



**MEN'S HOCKEY, PAGE 6**  
**Weak offense keeps**  
**Falkons near bottom**  
**of standings**

**JOE HAGER, PAGE 5**  
**Students should keep an open**  
**mind regarding different**  
**musical genres**

**BAR REVIEWS, PAGE 8**  
**Check out the hot**  
**spots, nightly specials**  
**in River Falls**



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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## Van Galen officially named UWRF chancellor

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A new UW-River Falls chancellor was officially named at the Jan. 16 UW System Board of Regents meeting, after being recommended on Dec. 19 by a Regents special committee.

Dean Van Galen, vice president for university advancement at the University of West Florida (Pensacola, Fla.), was named by UW System President Kevin Reilly and the committee, after being one of five finalists selected by a search and screen committee consisting of 19 UWRF faculty members and students.

Van Galen will take office June 1, and replace Interim Chancellor Connie Foster, who took over when Don Betz resigned June 30, 2008.

"I'm very excited about [the recommendation]. I had a wonderful visit to River Falls earlier in the semester and I think it is a wonderful

University moving in a great direction," Van Galen said. "The focus of the University of global literacy, sustainability and inclusion, I think are very important, and I'm interested in working with the University to move those efforts forward."

Van Galen is a Waupun, Wis., native and graduate of UW-Whitewater, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. He received his doctorate in analytical chemistry from Kansas State University.

"[My wife and I] are excited about coming home," Van Galen said.

The faculty, search committee and the regents think Van Galen is the best choice because he's a good fit for the campus, similar to Don Betz and the late Ann Lydecker, UWRF Director of Media Relations Kevin Harter said.

"He brings a wealth of educational expertise, but also a wealth of knowledge and

know-how on fundraising, which is vital now to most universities," Harter said.

Van Galen's fundraising experience could be beneficial in the current tough economy.

UWRF faces some serious budget challenges, Van Galen said.

"I think the strategic plan that is in place, Living the Promise, should help guide budget decisions," he said. "I do think that over time I will want to have the University pursue increased private support, especially for areas such as need-based scholarships, to help to keep attendance affordable."

Van Galen started his career as a chemistry professor in 1987 at Truman State University (Kirksville, Mo.). He then served as vice president for advancement at Truman State before moving onto the University of West Florida in 2003.

The Board of Regents also named Thomas Harden the new chancellor of UW-Green Bay at the meeting.

"We have high expectations for these new leaders," UW System President Kevin P. Reilly said in a press release. "This is a critical time for our

nation, our state and our universities. All UW campuses, including those in Green Bay and River Falls, will play a vital role in helping local communities face the challenges ahead. Chancellor Harden and Chancellor Van Galen bring experience, vision and demonstrated competence to the important role of advancing these fine UW institutions and serving their many constituents."

Van Galen is a good educator but is also involved in the community and the region, Harter said.

"He's a very community minded chancellor," Harter said. "That's what this campus values."

Van Galen said he would like to continue to support and enhance the University's strategic plan.

"[I plan] to help the University address the budget cuts that the UW System will likely face," he said. "Also, to look at the future in terms of enrollment and to start a comprehensive fundraising campaign to enhance the University's academic mission and provide greater opportunity for students."



*Jens Gunelson/Submitted Photo*  
**Wisconsin native Dean Van Galen has been selected as the new chancellor at UWRF. Van Galen will take office on June 1, replacing Interim Chancellor Connie Foster.**

## UWRF geology professors involved in rare fossil find



*Sally King/Student Voice*  
**UW-River Falls geology professors Kerry Keen and Mike Middleton pose with fossils that they helped discover at a site near River Falls last December.**

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A rare fossil was discovered near River Falls in December, and since the find, the fossils have been promoted by the UW-River Falls geology department in multiple ways. As a result, more interesting things have been uncovered in the area.

Steve Thompson, a geologist from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, called the UWRF geology department after he uncovered some unusual sandstone formations on his property while digging a foundation in December. Little did Thompson know that the unusual sandstone housed two leaf fossils that turned out to be the only known fossils of their kind found in Wisconsin.

Geology professors Kerry Keen and Mike Middleton were two of the people called to the site. Keen found the first leaf, the larger of the two, and later Middleton discovered the

[See Fossil page 3](#)

## Chiefs may not return to UWRF for training after this summer

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The Kansas City Chiefs may not return to UW-River Falls for training camp as early as 2010. The Chiefs have contracted to return to UWRF for the summer of 2009, with an optional one-year clause for 2010, after which the team will move its annual summer camp down to Missouri.

"At this point, it's not particularly accurate to say that the Chiefs are leaving RF," said Mary Halada, the former vice chancellor of administration and finance for UWRF. "There is nothing in writing between us that says that they definitely won't return here in the future."

The possibility of the Chiefs returning to Missouri for training camp has been discussed for quite a while, Halada said.

Pressure has mounted on the Chiefs to return training camp dollars to the Kansas City area since they moved to River Falls from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., where they had held camp from 1963-90.

The Missouri state legislature passed a state tax credit that awarded the Chiefs \$25 million to use towards renovations to Arrowhead Stadium. As part of the agreement to return, the Chiefs agreed to donate \$10 million of that to finance the construction of a new, \$13.5 million practice facility in St. Joseph, Mo., just 40 miles north of Kansas City, reported the Kansas City Star.

The Chiefs absence would have an impact

on both the city and the University, starting with the care and maintenance of the practice and football fields. According to Steve Stocker, the director of the Hunt/Knowles facility, the Chiefs head groundskeeper, Andre Bruce, arrives every spring to prepare the fields. Bruce brings with him a \$30,000 budget that covers rolling, seeding and repairing the fields over summer.

"[The Chiefs] put down more grass seed on the seven acres they care for than the rest of the 30 acres of athletic fields we maintain throughout the year," Facilities Director Manny Kenney said.

If the Chiefs leave, the University will then have to pick up that tab.

"We will definitely incur additional labor, material and equipment costs just to maintain those four fields to the same level," Kenney said. "I am doubtful that we will put that level of labor and material resources into it that they did."

Beyond facilities maintenance, UWRF would also lose several summer job and internship opportunities. According to Stocker, Bruce hires two UWRF students to intern full time for him over the summer and help work on the fields.

"Recreation and Sports Facilities [also] employs eight full time students from mid-July through mid-August to work in the Knowles Center and Hunt Arena," Stocker said. "Rec and Sports Facilities also employs

[See Chiefs page 3](#)

## University looks inward to prioritize programs

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Across the UW-River Falls campus, programs are under self-review in light of UWRF's strategic plan and in concurrence with a budget cut from the state of Wisconsin in July 2009.

UWRF will define its priorities and use solid information to make future decisions about how to use its resources, according to the strategic plan.

"This is a huge deal," Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brad Caskey said. "[Through the prioritization] we will redefine the future of River Falls, impacting enrollment, marketing and the development of new curriculum."

Program directors on the academic side and administrative side will sum up the importance of their program within six criteria listed on the self-study template.

The criteria differ slightly between

the academic programs and the administrative programs. Loosely the criteria include: consistency with UWRF's strategic plan and mission, vision and values, demand, quality, productivity, benchmarking with peers and crucial information not addressed by other criteria. Each response is limited to 250 words.

The self-studies are due March 13, but the process of assessment and prioritization is different for academic programs versus administrative programs.

**Academic Process**

The academic program prioritization process began two years ago and has about 120 programs involved, according to Caskey, who helped develop the rubric and data that the academic programs will use in the self study.

The self-studies will be first forwarded to their respective colleges where an initial review will take place. The Dean's Council will list each program according to three different levels: enhance, maintain or

maintain/monitor and reduce or eliminate.

Faculty Senate Chair David Rainville said that the Dean's Council calls for 60 percent of the programs to be in the maintain or maintain/monitor level with 20 percent rising to the top and 20 percent falling below.

The percentages need to be approved by the Senate and is anticipated to be on the Senate's Feb. 18

[See Prioritization page 3](#)



VOICE SHORTS

UWRF professor Gladstone-Sovell dies

Tracey Gladstone-Sovell, a UWRF political science professor, died Wednesday night. She was a professor with the department since 1985. More information has not yet been released. A full biography of Gladstone-Sovell's career will appear in the Voice in the near future.

UW-River Falls spring tuition due Feb. 5

Spring 2008-09 tuition was due Feb. 5. Check your eSIS Student Center page and eSIS QuikPAY® for complete details and electronic bills.

UWRF hosts send-off ceremony

On Feb. 11 there will be a send-off ceremony for the 1/128th Infantry Battalion Wisconsin National Guard. The ceremony will be open to the public and will be held at 3 p.m. in the University Center ballroom.

Community food drive Feb. 4.

Four campus ministry organizations will be sponsoring a community food drive on Feb. 14. Anyone interested should meet at Ezekiel Lutheran Church, 202 South 2nd Street at 11:00 a.m. Free lunch of soup, chili and sandwiches to all of those who help collect for the food drive back at Ezekiel Church at 1:00 a.m.

