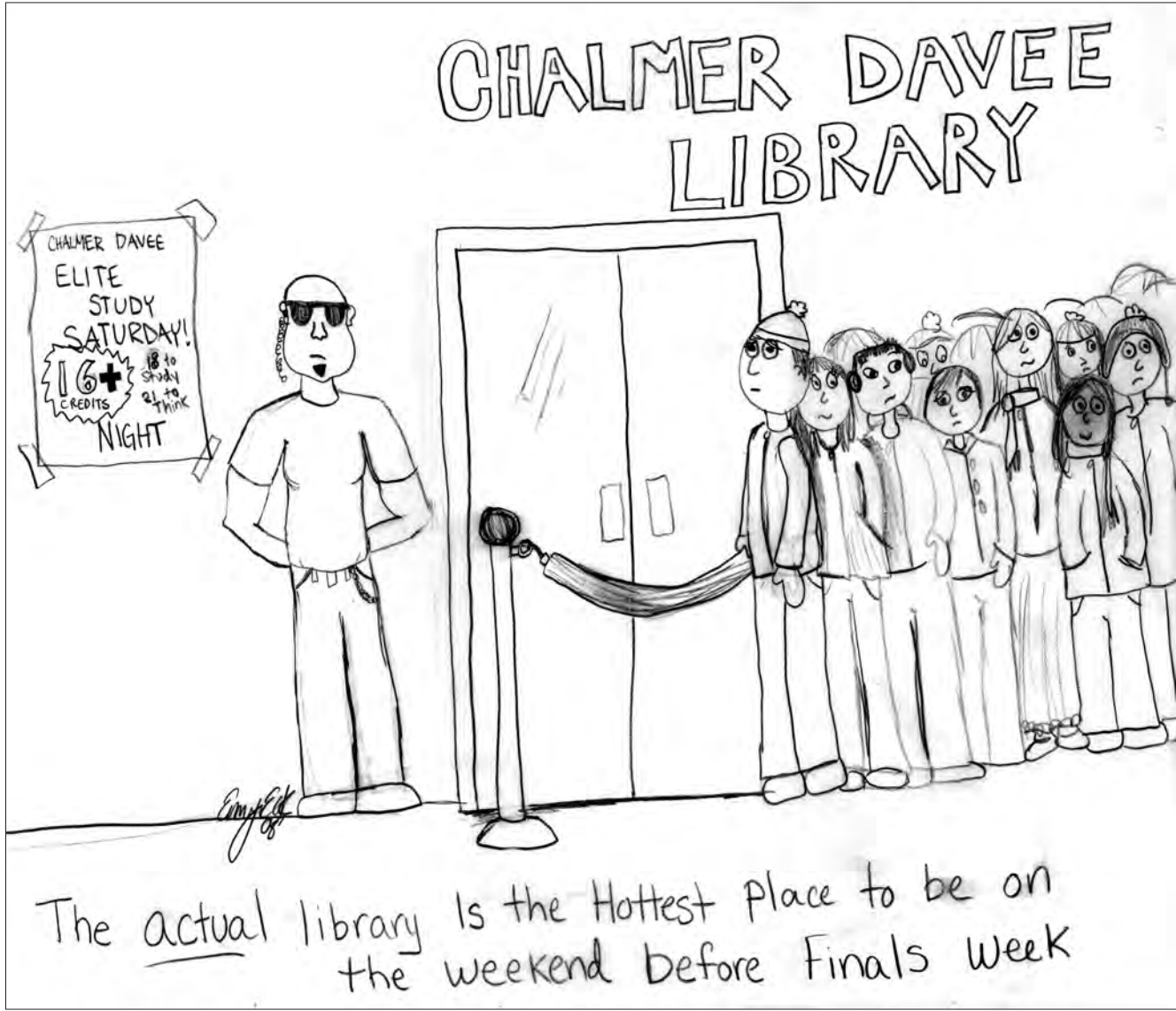
Circulation Manager Nathan Howe
Online Manager Cristy Brusoe

Faculty Advisor Andris Straumanis

Read the Student Voice online at
www.uwrfvoice.com



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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student has issues with opinions

The First Amendment is a wonderful thing. It allows us to express our ideas freely and it prevents the government from restricting that right.

However, it is that freedom that leads to some insanely bogus ideas and thoughts that can be presented by anyone. I find myself once again reading viewpoints in the Student Voice that seem like they are written just for the sake of being written.

You have every right to publish what you do. However, I also have every right as a reader to say that Brad Brookins’ “facts” about “Chronic Annoying Syndrome” are exactly the reason why I rarely read the Student Voice.

I am using this specific column as an example, but this is not the only time I have seen sophomoric standards in this newspaper that I, as a reader, quite frankly do not appreciate.

It seems that we have translated journalistic freedom into a free-for-all of ideas that often make no apparent sense.

I’m sorry if I offend the Chief of Off-Campus Travel, but your column is an example as to why many scoff at the Student Voice.

I find it ironic that the column which proclaimed “All facts regarding CAS have been happily donated and

proven by Science,” also appeared in the same newspaper with a full-page article priding itself on keeping us informed and providing factual information.

Being a musician, there are times where I have a license to improvise whatever I want, and that is sometimes for a paying audience. Now having that license, I have to use it respectfully and responsibly, or I can count on not being asked to play again.

Imagine a jazz rhythm section performing a slow, soft ballad, and then I come in as loud, fast, and obnoxious as I can. You probably won’t appreciate it because it is so far out of context. You probably will not want to hear me perform again, because my choice of artistic freedom completely abuses the reasons why that freedom was provided to me in the first place. I have every right to do that, but then you would have every right to never listen to me perform again.

In theory, the Student Voice can print whatever it wants, just like I can play whatever I want. However, as creative professionals we need to remember that the product we create has an audience. That audience needs to be kept in mind, because if we aren’t careful, we will find ourselves without anyone willing to listen.

Jesse Talbot, student

University qualms expressed

The work load and expectations need to be ratcheted down. We are expected to teach too many students; expected to be on too many committees; expected to research, write, present and publish more than is reasonable at a school with such a heavy teaching load. We are constantly asked to do more, and no work requirements are ever reduced.

Some of the most wonderful parts of a university suffer significantly because of this. The time for faculty to sit down and talk and exchange ideas and have bag lunches where we model for students intellectual inquiry and civic discussion among those who strongly disagree is lost.

We serve as lousy role models for a broader understanding of life-long learning for the vast majority of our students who will not be pursuing academic positions. We have no time to appreciate the arts if we are social scientists, to read Scientific American if we are in English.

The push to produce for conferences or journals which are peer reviewed in our fields requires that our intellectual expansion goes into narrower and narrower aspects of research. We are pushed to be more and more like faculty at major research institutions.

We need to think of the

unique role that institutions like ours can play, rather than try to be little UW-Madisons. We should give faculty options for different paths to promotion and tenure.

Some may want a larger research agenda and less committee work. Some may want to focus more on teaching and less on research. But THESE OPTIONS must come with lower expectations in all areas. Not lower for quality, but lower in quantity.

We are also lousy role models for our students to live a healthy life, a balanced life, a life where family, friends, work, exercise, and civic engagement are not constantly in competitive for the last three seconds of the day.

I feel very strongly about this and see no improvement. I think we all need to come together to promote less work and more healthy, balanced living.

I think this would be a great mission for the University. It could be part of our branding, be part of our research agenda.

It could distinguish us from other institutions of higher learning and places of work generally.

Davida Alperin, political science professor

Editor’s note: This letter is a response to the Quality of Workforce Job Engagement Assessment Survey (QWL).

Breathe: semester’s routine to begin again

Things are heavy and rushed. Everything is weighted with purpose and finality. Snow piles onto rooftops and car hoods. Tasks pile onto calendars and to do lists. Another semester is coming to a close.

Feel relief. In a matter of days, the bulk of the fall months will evaporate and give way to late mornings and sweatpants. Textbooks will transform into magazines and stiff desk chairs into couch cushions.

Let go your trepidations about grades and, instead, indulge in hot cocoa and sweet teas. Look forward to parental smiles and sibling smirks. Make a note to entertain some of the plans you made while under the blanket of schedule and timetable, bitterly resenting your commitments.

Enjoy the holidays. Attend sappy parties with your family, converse with creepy Uncle Herbert who spits into a can, listen to his stories about old game shows and his bottle cap collection.

Eat the leftovers your mother will inevitable thrust upon you. Don fuzzy slippers and spend whole days in pajamas. Cuddle your animals until they have coated you in their fur. Reunite with friends and go out drinking. Savor the uninterrupted hangover.

Another semester will have passed and with it, another small bundle of stress. Rushed skimming of pages and late-night hunching over homework will soon be replaced.

You will have done it all again. You will have pulled the all-nighter, cancelled party plans, persevered through headaches, ignored your shower, made flashcards, attended study groups and burned the candle at both ends for one more semester.

Once you’ve spiked the conjectural football at the end of your last final, enjoy your break. Take full advantage of this eye of the storm. Work when you must, but appreciate the moments of peace you will have.

Watch crappy TV, go bowling, spend all day outside experiencing the early stages of frostbite, whatever teeters your totter.

Try and make this break’s “I wish I would have ...” list a shorter one. It is important to fully recognize the value and significance of resting your body and your mind before you start the process over in January. So get a massage, go to the gym, go on a date, make some extra money or simply do nothing.

Your days here are numbered. Work until you collapse this week, but properly experience your hiatus and forget not the effort you put in and the impending cycle that will gather you up and plunge you back into routine.

Discard regrets and apprehensions about the past months and embrace the softness of the season. Take pleasure in the brief moment you have while the machine has stopped, for you will soon be swept up into the gears again, because this, too, shall pass.

Katie is double majoring in international studies and history and is tackling a minor in German.



Katie Heimer

‘Real’ winter qualities remain in high demand

It seems there’s this yearly occurrence called “winter.” I only recently became aware of this phenomenon when nearly shattering my ankle trying to cross Cascade while a fury of angry drivers attempted to run me and three others—two of whom did not survive—down. My ankle is okay, but my morale was all but incinerated, despite the freezing outside temperatures. So there I was: watching as fat snowflakes drifted past my eyes and body a few nights ago, listening to the silence that winter nights are often accompanied by, and it occurred to me: when was the last time we had both snow on the ground this early in the season AND had it amount to a real-ass winter?

A real-ass winter ... now that’s something to ponder. I’m from Minnesota and take pride in the fact that I can withstand sub-zero temperatures for up to four hours at a time while tanning under the frozen sun during J-Term, and these past few years have been somewhat pathetic. A real winter means cold and snow. I’ve taken it upon myself to call her out. I don’t care if you can’t visualize it, but it takes two to tango, Momma Nature.

Hey Momma, howya doin’? I’m doing alright, so consider yourself lucky. Humans spend a lot of their time buying stuff like digital cameras, movies, televisions and the whole likes of consumerist materials—and it all comes with some kind of a review, so I’m taking it upon myself to critique the past few winters along with this one.

Momma, I hope you don’t have hard feelings. Actually, I take that back, you’ve been around far longer and will most definitely outlive me (despite global conditions, mind you), so I don’t care if you shed a tear. Wait, I take THAT back—a tear on your behalf would be a tsunami or another Katrina, so maybe just nod at my comments, both positive and negative. Then we can have a heart-to-heart afterwards and you can tell me personally what you meant when you screwed me over all those years in middle school by neglecting to give me snow days. That cool? All right then.

First things first: thanks for the snow thus far. I interviewed some students on campus, actually, just one, and she unani-mously agrees that the white powder you’ve showered us indefinitely with is “aesthetically pleasing,” so rock on. Next, it’s the perfect amount for the time being. I don’t have to clumsily walk my way to class just yet, and I’m fine with that. You’ve given me the right

amount with which to adapt to. I could probably sled, or even snowboard on what you’ve granted us with, so thank you. Now on to what needs work. Keep the temperature below 32 degrees so I don’t have to deal with salty, mucky, dirty slush in my apartment. Here’s the thing: not only do I run the risk of getting my socks wet inside my place, but then, after the liquid has evaporated, I need to sweep or, god forbid, vacuum the entryway! That’s the last thing I want to do, so keep the temperature just under freezing.

Maybe every once in a while, like on Friday afternoons when I’m not at class, you can raise the temperature so I can form snowballs to throw at unnoticing folks. Isn’t that the number one pastime kids enjoyed so much during their youth? Yeah, it is.

A few words on past winters: mostly sucky with a diminutive (at best) chance of a single good week of snow, but mostly just four or five months of cold, knuckle

cracking time to be passed indoors writing papers for some unimaginative class that’ll end up not counting toward my major. I often wish I could hop on to amazon.com and view your lame attempts at past winters. They’d be displayed as “Mother Nature’s Best Of: Winter 2006 - DVD Collector’s Edition.” The DVD’s price would be \$.01 cent with \$3.99 shipping and be awarded one out of five stars. That’s like one full star next to four unfilled stars. That sucks.

There you go, Momma, now haul your ass back to the drawing board and sketch some new plans to make this the most bombastic winter anyone in River Falls has ever seen—even the Minnesotans.

I look forward to my second snow day here at school. I look forward to the e-mail I’ll get from some professor who knew damned well he or she could have made it to campus, but thought it best to just sleep in.

Let’s go here, Momma. I really don’t want to have to call upon our local Irish Mafia to get involved here, but I’ll do what I have to do to get some results around here. And you, my faithful readers and appreciators, send Momma some mail. Let her know you want change and you want it now. Maybe we ought to arrange a meeting between Obama and Nature to sort some of this stuff out.



Brad Brookins

... a tear on [Momma Nature’s] behalf would be a tsunami or another Katrina ...

Brad is a senior double majoring in digital film & television and creative writing. He loves playing full contact checkers.