Student Senate controls budget

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The UW-River Falls Student Senate is facing challenges and changes to the campus this semester that will affect students through the poor economic time.

The Senate is working on maintaining a high quality to campus by approving funding for renovations, keeping the increase to next year's tuition to a minimum and preparing for the final stages of the annual budget.

On Jan. 27, the Student Senate on Jan. 27 confirmed a change to tuition for next fall.

"I think that it is a reality with the state that our economy is in that this would be coming," President Cindy

Bendix said.

"We need to keep college affordable but we also want a quality education. I think that our University is working really hard on that."

According to Student Senate advisor Gregg Heinselman there has been an early indication that there will be an increase in tuition.

"We can expect between five to six percent, but I cannot confirm that," Heinselman said.

A small increase in tuition may occur by next fall, but positive changes will also occur on campus as well.

Current research, designs and sketches are underway for a new Health and Human Performance building at the south end of campus.

American Design Inc., an architectural firm, has met with a variety of groups involved in the HHP department to collect their ideas, needs and views for the new building, according to Facilities and Fees Board Chair Krista Hasselquist.

"The new facility would encompass HHP department classrooms and labs, a dance studio, workout facilities, a gymnasium, a pool, locker rooms and offices for the HHP staff," Hasselquist said.

With a vast amount of details unknown, the completion date is unconfirmed, but the goal is to have the building up and running by 2013.

With the economy in mind, each decision by the Student Senate is important and val-

ued down to the dollar.

Each year, the Senate devotes a vast amount of the spring semester to the annual budget.

The budget consists of each student's tuition and the Senate determines how it will be divided among departments, athletics, organizations and events.

"I think one of the top issues we will deal with will be the budget because every student is concerned about their money and where it goes and why they are paying so much," Bendix said. "I think by being fair and looking at affordability as well as quality we will be able to make a good decision on what students should be paying for."

American Pie shuts down

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A new eatery called River Falls Family Restaurant is coming to 702 N. Main St. It will fill the space left by American Pie Pizza, which closed Dec. 21.

The restaurant will have a more family-friendly atmosphere than its predecessor and will open its doors in March, manager Bardhyl Shabani said.

Shabani said he is currently replacing the chairs, tables, booths and carpet. The walls will be repainted and decorated with pictures, and a new drop ceiling put in. Other projects include taking out the bar and installing new equipment in the kitchen. Shabani, whose family emigrated from Macedonia, said the food would be "a mixture of America and Greece...The menu is going to be family home-cooked meals, with lots of specials every day."

The previous business, Minneapolis-based American Pie Pizza, used the location since 2005. It came under new management in July 2008, but closed five months later. The owner of the property, Randy Cudd, said the economy was definitely a factor.

"[The new manager] wasn't making enough to keep the doors open," Cudd said.

Cudd also owns some rental properties and Char's Family Hair Care in River Falls. A series of other restaurants had used the property before it was American Pie, Cudd said.

"One was called E Street," Cudd said (named after the E Street Band). "Prior to that it had been an Ember's, and prior

to that it had been a Country Kitchen... I believe it was [opened in] 1969."

As its name suggests, the newest restaurant will focus more on families than the college crowd.

Junior Tha Cha, who is majoring in horticulture, said he did not know how well River Falls Family Restaurant would do.

"That's a tough one right there," Cha said. "I think half the town is college students, isn't it? But I hope [the restaurant] does well."

Senior and political science major Allison West said she had eaten at American Pie quite a few times, and had friends who worked there.

"I really liked it the way it was, to tell you the truth," West said. "I guess it would be nice to have a restaurant that's family-oriented, but I know a lot of freshmen who tended to go in there quite a bit."

West also said she was not sure why American Pie closed, but that it happened rather suddenly and the location may have had something to do with it.

"[The last manager] kind of picked up and left



Sally King / Student Voice

The River Falls American Pie restaurant closed its doors Dec. 21, 2008.

everything...took the TVs and all. That's just what I heard, though," West said. "I think also the location has some bearing. It's stuck in between the Cash Advance and the [Associated] Bank."

Shabani expressed confidence that River Falls Family Restaurant would succeed, and the location would suit them well.

"It's right on the main drive, with cars going in and out," Shabani said. "Based on the quality of our food and our service, I think we can make it there."

New upgrades in system create a more accessible FalconFile

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After four months of work, the upgraded version of FalconFile was introduced to students and faculty at UW-River Falls this January.

Robert Rust of Information Technology Services (ITS) led the upgrade, and said that the reasoning behind it was to include and incorporate newer features that would be useful to FalconFile Version 7 users.

"There are a few new features that we thought would be really beneficial," he said. "The ability for students and staff to create wikis and portfolios make it a lot more user-friendly."

According to an online brochure from Xythos Software, Inc., the company that created the FalconFile software, "wiki templates helps users easily capture, organize and share

information" and "enable users to standardize content delivery or help establish best practices."

In addition to the new wiki and portfolio features, Rust said searching for people and the file sharing processes are a lot easier and much less technical than before.

"Some of the new minor features include the creation of dropboxes and the fact that students now get 500 MB of file space, which is double the amount they got before," Rust said.

UWRF junior biology education major Joe Saugstad said he was initially confused by how to navigate the upgraded FalconFile.

"My first impression was that 'I hope this isn't hard to navigate,'" he said. "However, it

really was and I ended up just being really confused by the new layout and setup."

“The ability for students and staff to create wikis and portfolios make it a lot more user-friendly”  
Robert Rust,  
Information Technology Services

but that UWRF is the only institution that uses it as a primary file storage place for students and faculty.

"Some people really like [FalconFile 7] and some aren't thrilled," he said. "Some people have been caught a little off guard even though we offered training sessions during January."

Saugstad said he was unaware of the January training sessions.

"I think they should have held the training sessions before most students left campus for break in December," he said. "It doesn't make a lot of sense to me to hold them during J-Term when the majority of students aren't around."

If students have questions regarding the latest FalconFile upgrade, there is Web-based help, demonstrational "how to" videos and FAQs on the main FalconFile login page.

There also may be some upcoming workshop dates available for both students and faculty, Rust said.

"We're hoping to schedule some more workshops or informational sessions so that people can get more acclimated to the FalconFile," Rust said. "We want everyone to feel as comfortable with it as possible."

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.

December 12

- Jeremiah Richard Swain, 20, was cited for ID card violation.

December 18

- Dararath H. Nhep, 20, was cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of West Charlotte Street.

December 19

- Kathryn F. Simpson, 20, and Jane E. U'ren, 20, were cited for ID card violations.

January 1

- Claire C. McDermott, 18, was arrested for OMVWI.
- Jacqueline L. Junker, 19, was cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of East Walnut Street.
- Erik D. Ziarnik, 20, was cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of East Walnut Street.
- Andrew W. Curtis, 18, was arrested for OMVWI.
- Ryan T. Christensen, 21, was cited for underage consumption.
- Thad C. Betzold, 21, was cited for underage consumption.

January 5

- Miranda L. Steinborn, 21, was cited for loud and unnecessary noise at the 200 block of West Johnson Street.

January 9

- Nicholas J. Weber, 22, was arrested for OMVWI.

January 12

- Alex N. Wakeling, 19, was arrested for disorderly conduct.  
- Jonathan T. Lundberg, 21, was arrested for disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer.

January 13

- Michael R. Koester, 21, was arrested for possession of THC and drug paraphernalia at the 100 block of Broadway Street.

January 16

- Rory M. Sampair, 22, was arrested for OMVWI.

January 19

-Zachary R. Burke, 19, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia at Stratton Hall.

January 23

- Emily Geoghegan, 18, and Amanda J. Lindorfer, 19, were arrested for possession of THC at Crabtree Hall.  
- Collin J. Lahay, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.  
- Justin A. Besch, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Grimm Hall.

January 24

- Derek M. Watson, 19, was cited for underage consumption at Park and Main Street.

January 28

- Joshua M. Penovich, 30, was arrested for OMVWI.  
- Allison Wold, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Prucha Hall.  
- Samuel S. Horsman, 19, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Prucha Hall.  
- Anna N. Windle, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Prucha Hall.  
- Amy N. Walstra, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption at Prucha Hall.  
- Kevin J. Jacobs, 18, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia at McMillan Hall.

January 29

- Jenna M. Ohlogge, 18, was arrested for OMVWI.



## Chiefs: Loss of team could have economic effects on University, city

from page 1

four students to work in the Ramer Field concession stand during all scheduled practice sessions. So, we’re talking around 12 student positions lost just on our end.”

A 2006 economic report put together by economics professor David Trechter estimated that UWRF paid roughly \$138,000 to students who worked the camp over summer.

According to Halada, the University has also had the opportunity to purchase equipment and upgrade facilities that would otherwise not be affordable without the Chiefs presence. UWRF has also been able to hold housing and food service increases to a lesser level because of the Chiefs.

“Although hosting a training camp on campus is profitable, it is not all about dollars and cents. When and if the Chiefs leave RF, there won’t be a financial impact that most students will notice,” Halada said.