Craigslist offers more than simple items for purchase

Whoever Craig is, he has invented what might be the most interesting list-based Web site on the Internet today: craigslist.com. I have not the tiniest photon of doubt that my venerated readers have visited or at least heard of this wacky Web destination. Craigslist is a Web site that follows the success story of eBay and adheres to the principles of supply-and-demand—nearly everything one could imagine is for sale on Craigslist; one can purchase everything from mint condition Paul Molitor rookie cards to a full directory of ass-cleaning tips (not kidding). That ageless axiom proves true: one person’s trash really is another person’s treasure.

I was perusing Craigslist in the interest of filling my empty time with a few chortles, and perhaps some shits and giggles. Some of the entries I came across were utterly stomach churning. The depravity of some human beings puts me in the awkward position of second-guessing my own species; Craigslist seems to attract the vilest, or at least most bizarre, of us.

The Web site’s section “The Best of Craigslist” is a democratically-nominated list of some of the most entertaining entries. After glancing over this list for a few minutes, I was given a new perspective as I witnessed the extent of my species’ uncouthness.

For instance, one self-described “career-focused, attractive, 120lb woman” submitted a Craigslist “personals” entry seeking a “sexual Tyrannosaur” to meet one of her more unusual needs. Her request: “You must be the animatronic dinosaur from Jurassic Park, and I must be the helpless child (Tim or Lex) stuck in the park at your mercy. You will growl mechanically into my ear and stare threateningly. I will feign panic and search for the flash light in the back seat of the visitor jeep. You will sniff at the window slowly and then release a robotic roar into the night air. I scream for Alan Grant, but your oversized robot jaws come crashing down, pinning me to the floor.” Sounds hot—at least it’s the first Jurassic Park she’s interested in and not the genital-gougingly bad sequels.

Another entry seeks a “photoshop whiz” for an unusual job. “I need original cell phone statements scanned and numbers changed then reprinted front and back! ... There are 3 to 4 bills that need to be adjusted with numbers on pages, front and back. I am dealing with a jealous boyfriend that wants to see my statements ASAP.” This request sounds a little desperate to me. What do you think dear readers? Is honesty still the best policy when your mate is a jealous butthole? Probably.



Joe Hager

One financially-strapped Craigslist user is offering his pet cockroach “Scoochie”—“I have to part with my pet roach as I am no longer able to afford to feed him with the way the economy is going. I have been with him since he was just a larvae. He loves sitting in your hand and watching Jerry Springer, and will sometimes crawl up your pants at night to keep warm.” This entry caught my eye because I am tragically allergic to both dogs and cats and have been looking for a more sterile pet for awhile. Truth be told, I never even considered a cockroach. And according to his owner, this cockroach Scoochie has even been de-wormed and is up-to-date on his shots. Well crap, I’d better update my Christmas List.

This last entry actually gives me hope that perhaps it’s possible to be a slovenly, careless drifter and still attract the ladies: “To the guy who drank from the can of Pepsi he found on the ground ... I thought that was pretty gross at first, but the more I thought about it, the more I was charmed by it. I can tell you are uninhibited by social norms and I find that very sexy. It inspired me to fish a half-eaten doughnut out of a trash can on my way home from work. It tasted awful, but I felt so liberated.”

“To the guy who drank from the can of Pepsi he found on the ground ... I thought that was pretty gross at first, but the more I thought about it, the more I was charmed by it. I can tell you are uninhibited by social norms and i find that very sexy.”

What a refreshingly different love story! Why can’t this kind of thing happen more often? Watch out ladies—just wait and see how much garbage and half-eaten refuse I am willing to scarf for your attention.

Craigslist is truly an incredible place. I saw distasteful and weird entries looking for wing-men to “snag some tail,” “massage swaps,” a female participant in the construction of a “dope blanket fort” and even an entry seeking a lady Canadian to provide refuge, submitted by an American man claiming to know the first line to the Canadian National Anthem and promising to fake an interest in hockey in return for “political asylum—maybe more.”

I don’t know what to think about Craigslist. At the very least, it provides quite the unorthodox outlet for some bizarre creative writing. It seems also to reveal how desperate and crazy people really are—some of us have such bizarre needs that an anonymous online forum is apparently the only solution. I myself hopefully do not need ass-cleaning tips or a sexually-deviant lover promising to method-act the role of a robotic monster from the Cretaceous Period. But if I ever need political asylum or a cockroach, I now know where to look.

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor.

Success waits for those who force through

You might be really distracted this week, with your final assignments and exams staring you in the face. I know I am. Sweating over deadlines, studying for the tests and maybe juggling all of that with a job. It can drive you nuts. The closer you get to the end, the more trapped and frustrated you feel.

In previous semesters I dreamed of jumping forward through time and waking up at the start of winter break, with all my work and stress over with.

Maybe we can view these last few days as more than a grinding ordeal. Maybe they are also an opportunity, a test of the skills that we’ll need to get by in the real world: efficiency, multi-tasking and the ability to succeed under pressure. Whenever we get so worn down that finishing the school year seems almost impossible, perhaps we have different inspirations that encourage us to keep going.

I have a memory like that too. No matter what else I go through in this life, this one experience is always there to remind me that success is not out of reach.

It was eight years ago at a summer camp, with a lot of people my age. I can’t quite remember the camp’s name or all the kids I knew there, but I do know the experience made a better person out of me.

We did a lot of great things at that camp, like rowing and portaging in the Boundary Waters and having a bog

fight on the last day. We walked into a large swampy area, scooped up handfuls of wet plants, and threw them like snowballs. Then there was a system of narrow walkways and ropes suspended about 30 feet in the air. They put a harness on you, hooked it up to a cord stretching overhead, and then you had to somehow get across those catwalks, logs and ropes.

I remember how nervous I was, watching the instructors and other kids in my group do that course. I had never been very good with heights. Even climbing up a ladder onto the roof of my small house was daunting, and that walk through the air was higher.

When my turn finally came I was pale, shaky and didn’t think I would make it all the way through. What made the situation more embarrassing were the other kids all watching me from below; most of them had finished before me. “I can’t possibly do this,” I told myself. “I’m not as good as they are.”

I started walking—or stumbling, really, along these catwalks while I held out my arms to steady myself. The harness would keep me from falling, of course, but if I chickened out up there I was pretty much on my own. Once you started, you had to finish. About halfway through the course, it happened: I froze up. I think I was standing on a log at the time and I just got too scared to go any further. The rest of the course, the trees, the sky—

they all seemed to tilt and sway in front of me. I was sure that this would be one of the worst days of my life.

But that was when I heard a very unfamiliar sound: voices from below, cheering me on. I knew the others were watching, but I didn’t think they would do anything but stare and giggle among themselves at my incompetence. But there they were, yelling up to me with the counselors—even the kids I couldn’t stand. They said over and over that I could do it, that if I had gone one half of the course I could do the other half.

So I opened my eyes, gritted my teeth and finally started moving again. I was still scared out of my mind, of course, but I was inspired too. I knew that quitting was not an option.

Finally I came to the last part of the course, a jump from the last platform to the ground. I took a leap of faith, the cord led me down safely, and everyone cheered. “I was wrong,” I thought at that moment. “I am good enough.” It was an experience I’ll never forget.