The impact reaches beyond the University, however. With the Chiefs gone, the city of River Falls would no longer receive an economic stimulus over summer that the Chamber of Commerce estimated at being a \$1 million boom. Both the city and University would also lose valuable publicity.

“The publicity the camp generated was good for the University of Wisconsin-

River Falls, the city of River Falls and the St. Croix Valley,” Director of Media Relations Kevin Harter said. “And it isn’t the kind of publicity you can buy. Print and broadcast media came each summer to cover the Chiefs and in the process put the city and University on the map for their readers, listeners and viewers. National media, including HBO and Sports Illustrated, did the same, but on a much larger scale.”

But Harter said he is hopeful that the impact of the losing the Chiefs will not be too much for UWRF to overcome.

“There will be an economic impact, if indeed, they do leave, but at this point, the loss of publicity would not be significant,” Harter said. “UWRF is, and will remain, in the news for many good reasons.”

Halada added that she was proud of the level of facilities and services UWRF was able to provide to the Chiefs.

“Being one of the few schools to host an NFL team, and especially for as long as we’ve had this opportunity, is an honor,” Halada said.

Not everybody is sad to see the Chiefs leave, however. Amber Bloom was a custodial worker for two summers cleaning up after the Chiefs.

“Despite the popularity and money they brought to UWRF, I am glad to see them go,” Bloom said. “Even though I was a custodian and it was a given that I would be dealing with messes of various

sorts, I do not think that any human being should have to dispose of urine-filled Gatorade bottles because one of the football players decided he was too lazy to walk down the hall.”

Bloom was one of the student workers employed the summer that HBO featured the Chiefs training camp at UWRF on their program “Hard Knock Life.”

“I recall specifically one of the players calling their summer camp at UWRF a prison,” Bloom said. “This seemed a little irrational to me because they had various crews on campus waiting on them hand and foot. Any custodial concern they had, whether it be new sheets or more towels, was taken care of immediately. The Chiefs were also provided extravagant meals prepared by our head cook, Angel, and were driven to the football field so that they didn’t sustain any injuries on the way there. Some prison.”

The Chiefs estimated departure after the 2009 summer is dependent on whether or not their new training facility is done in time for camp to open in 2010. If the new facility is not ready, the Chiefs may exercise their one-year extension option to return to UWRF for 2010. Either way, UWRF faces a future without the Chiefs, be it in one or two years.

“UWRF has been here for well over a 100 years,” Halada said. “This institution has a great story to tell, and we’ll continue to tell that story, with or without a professional football team.”

## Fossil: Professors estimate fossil to be between 135-165 million years old

from page 1

second, a small imprint. The team was able to determine the fossils dated back to the Cretaceous period.

Middleton estimated the fossils are between 135 and 165 million years old.

These are the first reported fossils found from the Cretaceous period in Wisconsin. There have been only a handful of iron-rich stone and sands found in Wisconsin. Two samples of rock were found just a few miles away from River Falls, in Spring Valley, Wis. Spring Valley used to be an iron mining area, so the discovery of these sediments was not unexplainable.

It is not unusual to find fossils from this period in Minnesota, Middleton said.

“There used to be a giant sea that covered what is now Minnesota and lots of land to the west,” Middleton said.

The fossils that are commonly found in western Wisconsin are marine fossils. It is rare to find plant fossils in this region that date back to the Cretaceous period.

“It’s their geographic occurrence that makes them so rare,” Middleton said. “It’s going to be hard to identify them specifically. There isn’t a lot of great detail in the veins of the leaves.”

Middleton and Keen have been promoting their find vigorously. The two teamed up with fellow UWRF geology professors Bill Cordua and Bob Baker as well as UWRF junior geology major Amy Nachbor to write a paper and create an elaborate and detailed poster on the fossils. The paper and poster were presented at the regional meeting of the Geological Society of America in April.

“The find has sparked a lot of professional interest,” Middleton said.

The leaf fossil samples are being held in the UWRF paleontology collection. Upon appointment, anyone can come and view them.

## Prioritization: Current programs may suspend admissions to avoid shutting down completely

from page 1

agenda.

Rainville said that apprehension in the midst of the prioritization process is to be expected.

“You can’t all be winners,” Rainville said. “I would hope that individuals would accept that their program is a drain on the University and accept what happens.”

Current students do not have to worry about their programs being shut down. It is more likely that the program will suspend admissions, Caskey said.

“Programs have come and gone before,” Caskey said. “[It’s about] becoming more lean and focused; you can’t be everything and be distinct.”

### Administrative Process

Lisa Wheeler, vice chancellor of administration and finance, is leading the administrative project team under which about 110 programs are under review.

The completed self-reviews will be reviewed initially by the Executive Cabinet which includes the provost, vice chancellor of administration and finance and the chancellor.

Wheeler said that the initial review is for their own information and clarification.

“We want to make sure nothing is wacky,” she said.

After the initial review, the self-studies will be submitted to review groups who will provide a rating and recommendations on the programs.

Library Director Valerie Malzacher heads up one of the two review groups and said that the recommendations are the heart of the self-reflection.

“[It’s about] what we can do

to provide quality service more efficiently,” Malzacher said.

The ratings and recommendations make the rounds to the University cabinet and finally the Executive Cabinet. On June 1, the Executive Cabinet will share the decisions with directors and begin to incorporate them into planning.

Wheeler said that the University will do everything it can so employees can keep their jobs.

“Eighty-nine percent of the University’s budget [is spent] on people,” she said. “[They] are the guts of the University and the most valuable resource.”

### Budget Cuts

Twenty years ago, the state of Wisconsin contributed 47 percent of UWRF’s budget. In 2008, it contributed 32 percent, with most of the decline in the last 10 years. The cost of tuition has risen 10 percent.

Scant funding from the state is becoming the norm. With a budget cut looming, the prioritization could not come at a better time.

“In a time of scarce resources we want to fund our priorities,” Interim Chancellor Connie Foster said.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reported in January that 45 states are facing budget shortfalls in the current year or next year. Wisconsin’s budget shortfall is \$5.4 billion.

“The question becomes what can we do and where,” Malzacher said. “If we don’t figure it out for ourselves someone else will do it for us.”



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## Global Connections Study Abroad Fair

Tuesday, February 10th  
Falcon’s Nest U.C.  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

What did you do this past January, Summer, or Semester? While you were here, many students participated in various Study Abroad adventures. To find out what these students did and what you can do in the future, come check out the Global Connections Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, February 10th in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Here you can speak with Instructors of the various programs, discover information about financial assistance, and talk with representatives and past participants from the multitude of Study Abroad semesters, tours, and institutions available. These representatives will answer your questions and offer advice. Whether you want to travel for ten days or up to a year, the Fair is the perfect place to begin your study abroad experience. A few minutes at the Falcon’s Nest on February 10th could lead to a lifetime of memories.

**For more information, contact Global Connections at 102 Hagestad Hall or visit [www.uwrf.edu/globalconnections](http://www.uwrf.edu/globalconnections)**



## Lady Katherine

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EDITORIAL

Failing economy threatens students

There is no way to sugarcoat it: the economy is in trouble. The American people have entered a severe economic recession, leading to rising unemployment. UW-River Falls graduates are entering a workplace brought to its knees by an anemic job market. Students need to be aware of this, taking steps in their academic career as early as possible to set themselves apart from the rest of the pack. The easiest thing students can do is take their schoolwork seriously. Class projects, when done well, will not only get the sort of grade employers like to see, they can be put into personal portfolios. Students’ ability to survive in the cutthroat private sector will depend on their ability to stand apart from and ahead of the rest of their competition. Beyond the classroom, UWRF provides a wealth of services free-of-charge. One such resource is the Career Center, located in Hagestad Hall, staffing a team of professionals well educated in business practices. Any student, regardless of class standing or major, can check out Career Services to go over résumé writing, cover letter composition, successful interview skills and a host of other tips and tricks helpful towards positive personal marketing after college.

The most important tool in a student’s arsenal, more crucial than a quality portfolio or a trip to the Career Center, is self-motivation. Every change, every advantage that any graduate has must start with the individual. It is a dog-eat-dog world, and the idea of handouts ranks right up there with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. The times are tough; graduates must be even tougher, taking the initiative to create their own fortune. Few people are guaranteed jobs out of college, but there are ways individuals can better their chances for hire. Get started before your last semester too; building up a quality portfolio and searching for jobs take time. Don’t leave these things until the last minute and find yourself scrambling. Part of the fees and tuition every student pays go towards providing free services—take advantage of them. Every college campus, including ones that have a more prestigious reputation than UWRF in the minds of employers, produces graduating seniors with 4.0 GPAs. UWRF graduates must make sure that employers take notice of UWRF alumni, bursting on the scene in ways that will make employers’ heads’ turn. Otherwise, they will be left asking the question, “Why hire a Falcon?”

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

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By Emily Eck

More to ‘pro-life’ belief than anti-abortion

The pro-life movement is a huge faction in this country. It is generally thought of as a movement of people who do not support abortion in any form, based off of a moral and/or theological objection. But have you ever really read into what it means to be “pro-life?”