Sometimes, you are your own greatest obstacle—you tell yourself that you can’t do something, and then you make it true. But it doesn’t have to be that way. I’ve been through things more difficult than the last few weeks of a college term, and the same probably goes for most of you. So whatever is helping you get through this last lap of the semester, remember that success is a lot closer than it feels. I wish you luck.

Nathan is a journalism major, free thinker and perpetual miscreant.



Nathan Sparks

STUDENT voices

What are you doing over J-term?

Alicia Nelsen, sophomore

“My family and I are driving to Florida, and camping on the beach.”



Kyle Slick, sophomore

“I’m doing 30 hours of observation in a high school.”



Rachel Engebretson, sophomore

“I’m working back home at the vet clinic.”



Matt McKay, sophomore

“I’m taking a study abroad course in Ireland.”

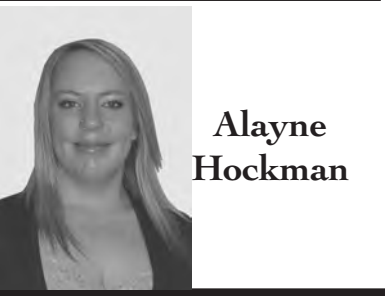


Tony Waldo, senior

“Going home and working, then I get to come back to River Falls for a class.”



Taylor Swift hits charts, numerous demographics



Taylor Swift fans can thank Joe Jonas for being part of the inspiration behind her new album, “Fearless,” released Nov. 11. From your first love to the “one that got away,” Taylor Swift hits home and has the power to heal a broken heart. A new face to the country music scene, Swift has climbed the charts, crossing over to the popular music genre on the radio. Even for those who do not appreciate country music, Swift seems to reach any music fan with her catchy melodies and heartfelt lyrics.

While her voice is not necessarily impressive or jaw dropping, the passion and sincerity in her lyrics are enough to leave you with goose bumps. In fact, you may not realize her songs are stuck in your head until you find yourself humming the tune on the way to class. The first track, “Fearless” conveys the feeling of falling in love when you aren’t expecting it. Like most of the other tracks on Swift’s new album, this one is particularly catchy. The second track, “Fifteen,” is about the naivety of being young and impressionable. The song tells the story of how Swift met her best friend, Abigail, and how they made it through their high school years together. Swift sings about her first date, first kiss and first love and how much her feelings have changed since then. “Love Story” is a sort of fairytale song-a Cinderella story, if you will.

In this slow ballad Swift is Juliet while her beau is Romeo. The couple has to sneak out to spend time together and plans to run away, but she gets anxious waiting for him. At the end of the song, the boy says all the things Prince Charming should tell his princess and asks her to marry him. “Hey Stephen” is probably one of the catchiest songs on the entire album. It begins with Swift humming the melody line and continues with her expressive lyrics. She sings about a crush and how she simply can’t help falling for him and wanting to be with him. The song is basically a guidebook on what to tell your crush if you want anything to come of it. Track five, “White Horse,” is a complete contradiction from “Love Story.” This track is about the disap-

pointment that comes with being hurt and broken hearted. Believing and trusting the boy she loved has brought her to the realization that real life is nothing like a fairytale; she didn’t realize how this guy just isn’t right for her until now. “You Belong With Me” can be described as an anthem for ladies everywhere who have that guy friend who doesn’t notice her the way she wants him to. Swift is singing to this guy she hangs out with, but he has a girlfriend. She wants him to see her romantically and understand they are perfect for each other. In addition to its all too commonly understood feeling, this song is also pretty catchy, with a tempo that is a bit faster than most of the other tracks. One of the most notable tracks, “Breathe,” is a slow, heartfelt ballad about being brokenhearted. Swift

can’t breathe without the person she has to live without, but she knows she has to. This song is perfect for anyone who has suffered a recent breakup. The tenth track, “The Way I Loved You” is a nice follow-up to “Breathe.” This ballad is about finding someone new but still missing that old flame that got away. It’s not that you don’t love the new person; it’s just not the same intensity of love with this other person. “The Best Day” is song is about being thankful for everything you had growing up and everything your parents have done for you. Swift is writing about her mother, which is not clear until the end of the song. Musically, “Fearless” is a step-up from Swift’s self-titled album, which was released in 2006. The new songs are catchier and speak to a wider demographic of music listeners.

Band supplies listeners with originality, locality



As the music industry plunges into digital consumerism and online piracy, it becomes more difficult each forthcoming week to review a new artist. Artists nowadays are so incredibly paranoid about their work being pirated that they have been known to release the album via an

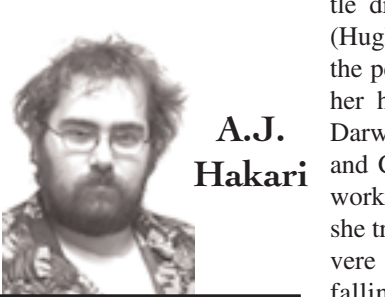
undercover name. For example, the Iowa nonet (9 person) psychedelic metal band Slipknot released their fourth studio album “All Hope Is Gone” under the band name, “Rusty Cage” to prevent early leaks onto the Internet. With that said, I truly cannot find any big name releases worth reviewing. In lieu of the lackluster music selection, I’ve decided to review a group out of our very own backyard, Minneapolis, Minn. The band is Weaver at the Loom and the album is “I Was Searching and I Found.” If you’ve already formed a negative opinion before taking a listen, I understand. Whenever I hear the word local, I am immediately forced into a pity listen. Playing an

endless lineup of the Twin Cities club circuit does not exactly scream “talent,” nor does it shout out “success.” But, for only being together about two years and only dropping a five song EP, this band will not remain a secret for long. They are a diamond in the rough. The debut EP, “I Was Searching and I Found,” is almost a mini concept album, one in which the listener is thoroughly pleased with each ongoing second. It’s not the type of album that you listen to once and shove to the side in search of another artist. This album begs you to click repeat and let yourself go into the soothing euphoria that is Weaver at the Loom (WATL). Although each song is uniquely written, they flow

seamlessly into a saga. Each track is overwhelming with emotion and engages the listener with mindless melodies and breathtaking choruses along with epic guitar work. The album brings an almost scholarly approach to its listeners. WATL makes it widely known that a majority of the members are developed and skilled musical students. It’s pretty obvious, most EPs touch the surface of what a band has to offer and gets a listener ready for the real deal, but WATL is just too impressive with their debut. Each song has a ballpark average of about six minutes and, before you know it, you’re onto the next track wondering how many times you’ve listened to the album. My personal favorite

track of the debut, “You Can’t Enjoy Life Before and After,” is almost a clash between a more composed Death Cab tune comfortably woven with your favorite Straylight Run track. The acoustic guitar and piano melodies flow interwoven calmly through your tympanic membrane producing sheer musical beauty. I’m sad I discovered such an incredible band so late, but am absolutely ecstatic for future releases. If there is any album you buy this year, disc and all, not that digital media crap, it’s “I Was Searching and I Found”. I recommend this to all listeners, enjoy as I have, please.