Obviously this group of people does not support abortion in any form (except some liberal pro-lifers support abortion in the case of rape and incest), and most of them ALSO do not support access to affordable birth control, and support abstinence-only education in public schools.

Birth control is referred to as “chemical abortion” by pro-life groups. They see using birth control as denying God’s gift of life.

Unfortunately, this ideology has made way into the realm of public policy and many family planning clinics (the Planned Parenthoods) now receive little to no federal funding for the services they provide to generally young low-income women.

And thanks to a last minute executive order by former President George W. Bush, all health care workers now have the legal right to deny women information about birth control and abortion, based on a moral objection the professional has.

This means that pharmacists do not

have to fill birth control prescriptions, doctors do not have to discuss birth control or abortion options with patients and emergency rooms can deny patients emergency contraception (a.k.a. the morning after pill).

Abstinence-only education in public schools teaches children not to have sex until marriage, that condoms are prone to fail, teach false information about the risks of abortion and do not provide education about birth control methods.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (a government agency) in 2007 the teen pregnancy rate increased 6 percent nationwide, and in 2008, one in four girls between the ages of 14 and 19 had a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD). This means that 3.2 million

teenage girls are infected with a STD. Do you see a connection?

Also, this group of moral crusaders generally does not support social programs that help low-income women and families. So, if women do not have

accurate information about sex, poor access to birth control and have no

... if women do not have accurate information about sex, poor access to birth control and have no choice but to keep their child, what do people involved in the pro-life movement expect young people to do?

choice but to keep their child, what do people involved in the pro-life movement expect young people to do?

Babies are expensive and generally young families need financial support. There doesn’t seem to be any compassion for the life of the baby after it has left the womb, or empathy for the mother and family of the child.

Finally, what about support for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the death penalty?

Generally, people on the pro-life side of the argument (conservatives) are also ardent supporters of these wars and capital punishment.

War causes death and destruction no matter what the circumstances, and the death penalty needs no explanation. How come they don’t support life above all else in these circumstances, regardless of the necessity for war or punishment they feel is appropriate in these situations?

So if you are ever in an argument about the pro-life and pro-choice movements, please refer to pro-lifers by the more accurate label of anti-choice.



Teresa Pollock

Passion plays an important role in balanced lifestyles

Do you have a passion? Is this passion a hobby of yours? Do you frequently get lost in pursuing this passion?

I hope so because for many of us passion is the ingredient that has been missing from our lives.

Some people feel that they are too busy to pursue a passion. Being too busy for a passion should be a big warning sign that you ought to look at what you are doing with your life.

Passions play a special part in grounding us. They make us feel safe and centered when we would otherwise might feel pulled in a million directions.

So what is your passion? Chances are if you don’t have one now, you did have one when you were a child. In fact, we are so ambitious when we are children that we may have had many passions that we pursued.

Try to remember some of the more long-standing hobbies you had and ask yourself why you moved away from them. If you are completely lost, ask a parent, grandparent or older sibling what it was that we seemed to get a charge from when we were a kid.

Of course some of our passions may seem rather childish to us now, but ask yourself what past spirited participation in those endeavors like; play dough, baseball, the easy

bake oven, piano, lincoln logs, chia-pet or water colors, says about you. What was budding there?

Just so you know, I am a convert to this idea. You see, when I met my wife I didn’t think about my non-work passions. I had many things that I used to love to do when I was a kid, but I thought hobbies were long behind me. I also didn’t think having passionate pursuits outside of my work was an efficient way to use my time; TV or Internet was better.

However, when I was challenged by my wife to get a hobby in my life I found that I could easily reconnect to my past joys.

I always loved exploring the great outdoors and I also loved fiddling with the camera. I combined the two. I now do nature photography.

This passion/hobby comes so natural to me that I can take it up at anytime I want and be immediately immersed in it. An instant break from reality.

Good luck pursuing your passion and I hope that it can give you a needed break from the stresses and strains of your daily grind.

Mark is a licensed psychologist experienced in individual and group counseling, specializing in treating adjustment, depression and anxiety issues.

Mark’s focus is on helping people develop and find balance between their sense of belonging, independence, mastery and generosity.



Mark Huttemier

Passions play a special part in grounding us. They make us feel safe and centered when we would otherwise might feel pulled in a million directions.

Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor.

Submit your letter to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com) or deliver it in the box outside 304 North Hall.



# Musical taste requires no analysis or routine

Conversations and interactions I’ve had with my peers during my 4 million years as an undergrad have left me with an unsettled feeling toward the state of music.

On one hand, the state of music production has never thrived quite like it is right now. The abundance of personal computers, the wide availability of professional-grade recording and mixing software and the advent of online music distribution—namely Web sites like MySpace, YouTube and others—have all combined to make music easy and cheap to create. This has opened the door to all sorts of motivated, amateur musicians, giving them an opportunity to practice and share their craft.

However, there is a part of me that is dismayed by the way many my age approach the simple enjoyment of music.

One useless debate that continually irks me is that of “mainstream versus independent” music. It’s ridiculous how often I hear the phrase “Oh, I don’t listen to mainstream music; I only like obscure, independent artists.”

This ideology is, no offense, incredible in its small-mindedness. With one fell swoop, these unfortunate souls have completely sliced themselves off from an entire cross-section of music. Being “mainstream” or “independent” doesn’t make an artist or a song any better or worse. Music is, at the simplest level, an appealing arrangement of sound and rhythm that should speak to the listener in some way. That’s it. In an ideal world, music would be enjoyed with a mindset that is free from the silly cultural connotations of “mainstream versus independent.”

This goes for genres of music as well. I used to think I hated rap and I would tell people as much. But in recent years I’ve developed a love for hip-hop—I just had to open my ears enough to take it seriously. For me, it was the same with country music.

I once foolishly discounted the entire genre until I explored it enough to find the acoustic pleasures of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, the classic 40s twang of Hank Williams and a

whole selection of ancient Appalachian bluegrass, folk and American roots music.

Again, because a song or an artist is categorized into a certain genre doesn’t give any real indication of its quality or value as enjoyable music.

One silly new genre that has unfortunately muddled things in the current culture is that of “indie rock.” This genre was originally influenced by rock bands that actually did work independently but now much of what we call “indie rock” is just as corporatized and mainstream as anything else on the radio. Again, this doesn’t make the music in question either good or bad, but can we at least stop calling everything indie rock?

When so many “indie bands” eventually sign onto major labels anyway, it just seems to lose its meaning. To clarify my own tastes, I have to say I do appreciate an artist who can create musical magic without the limitations of a corporate label. A fantastic example of this is my own very favorite musician, Tom Waits. Truly an “indie” artist, Waits has denied the easy path to fame and fortune and instead—even after creating nearly 30 successful albums over his 40-year career and winning two Grammy Awards—chooses to spend his time living a simple, private life miles from the limelight.

Another admittance: I do realize the unfortunate truth of the matter, there certainly is quite an egregious quantity of terrible, horrible music on the radio. Believe me, I know. But I argue that it doesn’t necessarily make the word “mainstream” an obscene phrase.

Ideally, music should stand alone and should be enjoyed for how it makes you feel when you listen to it. People have had this tendency to get far too wrapped up in the details of music that shouldn’t really matter. The name of a genre or the status of a record label contract shouldn’t keep you from enjoying good music when you hear it. Now go forth and explore with open ears, there’s a lot of good music out there and it’s just waiting for you to discover it.

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



Joe Hager

# Columnist dabbles anarchy of the mind

Welcome back, folks. Like an unplanned teen pregnancy, this semester has jolted my attention and alert level into a state of frenzy.

I can’t fathom myself living the rest of my life the same way I spent my lazy J-Term.

Though I was able to rest and sleep pretty much as long as I wanted, I find the mediocre, announced lifestyle of having not a whole lot to do boring and uninteresting.

I’m a guy who needs to run around looking for my misplaced head. I need stuff to do and I need chaos. I like River Falls based on the mere fact that I’m able to choose how much of a living hell my life can be. And by hell, I mean heaven.

I’m a concerned individual. If I’m not late for something then I’m unhappy. I spent a good portion of my break at home, and thanks to the fact that UW-River Falls likes to start classes three weeks after everyone else in the entire world, I spent it by myself.

Even watching a television from two in the afternoon until 11 at night became something of a chore. I did, however, enjoy finishing another season of 24—THAT didn’t make me feel slovenly in any way.

My roommates, in all their infinite creativity, wanted to watch Scrubs all the time. Though I enjoy Scrubs, it’s not the kind of show that makes me feel good about watching at all hours of the day and night. 24 makes me

want to kick ass, but anyway.

So after a week of watching TV and eating fruit snacks out of a bowl filled with milk, I felt my soul melting through my innards. It took me another week to regain my ground, like a former cocaine addict detoxifying his broken self. So, two weeks into break I stumbled into solo boredom and self deprecation.

Many times did I black out in the middle of the day only to regain consciousness several miles away in some random stranger’s basement closet. O’rly?

So I’ve returned! I feel like one of the two protagonists from everyone’s favorite “Beavis and Butthead Do America.”