‘Australia’ evokes disagreement amongst reviewers



It’s never a good sign when the projectionist tells you to pack a lunch before watching a movie. This happened to me when I went to go see “Australia,” a big slice of epic pie from “Moulin Rouge!” director Baz Luhrmann. I took my friend’s words with a grain of salt, since I dug Luhrmann’s crazy revisionist musical and assumed the man would employ similarly stylistic flair to his latest project. Unfortunately, a rude awakening awaited me as “Australia’s” beginning credits rolled. What begins as a plucky tribute to the sweeping epics of yore soon sours up and turns into a bloated example of melodramatic storytelling at its most taxing. “Australia” starts off in the early days of World War II. Feisty socialite Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman) has had enough of her absentee husband, making the lengthy trek from England to Darwin, Australia to check on the cattle ranch he’s become so engrossed in. But not only has Sarah’s husband bit the big one, but local baron King Carney (Bryan Brown) is hell-bent on claiming the ranch and completing his stranglehold on the Australian beef market. Of course, Sarah isn’t going to take this sitting down, so after recruiting a rugged cat-

tle driver known as Drover (Hugh Jackman), she makes the perilous journey to move her herd from the ranch to Darwin. Time, the elements, and Carney’s lackeys are all working against Sarah, but she tries her hardest to persevere in spite of it all, even falling hopelessly in love with the dashing Drover in the process. I understand perfectly what “Australia” is going for. It’s a modern-day ode to classic Hollywood epics that focused on the indomitability of the human spirit, even in the harshest of conditions. As it turns out, the indomitability of the human spirit is about as interesting as watching cheese age, or at least that’s how it is in this endeavor. The trouble is that the movie overestimates its own strength and depends way too much on the story’s backdrop to carry it to the finish line. Luhrmann focuses most of his energy on playing up the film’s spectacle angle, which ends up making “Australia” look fantastic, but ultimately feel semotionally hollow. The absence of a tongue-in-cheek spirit only confirms the fact that Luhrmann unwisely took this project on with the straightest of faces, resulting in a dour, molasses-like pacing that hinders the film’s last couple of acts. On a visual front, though, “Australia” has it made, with some of the most gorgeous cinematography you’ll ever see in a film this year. Luhrmann does a fantastic job of capturing the beauty of the Australian wilderness (too bad nothing interesting happens in it). Plus, despite the hokey material, Kidman

and Jackman each deliver crackerjack turns, with the latter doing an especially solid job of playing the picture’s rough-and-tumble protagonist. Had the story not been so flavorless and the characterizations so one-dimensional, there would have been potential for a big, burly and bustling adventure out of this premise. Instead, the most “Australia” will inspire viewers to experience the down under themselves is in cracking open a can of Foster’s.

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



Early on in “Australia,” as Nicole Kidman is shuttled across the Outback for the first time, she spies a kangaroo racing alongside her jeep. Immediately taken with its grace and poise, Kidman sees herself in the creature: majesty, sprinkled with duty, driven by instinct. It is a moment of inward reflection cut short only by a bullet, and Kidman’s piercing scream that follows. The scene sets the tone for Baz Luhrmann’s sweeping

spectacle; there is great beauty to be found in Australia, but this curious sense of intrigue masks a near poetic brutality. The project is a pure labor of love for Luhrmann, who has crafted an ode to his homeland of Australia, never shying away from letting his patriotism paint the picture, colors running down the screen in rivulets of nationalism and pride. But the movie goes beyond simple love-letting, tapping into the almost elemental human desire of romance for romance’s sake. “Australia” is a tour-de-force of cinematic nostalgia, a picture that resonates with the loving scope and grandiose experimentation of past epics, and is powered by the same blood and energy as “Gone with the Wind” or “Ben-Hur.” Size may not matter, but it sure helps, and “Australia” can’t help but get carried away in the wake of its powerful imagery, beautiful scenery and grassroots storytelling. Lady Sarah Ashley (Kidman) travels down under in the footsteps of her aristocratic husband, attempting to salvage or sell their failing cattle ranch, only to find herself widowed by the tip of a glass-edged spear. Taking the reins, Ashley hires the services of a stock man (Hugh Jackman) called only the Drover, a purposefully ambiguous name for the cryptic embodiment of tall, dark and handsome. As the pair try to herd 2,000 head across an unforgiving landscape, they become spiritually entwined with the plight of the Lost Generation, the outcast cast of mixed-eth-

nicity children stolen into government work camps. And if minor social deconstruction mixed in with the old-fashioned excitement of epic chase scenes, espionage and mystery isn’t enough to inch you to the edge of your seat, all of this is back dropped by the Japanese invasion of Australia in World War II. The script, co-penned by Luhrmann, quickly bites off almost more than it can chew, weaving a multitude of subplots in, around and throughout the central narrative. The story, manifestly an exploration of romantic and familial love, trips one too many times over a messy secondary story involving the mystic practices and culture of the country’s Aborigines. But even this sloppy seconds is topped with a brilliant investigation and dissection of cultural identity crisis, seen in the tortured musings of Nullah, the confused “creamy” Ashley tries adopting. Altogether “Australia” is a colorful melting pot of everything that Luhrmann loved about Hollywood as a boy. He stirs all his favorite elements from the classics into a frenzy, whipping up a cinematic feast plagued by a few bitter tastes. But even the hokiest moments of the film are safeguarded by a vibrant pomposity and a stubborn devotion to the pure magic of movies. Luhrmann infuses himself in the film, imbuing it with his same eccentric charm and extravagance. At times this may be shameless entertainment, a melodrama that is simultaneously preposterous and overblown. But damn it is entertaining!

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



United Way soon to be implemented at UWRF

Kelly Richison
kelly.richison@uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students are in the process of starting a new chapter of the United Way on campus, a national organization started in 1887.

It was founded in Denver, Colo., by a group of religious leaders in the city. The goal of the foundation was to improve the well-being of the people living in Denver. The founders began the organization’s first campaign, which was intended to raise funds for charities in the area and to organize relief and emergency aid resources for the community. That campaign took place in 1888 and resulted in \$21,700 in raised funds for the newly formed United Way.

Today, there are almost 1,300 local United Ways across the United States. Each is governed by a board of volunteers from each specific community. The United Way works with aspects of education, income and health of the communities it serves. Its mission is to enable children and youths to receive a quality education, to empower adults and families to

become financially independent and to assist in the development of public health, according to the organization’s Web site.

Katelyn Smith, a senior who is majoring in marketing communications, is the president and founder of the new chapter of the United Way at UWRF. Smith started her work with the United Way when she worked as an intern at the local St. Croix Valley location this past summer. During that time she found out about a new national focus which would highlight the United Way’s fundraising, volunteering and advocating. She said she thought about the students on campus and realized that the University would be the perfect place to start a new chapter.

“What I thought of was well ‘what about the students at the University?’ That could be like a really good resource. We don’t have a lot of money to give, but we have time,” she said “This would be perfect to try to get the students more involved with the United Way.” Smith said that the student group on campus is still in the primary stages of its development. The group submitted the paper work to make the chapter official. The objective of the group

is to support the goals of the local United Way in Hudson.

“The three areas that all United Ways focus on are education, income and health. So we want to strengthen our United Way’s initiatives in those areas,” she said. “They have a food resource center, an early childhood program called success by six and also housing that they work on primarily in addition to the fund raising.”

Linda Alvarez, multicultural services coordinator of the academic success center and faculty advisor of the chapter, said that student groups are relatively new on college campuses and that they were growing in popularity. She said the new chapter will provide students with opportunities to get involved in the community.

“The chapter’s main focus is probably going to be the community and I can’t think of anything better then to be involved in making the place you live a better place for all people to live,” she said.

Alyssa Olsen, a senior who is majoring in geography, was working with Alvarez on another project when they both started work-

ing with Smith. Olsen said that the group is planning to place donation boxes in the residence halls over finals week.

“We are looking to do boxes in the dorm halls at the end of the semester during finals week to collect clothes and food and such for Christmas,” she said. “Hopefully we’ll get some full boxes. We’ll be dropping them off at the United Way, so hopefully everything will work out and we’ll get quite a bit of donations for people in need.”

Olsen said the student organizations are relatively new on college campuses across the country. The group at UWRF is trying to recruit members and get the young people in the area involved.

“We are just trying to get our generation involved because a lot of people notice that our generation is really willing to go out and help other people,” she said. “It’s been a really big success on other campuses, so hopefully we’ll have a lot of success on our campus.”

Slipknot album satisfies heavy metal listeners

Erik Wood

Slipknot, the psychosocial Iowan, mega maniacal, extreme metal band recently released their fifth studio album on Roadrunner Records. Classifying the band after they released “Vol. 3: The Subliminal Verses” in 2004 has become quite the unique challenge. Their previous works were dancing on the fine line

of obnoxious and chaotic metal. The album “All Hope Is Gone” is packed with an immense variety that should satisfy most metal listeners, whatever genre cal derivation you can come up with.

“All Hope Is Gone” kicks things off with “Gematria” (The Killing Name), a track packed with in-your-face riffs and an overdose of Corey Taylor’s chaotic boldness. Lyrically and vocally, Taylor comes off something like teenage angst and truly separates himself from many other “nu-metal” vocalists. “Sulfur,” the second track, keeps things moving along at a pace most classic metal fans will fancy as a record selling track. Fans both old and new will find something to appreciate in this

track. It is not until “Dead Memories” does the album slow down into something avid listeners of Stone Sour can relate to, a power ballad. This is where variety comes into play. There is a sort of alternative hard-rock radio-worthy single feel to this song. Not that this is a bad thing, but it really takes the listener off track from the true feel to this album. “Vendetta” quickly picks things back up and plunges the listener into a plethora of double kicks giving this track sort of an anthem feel. Sadly to say, there is another track that mimics one of Stone Sours’ hit “Through Glass.” Honestly, instrumentally and lyrically “Snuff” seems nearly identical. I wonder when they are playing their

high energy shows, do they stop the show to go through an alternative sissy metamorphosis and quickly transform into the metal badasses they should be to carry on the rest of the show?

Although this album does not reinvent the wheel in terms of nu-metal, it does add to the résumé of Slipknot’s worldwide onslaught against metal. There are a few tracks which provide die-hard fans with the expected brutality so many us desire to destroy our eardrums with each and every day! Even though it took Slipknot four long years and a hell of a lot torment to release “All Hope is Gone,” they packed the album



with enough to keep us waiting several more years down. Maybe there is hope after all.

‘Punisher’ provides audience with unnecessary gore

A.J. Hakari

Revenge films tend to follow one of two routes: the stories are either deadly serious or stylized tomes you have to admire for their sheer visual gusto. “Punisher: War Zone” falls somewhere in between, and that’s precisely why it’s not so great of a movie. This latest comic-to-screen adaptation dips its fingers in grim storytelling and gory theatrics, though it never brings both together in cinematic harmony. “War Zone” is a movie in search of a home, but its unwillingness to plant its roots leads to its eventual but entertaining undoing.

criminal empire Castle stole from him, Jigsaw sets about recruiting all manner of evil-doers in order to take over the Big Apple. Meanwhile, Castle wrestles with his conscience after accidentally killing an undercover FBI agent, forcing him to consider hanging up his guns for good just when he’s needed the most.

2004’s “The Punisher” was a turgid affair with a straight-to-DVD finish, tolerable but nowhere near as exciting as it could’ve been. “War Zone,” on the other hand, comes across as extremely active and much more polished than a movie with this much gratuitous violence

seems to be having a good time, although his stereotypical Brooklyn accent teeters on the brink of total annoyance.

For what it’s worth, “Punisher: War Zone” is the best of the three “Punisher” titles to date. While it’s not a complete success, it has a better grasp of its intentions than its predecessors, not to mention just the right amount of kick to accompany the action. It’s nothing that you can’t wait to catch on DVD, but “Punisher: War Zone” is still a more rewarding action experience than the likes of “Transporter 3” turned out to be.

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

Ken Weigend

There is an old Yuletide saying, “Nothing says “Happy Holidays” like the Punisher!” Perhaps I am remembering that wrong, but it nonetheless encapsulates the absurd sentiment that Marvel Knights hopes audiences are feeling this holiday season. “Punisher: War Zone” lumbers into theaters, replacing good will towards men with a sadistic wish to hurt them. This new Punisher isn’t a comic movie; it fits more nicely into the slasher genre

and it dumps enough blood to outgun the Saw franchise in the swinging dick contest that is torture-porn.

As this franchise reboot opens on a grimy landscape—one hopelessly conned from the visual style of a Frank Miller comic—I found myself immediately alienated to this re-imagining: gone is the tortured anti-hero, replaced by an amalgamation of the beefed up, stereotypical and boorishly numbing generic action guy.

There is a newly emerging obsession with hitting the reboot button in Hollywood. Whereas comic fresh starts such as “Batman Begins” and “Superman Returns” benefited from the much needed makeover, the Punisher series is here killed in its infancy, strangled by a stubborn refusal to let anything but gruesome spectacle lead the way down a path too-often traveled. Director Lexi Alexander proves nothing except that a woman can make just as bland and terrible an action flick as a man.

by hunting the criminal underworld. Typically setting his sights on those who the flawed legal system let slip through the cracks; Castle unleashes his brand of back-handed justice on Jigsaw (Dominic West), a demented, disfigured mob-boss intent on usurping organized crime. Those looking for anything more than this hand-me-down plot thread dangled disjointedly between laughably pitiful and worthless action scenes need not apply.

Perhaps as jarring as the undulating and perverse love affair with blood is the morose attempt at acting. West wants his villain to resonate with the demented power of Heath Ledger’s Joker, but as it stands he comes off as a pitiful MADtv mob-clown sketch, stretched over an unbearably painful 105 minutes. And Stevensen, apparently cast for his brooding physique and lack of shame, has more in common with an infant born from the Dahmer clan. He utters barely a page of dialogue through the entire script and appears to get his jollies off over committing some of the most brutal executions put on film in some time.