I am Beavis when, after he so graciously turns to Butthead as they’re stuck in the open trunk of a car traveling 70 mph down the freeway, he says to his comrade “hey Butthead, just, like, jump out of the car and start...running really fast. You’ll be okay.”

I’ve hit the ground running fast, and already I feel like dying, but remember: I love it. Amidst a trembling class load I’ve managed to tack on a personal life jam packed with more crap to do than Satan on Mardi Gras.

I recommend you all do the same.

Get involved. Release your need to sleep in and start taking shots of caffeine while you’re still young and strong. Thriving on stress isn’t necessarily a bad thing when you can control it. After a while you learn to mold and use it for creation and strength.

I wake up in the morning and everything in my room is usually on fire. Once I’m fully awake and realize I’m not actually engulfed in flames, I make a pot of coffee, which I usually down in less than 40 seconds, and begin my day by diving out of my second story apartment window into the flatbed of a rusty Chevrolet with no muffler that whisks me to my first class.

When I graduate I will be the ultimate weapon against stress and sleep deprivation. Like Delta Force, I will be trained in the art of working, playing and operating under completely insane circumstances.

I can dish out 10-page research papers whilst cooking a four course meal whilst showering whilst debating the social issues surrounding ACDC’s “Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap.” I recommend tailoring yourselves to living an anarchic lifestyle now so that when you enter the real world there’ll be no surprises.

Brad is double majoring in creative writing and digital film & TV. He enjoys playing full contact checkers.



Brad Brookins

## Get involved. Release your need to sleep in and start taking shots of caffeine while you’re still young and strong.

# Facebook attracts older generations, parents

Your mom has requested to add you as a friend on Facebook. Yes, it is a reality. Have you noticed it as well?

I, like most college students and teens, check my Facebook routinely throughout the day. A few weeks ago I was looking over my account, nothing seeming out of the ordinary. My awesome bumper stickers were all in place, a few more posts appeared on my wall and one new notification had popped up in my window.

I browsed through my home page, noticing that I indeed had one new friend request. Impatiently I opened it as my mind rapidly began filing through the possibilities of who this new friend could be. With shock and dismay I read the request to myself.

Suzie Brusoe has requested to add you as a friend on Facebook. Confirm or Ignore? What do I do?

Never in my life did I imagine this “horrifying” moment happening to me! Now I’m not an overly troublesome person, but I’m not sure how comfortable I am with my mother perusing through my Facebook page.

Am I alone in this? Is it just me or does it seem like the older generation(s) are starting to catch on to this popular fad called Facebook? And it’s not only your parents!

A few months ago, my boss joined and added me as a friend. The other day I received a request from a friend’s mom. When these occurrences first started happening, it was a bit unsettling. But now, it seems like everyone’s

doing it and seeing adults is much more common.

The days of Facebook being a teen/college student’s application seem to be over. But the question still remains, at least in my mind. Why are they joining Facebook? Do they want to check up on their kids? Communicate with co-workers? Find long lost friends or lovers?

I’m working my way towards being comfortable with it. It can be rather interesting to see the pictures of your boss or the information on your parents. Is this new trend bringing the generations closer together?

I’ve heard friends tell me it’s easier to communicate with their aunts, uncles, co-workers and parents. I’ve heard parents tell me it’s a way to better understand their kids and keep in touch with old friends.

According to my mom, “It’s just fun.” I know we all do it. We all add people we don’t really know, people we call our “Facebook friends.” I’ve done it. I didn’t think about it; it wasn’t hard. I simply added them, befriending a complete stranger—then why is it so hard to add your mom?

I can’t give an answer that won’t make me look bad. I’ll continue to add my elders, but adding my mom ... that might take a bit longer.

Cristy is a journalism major. This is her second semester working for the Student Voice. She enjoys professional wrestling, lemons with chicken and updating the Voice Web site.



Cristy Brusoe

# Four-day school weeks lessen stress, save energy

Bankruptcies, foreclosures, unemployment ... we have all heard the mantra on the news lately.

In fact, that’s all that the news stories seem to consist of now.

People and finance experts are coming up with more and more ways to help people save money in this time of financial hardship.

Even some colleges have come up with a way to save money: downsizing the five-day school week to a four-day week.

Brevard Community College (Fla.), MacMurray College (Ill.), Missouri State University and a few other universities across the U.S. have experimented with four-day weeks.

The result? Each saved thousands of dollars in operating costs, not to mention the personal benefits for the students and staff.

Just think of what wonders it would do for our own students and staff here at UW-River Falls.

Besides the obvious fact of saving the University money in energy costs, it would save gas for those who

commute, lower our daily expenses, as well as our stress levels.

By getting an extra day off, students and staff would have more time to get homework, studying or other work done that’s usually done in a pinch.

Students and staff would be less stressed, as the extra day off could also be used for some much needed

relax time or hang time with friends.

By being less stressed, we can be more prepared for school, which leads to better grades and a better well-being overall.

Some are concerned that this will lead students to become lazy or that we will spend less time on our studies, but I disagree.

This semester, I have a three-day week, only having classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and so far I absolutely love it.

Even though those three days are somewhat longer, having those

extra two days off makes a big difference.

I picked up an extra day at work, so the extra money is definitely a perk, and I usually spend the other day catching up on homework, doing various errands, relaxing or going out with friends when I can.

Although the semester is only beginning, I have been less stressed and get more done than I did when I had a five-day week.

I feel better prepared for my classes, as I have more time to prepare and get homework done.

Extra errands that don’t ordinarily get done until the last minute now get done without the hurried rush.

I now have more time to spend on hobbies than I did last semester, which wasn’t much at all.

Some of that other time is spent with friends here or with friends from back home.

The extra time helps me focus more on school and has helped me relax a bit more. Just think of the wonders it could do for you.

## Some are concerned that this will lead students to become lazy or that we will spend less time on our studies, but I disagree.

Christie is a sophomore journalism major.



Christie Lauer

## [Four-day weeks would save] the University money in energy costs, it would save gas for those who commute, lower our daily expenses as well as stress levels.

# STUDENT voices

## Do you think UWRF should switch to a four-day school week?

Tiffany Pothier, junior

“For me, yes, because I live an hour away.”



Dan Graul, senior

“Yeah. I wouldn’t mind”



Isaac Ramberg, junior

“No. I like the regular school week.”



Teresa Lillie, junior

“I transferred from somewhere that did that and I loved it.”



Tony Yankover, junior

“No. Five days a week allows more options for classes”



Student Voices compiled by Tennae Maki.



# Lack of goals hurts UWRF men’s hockey team

Justin Magill  
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

Bringing back one of the school’s best goal scorers and being picked to contend for the conference title looked good on paper for the once No. 7 ranked UW-River Falls men’s hockey team.

What has not is the 4-7-0 NCHA record (10-11-1 overall) the Falcons have with the regular season coming to a close, the first time since the 2000-01 season they have had double digit losses in the year and only the second time since Steve Freeman took over as head coach in 1996.

The record could have been worse last weekend when No. 12 UW-Stevens Point and No. 14 UW-Eau Claire visited the Falcons, but UWRF was able to win consecutive conference games for the first time this season.

The Falcons defeated Stevens Point 4-3 last Friday and followed with a 2-1 victory against Eau Claire.

Junior goalie Stephan Ritter made 41 saves last Saturday against Eau Claire and 70 for the weekend and was NCHA player of the week.

UWRF was picked to finish second in the NCHA men’s division behind defending Div. III national champions St. Norbert College (SNC), but a tough conference and a lack of goal scoring has put it in seventh place, ahead of Lake Forest College (Ill.), which is winless in the NCHA.

Scoring has been the biggest problem for the Falcons.

Derek Hansberry has 14 goals on the season, 72 for his career and seven shy of breaking the all-time school record; Tyler Czuba has 12 goals, who are the only two Falcons who have more than five goals, and those two can not do it alone for them.

“I don’t know if we have the firepower,” Freeman said. “We lost a lot of seniors from last year and we have a lot of young players. We will have to address scoring in recruiting for next season and add some skill.”

Through 20 games this season, UWRF is averaging 2.86 goals a game, a drop from 4.4 last year.

Seven seniors, most notably T.J. Dahl, the

team leader in points last year, are gone after graduation, but Freeman said the 16 recruits UWRF brought in this season was one of the best classes he has ever had.

The Falcons goals per game average this season is seventh, ahead of Lake Forest. They are the only two teams in the NCHA that does not average more than three goals a game, but the magic number seems to be four goals a game, Freeman said.

“It seems that the first team to four [goals] usually wins,” he said.

When UWRF scores four or more goals a game, it is 6-1-1. Its only loss came in a 6-4 defeat against Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.) from the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), who took advantage of many Falcon penalties, going 3-9 on the power play, a problem UWRF had early in the season on the road.

Senior co-captain Josh Meyers said goals have been scored in practice, which means goals can be scored by the Falcons, but it has not fallen into place during games.

“We bury goals all the time at practice,” he said. “It’s just a matter of bringing it to the game. We have had the opportunities to score, but we have not taken advantage of them.”