This movie’ lack of style even makes it hard to argue this movie as a form of pulpy art. The action is delirious and the acting laughable, the gore is exaggerated and the plot missing. Whereas most movies of the season are epic, looking to the exclusive Oscar party, “Punisher: War Zone” seems comfortably content outside in the gutter, the cinematic equivalent of a prom-night dumpster baby. The film isn’t a Yuletide treat, it’s punishment!

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

should be. And boy does this flick get brutal, with the opening scene alone featuring more exploding heads and slit throats than in Van Damme’s entire résumé. There comes a point where the violence becomes almost comedic in nature, with the trail of bodies Castle leaves in his wake evolving into a running gag.

At some points, director Lexi Alexander devotes serious attention to building up Frank Castle’s tortured psyche, to remind viewers that he’s still an anti-hero who’s let the darkness within get the best of him. It’s a nice thought, but when Alexander whips viewers from this introspective character development to show people getting blown to smithereens, the effect is more than a little jarring. Plus, Stevensen makes for a pretty bland Punisher, and only West



Graduation marks transition to a new beginning

Adrianne Patterson
adrianne.patterson@uwrf.edu

Snow, the dreadful temperature and the motivation to study has continued to fall as the end of the semester is right around the corner. Yet some students will soon be rising to take the few well-earned steps across the stage from college life to the real world. Three hundred and three UW-River Falls students will be graduating at 2 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Robert P. Knowles Center.

After years of hard work and the end in close view, Marta Olson, a marketing communications graduating senior, commented on her upcoming experience.

“It is definitely a sense of accomplishment. I am ready to start the next chapter in my life. But school is

all I’ve known for so long, it’ll be strange,” Olson said.

The expected two-hour ceremony will include two honorable awards and a few speakers to touch on the memorable moment.

“Chancellor Connie Foster will provide welcoming remarks,” said Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor and dean for student development and campus diversity. Following Foster, Sang Hahn will be speaking as the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus.

According to the UWRF alumni relations Web site, Hahn graduated from UWRF in 1975. After coming to this country with \$8,000 in his pocket, and now making millions selling real estate, Hahn donated \$100,000 to the campus in 2006.

Professor Travis Tubre will also

speak as the 2008 Distinguished Teacher. Tubre joined the campus in 2001 as a psychology associate professor and was nominated for this award by students and alumni of UWRF.

The ceremony will continue to touch on the accomplishments of not only the students but the individuals that made the University a continued success.

“Mr. Michel Beyer and Bailey Nurseries, Inc. will receive Outstanding Service awards,” Fry said.

According to the Student Voice in Nov. 2006, “The Outstanding Service Award was established in 1983 to recognize individuals or organizations outside the University community who have made exemplary contributions to UWRF.”

To conclude the ceremony, each student will receive their few seconds of individual victory.

“I look forward to walking and having my name called, switching the tassel as well,” Olson said.

Beyond the excitement that will take place during the ceremony, students, family and friends will have the opportunity to experience the special day at the graduation brunch. The brunch will be held prior to the graduation ceremony from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom at the University Center. Brunch reservations must be made by Dec. 15.

Immediately after the ceremony, graduates and their invited guests are welcomed to attend the reception held in the Knowles Center.

After the day is done and the

moments are only memories, students and graduates can view the graduation ceremony on the UWRF Web site. The ceremony will be streaming live on the Internet for all viewers to see. The live stream is free of charge and only requires Windows Media Player to view the event.

For all graduating students, family and friends, the commencement ceremony marks both an exciting and emotional event. This moment marks the end of loads of homework, long study hours and a successful college experience.

“I don’t anticipate anything negative about the ceremony,” Scott Kelly, a business administration graduating senior, said. “It represents a sense of accomplishment and achievement.”