Another part of the scoring problem has been the defense not adding to the offense.

On Jan. 3, Tyler Pederson became the last Falcon defensemen to score a goal, which pushed the defensemen’s goalless streak to six games. Bill Pinel leads the defense with two goals on the year.

Meyers leads the blue liner’s with six points (1 goal, 5 assists), down from Jim Henkemeyer’s season, when he scored four goals and 24 assists last season.

“That’s been a major problem for us all year,” Freeman said. “Everything starts from the back end. Puck movement and breakouts begin from there. We have solid defensive defensemen, but don’t really have an offensive defenseman. Losing Henkemeyer might have been the biggest loss from last season.”

The Falcons started their seasons’ first eight games 1-6-1, but quickly turned the season around, at least for a moment, going 7-1-0 in its next eight, losing only to SNC 4-3 at home.



Tennae Maki/Student Voice

**Falcon goalie Stephan Ritter makes a save during an NCHA game at Hunt Arena. Ritter was named conference player of the week after making 70 saves last week.**

However, the eight games the Falcons won have to be put in perspective.

Their 6-3 win against the College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) will look good in the end, because the Saints turned their season around and are ranked No. 2 in the nation.

The other teams combined record is 54-70-9,, only four of them have records of .500 or better (St. Thomas University (Minn.), Bethel University (Minn.), Stevens Point and Eau Claire).

Freeman used the term “puck luck,” or lack thereof for UWRF this season.

The Falcons have had some bad breaks, which have hurt them in crucial game times.

They allowed a goal by St. Olaf College (Minn.) on Nov. 7 with less than a minute to play after the net appeared to be knocked loose. It ended up being the game winning goal as St. Olaf won 3-1.

The game prior, Czuba scored on a wrap-around against Hamline University (Minn.), but the referees waived it off, stating the net was knocked loose, nullifying the goal. The Pipers beat UWRF 2-0.

Most recently, CSS forward A.J. Tucker saved a clearing attempt by UWRF goalie

Ritter, passed the puck to a teammate crashing the net, only to have it deflect off a Falcon player to go into the net, giving the No. 2 ranked Saints a 3-2 lead, a lead they held onto for the win.

“Last year we got a few good bounces,” Meyers said. “We haven’t gotten them this year.”

With three regular season games to go before the NCHA playoffs begin, four of the eight conference teams are nationally ranked.

No. 2 CSS, No. 3 UW-Superior, No. 5 UW-Stout and No. 8 SNC are all experienced and have made it tough for the Falcons to make up ground.

Stevens Point and Eau Claire dropped out of the national polls with losses to UWRF and Stout last week.

Meyers said he thought UWRF would have been in the mix at the start of the season.

“Did not expect to have the season we are having,” he said. “You take it for granted [last season’s success].”

UWRF will close out the regular season on the road when it travels to SNC on Friday. It will play at Lake Forest on Saturday and will finish at Stout on Feb. 13.

# Falcon women have tough January

Joe Engelhardt  
joseph.engelhardt@uwrf.edu

After getting off to a good start in December, the Falcon women’s basketball team is going through a rough stretch, only winning two of their eight games in January.

The Falcons entered conference play with high hopes, but were not able to keep up with the top half of one of the toughest conferences in the nation. Road losses to UW-Stevens Point, UW-Whitewater, UW-Eau Claire and UW-La Crosse have dropped the Falcons to seventh in the conference. Even though five out of the six losses were by double digits, Head Coach Cindy Hovet remains optimistic.

“The score doesn’t reflect the way we played, if you look at the box score, we were right there with them in most statistical categories,” Hovet said.

The inability to get past the tough defense of Stevens Point accounted for two of the five losses, the most recent one being a 75-49 loss at home. In both losses, the Falcons failed to shoot over 33 percent from the field.

“Our poor shooting percentage, both from the field and the free throw line has kept us out of many games lately,” senior guard Jenna Hanson said.

This difficult conference schedule has not left the players fatigued at all before and after games and practices.

“Fatigue is not a factor for us because of the length of our practices and the way they are run. Everybody contributes during the drills,” Hanson said.

Hovet also said that fatigue is not a factor for this team.

“Because of the way minutes during the games and practices are spread out to all players, fatigue shouldn’t happen,” she said.

Even though this rough stretch of games has dropped the Falcons’ record and place in the standings, it has not dampened the team’s attitude.

“The chemistry remains very high and the players continue to have a good attitude,” Hovet said. “And the frustration level has been low because of the way the girls have responded to a very difficult schedule.”

Entering the final month of the season, the Falcons will need to improve on their shooting if they want to win tough road games at UW-Oshkosh and UW-Superior, which are their two remaining road games before the playoffs. The other four games are all at home starting this weekend against Eau Claire. If the Falcons’ want to make the playoffs, Hovet said she knows what needs to improve.

“We need to communicate more on defense, and win the games we’re supposed to win, especially the ones at home,” Hovet said. “We have a good enough team that we should make the playoffs.”

With only six games left in the season, winning the two road games is important to Hanson and the other players.

“We need to be able to win on the road, and be able to stay focused as the season draws to a close,” Hanson said.

With four out of its next six at home, the Falcons will at least have their fans with them entering the home stretch.

# Super Bowl hype is a little too much today

When I was in the fourth grade I was able to watch one of the most exciting things to happen in Wisconsin sports history: the Green Bay Packers beating the New England Patriots 35-21 in Super Bowl XXXI.

I remember that day like it was yesterday. My family had all gathered around to watch the favorite in the game, the Packers, take on the Patriots.

We even got Subway, which to a fourth grader, is quite the treat.

To watch the game, we had this monstrous, old school, tube TV. The knob did not like to work, so any time we wanted to watch it, my dad would have to use pliers to turn it on.

As a kid I remember the hype and pre-game festivities for that historic game were mildly overdone, but now, 12 years later, what has happened to the Super Bowl?

The two weeks leading up to the Super Bowl set a football fan up for the big day. Somehow the media finds a way to talk to everyone, including the team’s towel boy, about why his team is going to dominate the game. Then on Sunday, if you turned the TV on at nine in the morning (that is eight hours before the Super Bowl even started), ESPN had already begun to break down the game.

I love football, but I do not know how it is possible to talk about one game for eight hours.

Then three hours later, at noon, it was difficult to tune into any sports station (unless it was the Golf Channel) and see anything but Super Bowl coverage.

Once the game had begun, the hype did not stop. Paying close to \$3 million for an advertisement is outlandish.

Thankfully there was some comic relief for those fans that did not want to watch Bruce Springsteen do a floor dive into the camera. If you did not want to watch the concert, ABC had a halftime version of their show, “Wipeout.” At first glance this show is ridiculous, but watching an obese “couch potato,” try to bounce from one huge ball to the next is actually quite comical. This was one of the first times that I had ever seen another channel compete for the half time spotlight with the network that was airing the Super Bowl. Yet another reason why the “unofficial holiday,” has become more about what is going on outside of the game, than the game itself.

However, as irritating as all the hype was, the game turned out to be a great one. I won’t lie, I was cheering for the Cardinals, and was bummed when the refs did not even review the last play (I still think it was a forward pass). This game goes to show you that teams are finally catching up to the juggernauts that ruled the NFL for years. The fact that a 9-7 Cardinals team could make it to the Super Bowl, and almost win it, was a feat in itself.



Adam Vircks

Adam is a junior journalism major. He enjoys sports and has been a loyal Green Bay Packer fan since the day he was born.

# Training in Florida all business for swim team

Renae Bergh  
renae.bergh@uwrf.edu

Long breaks from practice and competition can mean disaster for any athlete’s physical fitness. For the UW-River Falls swimming and diving team, the task of staying in shape over the long winter break was made easier by mixing a little business with pleasure.

Every year the team goes on a winter training trip to stay in shape for the second half of the season. This year the Falcons spent 10 days in sunny Key West, Fla. To pay for the trip, the team has fundraisers and pay for the rest themselves.

Although a trip to Key West sounds fun and relaxing, it is not all fun and games, Head Coach Bill Henderson said.

“It’s intense,” Henderson said. “We really work hard.”

While on the trip the team practices twice a day and does dry land exercises in between.

Because individuals pay for a portion of the trip’s expense themselves, it is not required that every member attend. Those members who choose not to go on the trip swim with club teams in their hometown or use the pool on campus.

Senior Rachael Westlund did not join

the team on the winter training trip this year, but that did not keep her from staying in shape over break.

“Our coach left us workouts to do,” Westlund said. “Me and a couple other teammates got together everyday to do the workouts over J-Term.”

Henderson said he notices who has and who has not taken care to stay in shape over break.

“There are ways of knowing who has worked hard over break,” Henderson said.

Among those ways are body composition, endurance and slower times, Henderson said.

The importance of staying in shape is evident, as the Falcons returned from their winter training trip on Jan. 21, just two days before the St. Catherine’s Invitational on Jan. 24.

At the Invitational the women placed fourth with 414 points and the men placed second with 504 points.

Henderson said he was happy with the way his swimmers competed.

“Justice was served, which means that people swam the way they should have,” Henderson said.

Two swimmers who performed exceptionally well were junior Anthony Orlando and sophomore Tamra Knight,

both of whom were last week’s swimmers of the week. According to the UWRF athletics Web site, Knight swam two season bests at the Invitational with a time of 5:30.38 in the 400 individual medley and 20:54.57 in the 1,650 freestyle. Orlando also had two season bests at the Invitational with a time of 5:02.08 in the 400 individual medley and 19:26.71 in the 1,650 freestyle.

Henderson was especially impressed with the two, both of whom went on the winter training trip to Key West.

“They both had outstanding meets,” Henderson said.

The Falcons’ most recent meet was Jan. 31 at St. Mary’s University. The women triumphed over St. Mary’s 130 to 111 along with the men who scored 138 points to St. Mary’s 122.

The swimming and diving team has its next competition at 6 p.m. Feb. 6 at Hamline University.

On Feb. 19 it will compete in the WIAC meet, which will be held at the Schroeder Center in Brown Deer, Wis.

If it qualifies for the NCAA’s, UWRF will compete at the University of Minnesota, the site for this seasons national champions, which will be held on March 18.



# Franz Ferdinand hits a home run with ‘Tonight’



Andy Phelps

After a three-year hiatus which seemed to go all but unnoticed, the glossy, high-energy Scottish rockers Franz Ferdinand have returned to the music scene with their third album, “Tonight: Franz Ferdinand.” If there are indeed a finite number of catchy hooks in the musical

world, other modern rock acts should be getting nervous by now, because Franz Ferdinand continues to churn them out at a breakneck pace. Lead singer and guitarist Alex Kapranos explained on numerous occasions before the album’s release that the band was experimenting with alternative sounds and exploring new rhythmic avenues. “I’d like the next album to be quite new, to be quite different sounding than anything we have ever done before,” Kapranos said during pre-production. Their last album, “You Could Have It So Much Better,” exploded out of the gate with inspired intensi-

ty, but the record was top-heavy and fizzled towards the end (“like a teenager having sex,” as Kapranos put it). On “Tonight,” the Glasgow group slams their feet on the gas pedal and refuses to let up. Although difficult to categorize into a specific genre, this is more of a dance album than anything else. “Twilight Omens,” pulsates with a steady, overdubbed synth beat that should equal bliss for diehard fans. Tracks like “Bite Hard,” “Turn It On” and “Ulysses” are filled with purring feedback instead of the usual violent electric guitar strokes. All the songs on the album play out like a Friday night party scene, with most lyrics evoking adolescent

images of chasing pretty girls, getting high and refusing to worry about adult concerns. “Oh no you girls’ll never know / No, you girls’ll never know / How you make a boy feel,” Kapranos wails on repeat in his unmistakable Scottish brogue. The band saves the juiciest treat for the latter end of the disc, with the brilliant “Lucid Dreams,” which can almost be categorized as two entirely different tracks. The first four minutes find the band channeling the stadium rock vocals of the Killers, while the rest of the song is a wordless, guitarless techno affair that abruptly transports the listener into the middle of a rave party.

If it wasn’t already apparent before the release of “Tonight,” it’s now clear that Franz Ferdinand has entrenched themselves at a level above their post-punk contemporaries, far loftier than their Scottish peers the Futureheads and the Kaiser Chiefs. Tonight sees the popular quartet do things a little differently, but the resulting sound is unmistakably Franz Ferdinand. The collection of songs is an embarrassment of riches that won’t make you want to turn off your iPod, or stop dancing anytime soon.

Rating: 9.1/10

# ‘Mall Cop’ relies on fat jokes instead of creativity



José Cruz, Jr.

Some would argue that the “fat joke” is dead. It is lowbrow, just as the fart joke is, and it has plagued much of comedy since, well, ever. The days of Chris Farley and the Klumps have since come and gone, when you would laugh and cry with these big lugs. Either the humor got more mean-spirited, or more formulaic and over-used. I prefer the latter, but Happy Madison Productions’ “Paul Blart: Mall Cop” seems to be built on the idea that families still get together and laugh at fat guys.

Paul Blart (Kevin James) lives at home with his mom and daughter, who he had with a Mexican immigrant needing a green card who later ditched him, and just failed the state trooper exam due to his hypoglycemia. While on security guard (or officer —apparently there’s a debate over the semantics) duty, he is too busy playing Rock Band in the arcade to notice the mall being taken over by a bunch of skateboard and biker punks.

Since he is the only man in uniform left inside, he takes it upon himself to rescue his newfound love interest, Amy (Jayma Mays), and save the day. For the record, I like Kevin James. He can play the big lovable doofus perfectly, and has

been doing since “King of Queens” started in 1998. But he isn’t given much else to do but be the big lovable doofus. The material is nothing more than a 90-minute fat joke, with the punch line of each scene reminding you of Blart’s girth. The film’s few actually funny bits come from James’ ability to the say the screwiest lines in a deadpan delivery. And as for Jayma Mays, the extent of her role is to

...“Mall Cop” seems to be built on the idea that families still get together and laugh at fat guys.

ness. Yes, it is a comedy and ‘family-friendly’, but that’s no excuse.

Maybe it’s because I’m not the key demographic, and I just don’t get it. But how can otherwise incompetent mall cop with no gun, nightstick, or taser, take down a bunch of skateboarders that do have guns and significantly outnumber him?

This makes said punks also incompetent, as none of them think to just shoot Blart and end their problems.

The cops and S.W.A.T. team outside are incredibly lazy, as no one is formulating a plan or even really seems worried about the whole hostage situation thing going on inside. Again, I may be looking too much into it.

“Mall Cop” might be a good time for the kids, because all of the humor is physical and no one gets shot, much like a cartoon.

But the adults might only find the few attempts to reference “Die Hard” to be funny. However, I will give it this: it has no fart jokes or naughty words, and that’s hard to find.

José is an English/creative writing major at UWRF. He enjoys documentaries, horror and independent films.

# Action scenes compensate for poor plot in ‘Taken’



Nathan Piotrowski

Some movies are made strictly for action scenes. They forego requiring a good plot and acting in order to focus on the fight scenes. This can be said for “Taken,” but unlike most movies that follow this format, the action sequences and the acting of Liam Neeson make what should be a mediocre film a good one.

The creative force behind the movie definitely has something to do with its quality. When three men who have worked together to write, shoot and direct action movies in the past come together to write and direct a more serious film, the result is incredible. With Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen’s script, director Pierre Morel was able to bring to life one of the most ruthless and efficient assassins that audiences have ever seen.

Liam Neeson’s character is a retired spy who has given up his job in order to re-establish a relationship with his daughter. He has become paranoid of the outside world, especially the world outside of the United States because of what he has seen on the job. When his daughter asks to spend a summer overseas, he first resists but eventually gives in to try to look like the good guy to his daughter. His paranoia is soon justified when his daughter is kidnapped while talking to her on the phone. Suddenly the true nature of his character is revealed. From this point on, the audience is treated to one of the fastest, most brutal and entertaining revenge stories to have been put on the big screen.

To say that this film does not borrow a lot from other spy and assassin stories of recent

years would be a lie, however it is cleverly masked with quick one liners or other dark comedic devices. Yet, the chase sequences seem to have come directly from those of the Jason Bourne series. The torture techniques are borrowed from Tony Scott’s “Man on Fire,” as is the kidnapping storyline, but the film separates itself from it by not requiring an overabundance of blood and gore.

The other fault of this film was the acting of the entire supporting cast, especially that of Neeson’s ex-wife and his daughter. Also, luckily for the audience, most of the bad guys do not last long enough to have more than 10

spoken lines anyway, so we are more taken in by the fighting than the poor acting. The only exception to the poor acting is Neeson, who is completely convincing as the jaded former spy forced out of retirement.

What truly separates this film from the others is quite plainly the action sequences themselves. The main character makes short work of all those before him with a mix of gunfire and hand to hand combat, and overall makes both Jason

Bourne and James Bond look like complete pussies. Generally one is looking for something more than just pure adrenaline pumping action, but this movie does it well enough that

What truly separates this film from the others is quite plainly the action sequences themselves..

one can forgive its other shortcomings, if not overlook them completely.

So if one just plainly needs something to turn their brain off to and enjoy this is the movie for them. However, if one is looking for an award winning story and performances, they’re definitely in

the wrong theater. Overall, this film warrants the attention of all audiences, if for no other reason to see what action sequences should actually look like.

Nathan is a digital film and television major with a film studies minor. In his spare time, he attempts to be a professional lottery winner.



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By Jon Lyksett



# River Falls bars cater to diverse crowds



Abby Maliszewski

Ah, yes, downtown River Falls-a place full of options that never fails to please. I’m talking bars, of course. I began conducting my River Falls bar research this summer, taking notes that progressively got sloppier as the night went on. Analyzing the atmosphere, specials, music opportunities, overall cleanliness and bathrooms (keep in mind that’s the female bathrooms only), I’ve brought the first half of my review to you.