Presenting the UWRF class of fall ‘08

Abts, Michelle M.	Crass, David B.	Halse, Christopher M.	Lierman, Eric G.	Peterson, Andrea D.	Stevens, Tyler J.
Adams, Leah A.	Crawmer, Benjamin J.	Halverson, Abby A.	Lilienthal, Jonathan M.	Peterson, Lindy J.	Sura, Diana L.
Ali, Syed H.	Daug, Kayleigh	Halverson, Alex R.	Lind, Andrew D.	Pettis, Cedric A.	Svoma, Whitney O.
Almsted, Kenneth J.	Davis, Matthew S.	Hanlon, Katherine E.	Lo Vang	Pfremmer, Todd J.	Swanson, Kelsey M.
Alverson, Aliza	Defenbaugh, Michael D.	Hanson, Heather J.	Loenser, Evan C.	Phelps, Melissa C.	Szatkowski, Jon D.
Ambrus, Mariah K.	Delany, James M.	Hanson, Nicole L.	Louden, Rebecca R.	Phillips, Stephanie L.	Teich, Derick J.
Anderson, Hayley A.	Derheim, Bryan S.	Hanson, Stephanie J.	Lowry, Brandon J.	Piazza, Victor G.	Tennyson, Justin J.
Anderson, Jay M.	Devries, Andrew M.	Harsdorf, Laura A.	Luedtke, Erin B.	Pizinger, Chrystal A.	Tholl, Megan A.
Anderson, Jennifer M.	Diaby, Lalla F.	Hawley, Samantha J.	Luks, Julie A.	Possehl, Eric S.	Thompson, Theresa A.
Anderson, Joseph A.	Dolan, Troy C.	Heiden, Allison M.	Lutes, Melissa M.	Prochazka, Amanda S.	Thoreson, Kristy M.
Anderson, Kacie J.	Donovan, Kyle P.	Heinbuch, Tracy L.	Mallet, Laura K.	Prokott, Mindy E.	Tillman, Lindsey L.
Anderson, Kyle R.	Dornseif, Erick D.	Helgeson, Nicole L.	Marshall, Karwee A.	Raabe, Jennifer L.	Tolliver, Raymond F.
Aro, Kelsie M.	Douglas, Sara L.	Hendrickson, Troy J.	Martin, Drew W.	Racanelli, Theresa M.	Tomaszewski, Naomi L.
Aviles, Teresa M.	Doyle, Jeremy A.	Henry, Kate F.	Martinez, Dylan B.	Radke, Brook A.	Trantow, Alicia M.
Baatz, Madeline A.	Drach, Tyler M.	Henslin, Peter R.	Martinson, Nathan M.	Raether, Danielle E.	Trem, Alecia F.
Babik, Brittany A.	Dunbar, Ryan P.	Her, Shang	Marty, Nicholas B.	Raleigh, William P.	Trimbo, Rory D.
Bahr, Mathew M.	Dunse, Amber M.	Herbison, James H.	Matuszak, Paula J.	Ramberg, Scott G.	Triviski, Michael R.
Baldwin, Kevin E.	Duzy, Michael D.	Hermanson, Lisa M.	Mayfield, Aaron G.	Reeves, Jessica M.	Vanden Branden, Theresa Y.
Barnett, Bethany S.	Dzienkowski, Cindy K.	Hickman, Blake W.	McDermott, Erin T.	Reichert, Emily D.	Vandenhoy, Rebecca A.
Bartel, Rachel M.	Eddy, Kenneth	Hoffelt, Brian J.	McHenry, Sarah E.	Reinbold, Sean M.	Vanderloop, Heidi M.
Bates, Michael D.	Eller, Cory J.	Hovseth, Rebecca A.	McKay, Jaclyn D.	Richter, Cale R.	Vang, Mayku B.
Bauer, Erica C.	Elwell, Lindsay E.	Howard, Natacia N.	McLean, Kelsey M.	Richter, Dereck J.	Vang, Xang
Bauer, Jacquiline S.	Ericksen, Devon A.	Hoyhtya, Kathryn J.	McMillan, Colleen M.	Riegert, Patty L.	Vogt, Cassie I.
Becker, Jodi L.	Erickson, Gregory P.	Huber, Jarred C.	McNaughton, Nathan D.	Rierner, Anthony J.	Vorpahl, Laura S.
Bell, Michael J.	Erickson, Jay R.	Huftel, Vanessa C.	McNeal, Jennifer A.	Roberts, Amber K.	Wachsmuth, John D.
Bemowski, Angela M.	Fahrendorff, Tracy M.	Hunstock, Meghan	Mealman, Megan M.	Roettger, Patricia A.	Wallin, Danielle M.
Bender, Carrie N.	Fallon, Megan M.	Husmoen, Derek H.	Melchert, Jeremy A.	Ronayne, Chad M.	Wangstad, Michael A.
Bensen, Katherine K.	Farvour, Maren E.	Ida, Marie S.	Merchant, Marissa D.	Rondeau, Cory M.	Wegner, Emily J.
Bergman, Jessica M.	Felts, Tialynn T.	Ingalls, Susan D.	Metzler, Amanda M.	Ryan, Sheena M.	Weisenbeck, Erin L.
Berning, Amber	Ferguson, Matthew R.	Jamison, Jennifer L.	Meyer, Nicole M.	Saal, Sarah A.	Welscher, Leah M.
Bisch, Jamison	Flatten, Emily K.	Johnson, Drew M.	Mickelson, Tiffany K.	Salter, Ashley D.	Wesenberg, Alethea N.
Bock, Phillip N.	Fleischhacker, Daena N.	Jones, Alexander K.	Mitchell, John P.	Samson, Shelli D.	Wiechmann, Malinda B.
Bonde, Nicole B.	Franta, Richard W.	Juven, Kristen R.	Mlynarczyk, Laura B.	Sande, Trevor P.	Wilber, Rachel J.
Booher, Michael W.	Fredrickson, Candice M.	Kaufman, Ashley M.	Mollner, Heather P.	Sandkamp, Joseph D.	Wilebski, Jonathan B.
Brager, Kyle E.	Fritz, Dana E.	Kelley, Michelle G.	Monroe, Morgan K.	Schettle, Joshua R.	Willow, Nick C.
Brannick, Larry R.	Fritz, Matthew C.	Kelly, Scott M.	Morgan, Heather A.	Schmitz, Anthony W.	Wilson, Marilyn C.
Brown, Donald K.	Fuchs, Kristi J.	Kiesow, Megan M.	Morisaki, Masanobu	Schorn, Ashley J.	Winkler, Sara
Brown, Joel R.	Fusco, Wade J.	Kim, Changmean	Mottet, Rachel S.	Schwake, Amy M.	Wirth, Simon T.
Brunkey, Ashley R.	Gabriel, Nicole L.	Klimek, Brandon L.	Mulso, Ryan D.	Score, Luke D.	Wojchik, Laura R.
Brunko, Jason C.	Gaffer, Kathy J.	Klimek, Leah A.	Nagle, Zachary J.	Seeklander, Ashley A.	Wolf, Angela E.
Buck, Brian A.	Galetka, Tyrell R.	Koehn, Joshua A.	Nelson, Katie J.	Seidlitz, Pamela K.	Wolf, Sean
Burns, Brian J.	Gardner, Tiffany K.	Kolpack, Peter A.	Nelson, Kristina M.	Severson, Andrea M.	Woodward, Joshua T.
Byers, John P.	Gausman, Graham W.	Kopp, Jason J.	Nelson, Margaret A.	Shaw, Adam J.	Wright, Lamandre W.
Carlson, Joshua D.	Geis, Joan M.	Krautkramer, Jessica R.	Ness, Michael R.	Sherburne, Kaitlin J.	Wuollet, Troy J.
Carlson, Rachel A.	Gerber, Andrea N.	Kromray, Holly L.	Nesse, Whitney A.	Sherrill, Patricia E.	Wyss, Michelle K.
Carufel, Christopher C.	Gilgenbach, James M.	Krumrie, Jenna M.	Noonan, Joanna E.	Shilts, Melissa G.	Xiong, Vanesai
Cash Jr., Thomas A.	Glisch, Jennifer M.	Kulas, Quinn C.	Nutt, Karen R.	Smith, Brittany A.	Yacke, Cassandra R.
Cernohous, Aaron B.	Gorski, Emily M.	Kuyath, Kelsie L.	O’Brien, Molly E.	Smith, Katelyn A.	Yost, Andrew C.
Chovan, Michelle	Gray, Angela R.	Lacy, Aaron E.	Okerstrom, Erin E.	Smith, Melanie R.	Young, Sara C.
Cincoski, Kristen N.	Greene, Stephanie J.	Ladlie, Tara A.	Oknich, Matthew P.	Sorensen, Sarah A.	Zenner, Jolene C.
Cisar, Nikole A.	Gregerson, Jaclyn M.	Lande, Joseph R.	Olson, Katie J.	Spangberg, Amanda J.	Zettler, Andrew J.
Clark, Andrea C.	Grover, Joshua J.	Landry, Tadd	Olson, Marta J.	Sperl, Patrick J.	Zwart, Ashley M.
Clausen, Sarah M.	Grunzke, Jennifer E.	LaPorte, Katherine M.	Orme, Vanessa C.	Spille, Forrest H.	Zweber, Kathryn A.
Cleary, Kathleen E.	Gutzwiller, Jenna M.	Lee, Ma	Ory, Rachel L.	Stanton, Paul M.	Zweifel, Shannon M.
Connolly, Kristen D.	Hafstad, Lucas E.	Leiterman, Melissa M.	Osterdyk, Kathryn M.		
Constantine, Debra M.	Hagberg, Natalie M.	Lenfestey, Laura K.	Paumen, Nicole L.		
Cooper, Victoria B.	Hagmann, Elizabeth R.	Leoni, Megan J.	Peetsch, Lance J.		
Cramer, Tyler J.	Hakari, Adam J.	Lessard, Sara J.	Perau, Scott C.		

Happy holidays from the Student Voice



Andris Straumanis/Student Voice

Left to right: Ben Brewster, Andy Phelps, Eric Pringle, Alayne Hockman, Phillip Bock, Abby Maliszewski, Jenna Nelson, Sally King, Ken Weigend and Kirsten Blake.

Not pictured: Megan Leoni and Cristy Brusoe.