### Emma’s

There are three things you will never miss at Emma’s: a diverse crowd, cheap drinks and that I’ve-been-here-for-75-years authentic Emma’s aroma (which actually is more diluted in the a.m.). Emma’s is a place to plant your ass instead of shake it. If you’re looking for karaoke, you won’t find it here. There aren’t really any specials since everything is pretty cheap. And if you painfully discover it’s after 9 p.m. and still need some booze, beer or a keg for whatever the reason, Emma’s is one of two bars on Main that are licensed to sell until midnight. In my summer notes I found written: “From the bar to the bathrooms, it’s like a whole new world, sung by Pocahontas herself.” And although it’s actually Jasmine that sings this Disney classic, I agree with the still legibly written quote. And the bathrooms don’t lock-so get in, get out, and get on with it. I’d recommend visiting Emma’s on a Tuesday night, when Bartender Jack will be serving you. He makes

the meanest dead Nazi shots in town and always greets you with a smile under a waxed and curled mustache.

### Mainstreeter Bar & Grill

The cleanest bar in town, Mainstreeter’s isn’t the “let’s get drunk” bar. This bar is backed by regulars and the people who come for the food-and it is damn good food, too. This January, Dave Wood, a River Falls Journal columnist, voted Mainstreeter’s burger night the number one reason to live in River Falls, saying “Because every Tuesday you can get a dynamite steak burger at the Mainstreeter for less than a River Falls preliminary parking fine.” If you’re not into burgers, make sure to take advantage of Wednesday’s jumbo tacos for less than \$1.50 each. Pair it with a \$2.25 bottle of Mexican beer to make the combo complete. Karaoke runs every other week, beginning this Saturday. Monday boasts happy hour all day long, and Tuesday brings domestic pitchers for \$5 from 10 p.m. to midnight.

### Lazy River

“Eat, Drink, Be Lazy” pretty much describes it all. It’s a place you can swing by, fill the tummy, tip a few back and talk with your friends. Never too loud, too busy or too crazy, here you never have to worry about getting run over. The highlight of Lazy is the outdoor patio where, come warmer months, bean bag toss completes my life. And if you don’t want to meander outdoors (the patio is right next to the Kinni), there’s always good ol’ shuffleboard for some friendly competition. Grab some great grub here between 4 and 10 p.m. Wednesday

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Emma's	Happy Hour daily 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Off-Sale available.				
Mainstreeters	Happy Hour 10-Close	Domestic Pitcher \$5 10-12	Mexican Beers \$2.25	Happy Hour Monday - Friday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.	
Lazy River	Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 4-6				
Coach's	\$3 16. oz Long Islands	2 for 1 all night \$2 domestics	\$3 Carona \$3 Margaritas	\$3 Stoli drinks 2 for 1 Bombs	\$3 Black/Tan \$1 Vodka Collins
	2 for 1 daily 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.				
Mel's	Off-Sale available				
Johnnie's	\$1.25 Miller, Leinie's, Michelob Golden	\$2.25 Killian's & Sam Adams	\$1.25 Miller, Leinie's, Michelob Golden	\$2.25 Killians & Sam Adams	
	Happy Hour M-F, 4-6 Sat-Sun til noon				

is wing night (\$.50 a wing) and \$6 Miller Lite pitchers are available. There are also Monday night open euchre tournaments beginning at 7:30. Lazy River is the perfect bar to bring a date-especially a first date. Start the night off with a meal, play a game of shuffleboard (where you are far apart from each other) and move onto more games that get progressively closer together (foosball, pool, darts). If everything goes well between you and your date, you may be inches away from each other playing Buck Hunter by the end of the night. Whatever you do at Lazy, you’ll always be able to hear each other talk. And to top it off, you’ll never have to embarrass yourself singing karaoke here, because they don’t have it.

### Coach’s

Sometimes it feels like you won’t be served unless you’re a smokin’ 12, but that may have something to do with the population inside. This is the place to be for college students to who like to get a bit jazzed up and shake it to mainstream tunes that make the subs go boom-boom. There’s always something going on here. Daily drink specials make is easy for the college kid to get tipsy, especially with delicious daily two-for-ones from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Buy a \$5 mug, use it every Monday to get \$1 domestics or \$1.50 other beers. Karaoke also starts at 10 p.m. on Mondays. Wednesdays offer live acoustic music and one

free keg. Get up by the bar on Fridays after 9 p.m. to take a free shot every hour, and sometimes the owner hops on a mic and pays for your City of River Falls parking ticket or gives away \$60 in drink chips. With booths, stand-up bars, tables and a back bar, there’s always somewhere to set your drink on. Just make sure you know which drink is yours so you don’t grab the wrong one. The back patio is open in the warmer months, but don’t expect much of a view; sit out there to enjoy who you’re with. If there’s one place that should be private, it’s the bathroom. There’s some magic door inside the ladies’ bathroom that leads to a storage room that male employees sometimes have to access. It’s never been a big deal to me; the looks on girls’ faces make up for the awkwardness. And make sure to knock off your heels as you leave the restroom: the TP that isn’t in the dispensers can usually be found there.

### Mel’s

Grab your Carhartt or come straight from work, Mel’s is the second home to the working man-and woman. The tiny townie tavern has been around so long the stalactites have even started growin’. One of the best days I’ve had in my college career involved some Delta Theta Sigma kids and I shooting pool at Mel’s and stumbling out when it was still daylight. And I’m pretty sure I didn’t spend much cash since the drinks are so ridiculously cheap. No karaoke, no live music. Instead, what Mel’s has over every other place in this town is the best beef jerky. While most Mel’s-goers know it’s a valid statement, you should definitely try it if you don’t believe me. And if you don’t like it, I’ll eat it. Go to Mel’s to find out about rabbit hunting contests, to watch NASCAR, listen to some country tunes or have a pizza and pitchers of beer with your friends. Here they also sell off-sale alcohol until midnight. Mel’s is one of the cleanest bars in

town, even though it has carpeted floors. Mel’s may not be your thing, but if it is, you won’t leave. In my most recent visit to Mel’s I asked if they have any specials. As the tender politely replied that they don’t, a 20-some year-old kid chimed in saying “Drinks are so cheap they don’t need specials-and they still have the best damn service.”

### Johnnie’s

As soon as I bellied up to the bar I started jamming out to the Red Hot Chili Peppers. There’s something about Johnnies where a person can forget all their sorrows and enjoy themselves, the people around them, and the atmosphere. And it’s not just me who thinks this. Five years ago, Johnnie’s was voted one of the Top 10 dive bars in the nation by Stuff magazine. For those who think that’s a bad thing, think again. A dive bar is a local, neighborhood bar where people feel comfortable. If you’re not sure what to drink at Johnnie’s, there are always \$1 mystery shots available. The bathrooms are clean and solid-no flimsy doors or insecure locks. Actually, the whole bar is incredibly clean. There’s a back room where patrons can catch live music at least once every other month. If you follow the Tommy Bentz or Jonathan Earl bands, you can usually find them here. All in all, the set up of Johnnie’s is better than many. Darts, pool tables, and entertainment-purpose-only video gambling machines are tucked in places where people won’t get in your way and you won’t get in others’ ways (it’s never good to walk through a dart game). Change it up, check out a different bar. You may see some things that I haven’t, and you’ll probably appreciate some things that you never knew. Next week I’ll add my reviews of Ground Zero, Bo’s ‘n Mine, Shooter’s Pub, The Library, The Corner Saloon and PR’s Place.

Abby is double majoring in marketing communications and journalism. She enjoys analyzing commercials, products and services.



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

Customers gather around the bar at Coach’s Tuesday, Feb. 3.

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**SAME ROOM:**  
**Feb. 9, Beginning at 8:00 a.m. thru Feb. 10**  
A current UWRF hall resident may reserve a space in his/her present room. Exception: In some instances a student may not be able to return to their current room (i.e. FYE wing/floor). These students will need to sign up during same hall/different room or any hall sign up.

**REDIRECTED RESIDENTS:**  
**Feb. 11 • 8:00 AM - 4 PM**  
A current UWRF hall resident who falls into this category will receive an email to their UWRF account identifying them of a special sign up time. These students will need to go to Residence Life, in the Involvement Center, to sign up for their room assignment for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**SAME HALL/DIFFERENT ROOM:**  
**Feb. 12, Beginning 8 AM thru Feb. 13**  
A current UWRF hall resident may reserve a different space in his/her present residence hall.

**ANY HALL:**  
**Feb. 16, Beginning 8 AM thru Feb. 20**  
A current UWRF hall resident may reserve a space in any residence hall.

**OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS INTERESTED IN LIVING ON-CAMPUS:**  
**Beginning Feb. 23**  
A current UWRF student living off-campus may fill out a contract, but may not select a room. Your contract will be placed in contract date order with incoming students. The only exception granted will be for individuals who meet the criteria and are willing to fill vacancies in South Fork Suites. If interested in this option you need to contact our department at [housing@uwrf.edu](http://housing@uwrf.edu).

Residence Life will continue to enforce the Two-Year Residency Requirement at UW-River Falls.