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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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RIVER FALLS

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# Students voice objections to Chapters 17, 18

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UW-River Falls students and members of Student Senate traveled to Milwaukee on March 5 to voice objections to a listening committee established by the UW System Board of Regents about the proposed revisions of Chapters 17 and 18 of the UW System Administrative Code.

As the proposed revisions stand, students may be punished by the University for infractions that occur anywhere off campus. The listening committee, which included members of the Board of Regents, was sent to Milwaukee to take written statements and listen to oral statements both for and against the proposed revisions of the code.

The committee’s only purpose was to listen and record what individuals said about the revisions.

At the meeting, the committee heard statements from students and other members of the public about issues they have with the proposed revisions to the codes.

Those wishing to speak registered beforehand, and were called up to speak individually by the committee. Each individual was given two to three minutes to present their case, either for or against.

There are four main objections to the new revisions that students from around the state have brought up, according to a press release sent out by the United Council of UW Students Inc. First, is the addition of vague language, which would make it harder for students and administrators to interpret the meaning of the codes. Second, is the addition of the universities’ ability to punish students for outside conduct when laws are already in place to handle the misconduct. Third, is the removal of the right to a hearing and appeal for a student’s misconduct. Last, is the removal of the right to representation at a hearing.

The main issue students from UWRF had with the proposed revisions is that they are not fair to students, junior Adam Roberts, who attended the meeting, said

“The proposals, in short, simply butcher student rights,” Roberts said.

Student Organizations Coordinator at UWRF Jon Levendoski said he did not think the revisions to Chapters 17 and 18 are meant to get in the way of students’ rights. Rather, he said that the revisions are important in helping UW administrators with connecting the dots of criminal activity outside of campus.

“It’s not designed to be nosy,” Levendoski said. “It’s a reaction to school shootings. It’s designed to stop many different things from happening.”

Because these codes are only looked at about every 10

See Chapters 17, 18 page 3



Tennae Maki/Student Voice

**UW-River Falls students dance at the Spring Formal held April 3 in the University Center Ballroom. The annual event was sponsored by McMillan and Stratton Halls and attracted approximately 330 students.**

## Res halls sponsor annual Spring Formal

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UW-River Falls students celebrated the beginning of spring with the annual Spring Formal that took place on April 3 in the University Center’s Riverview Ballroom. The three-hour event served UWRF students music, food and fun.

Students who were dressed up headed towards the red carpet that would lead them to the formal dance, “A Night Under the Stars.” As students arrived, they were filmed walking down the red carpet and pulled aside to talk on camera.

“It’s fun seeing people dressed up and being able to talk to them as they arrive,” freshman Bill Hager, who was filming the event, said.

This year it was estimated that 330 people attended, Area Coordinator for Residence Life Tracy Gerth said.

“It was very successful and shows a lot of work and effort of the students,” Gerth said.

The ballroom was filled with balloons, lights and music and was split into two

main areas. Freshman Ruth Bohnhoff said she enjoyed how the event was set up and how it had a separate place for dancing as well as a place for visiting with friends.

McMillan and Stratton Hall sponsored the event through advertisement around campus.

“We’ve focused a lot of our energy on promoting this event,” McMillan Hall Manager Mike Bremer said.

The prizes given out were donations from businesses in River Falls. The campus received a large number of donations this year by asking local businesses for their help in promoting Spring Formal. The grand prize of the night was a Nintendo Wii.

This year, the tasks of putting together this event were split between Stratton, which handled the decorations, food and song list for the DJ, and McMillan, which tackled the publicity, advertising, ticket creation and prizes.

“It’s fun getting together with friends and having a great time,” junior Beth DeLong, who was on the Spring Formal committee last year, said.

This year’s Spring Formal was different from previous years.

With more money, the halls were able to spend more on decorations, food, prizes and twists, such as the red carpet walkway, Stratton Hall Manager Jared Acker said.

Spring Formal has been around UWRF for at least 25 years. Traditions of formal dances go back to the 1950s, Assistant Director of Community Development and Education Kristie Feist said. It’s continued on

campus “as a social outlet and to have fun and get dressed up.”

The cost of the event was \$5 in advance this year, which was considered low, according to Acker, compared to

See Spring Formal page 3

## Rain garden to be installed in May Hall courtyard this spring

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Prior to graduation in May, a rain garden will be installed on the UW-River Falls campus.

The garden will be erected on the northeast side courtyard of May Hall. The desired date for the garden to be installed is sometime prior to graduation. However, with the frost still needing to be thawed, it is more realistic that it will happen after graduation.

A rain garden is a planted depression in the ground. It is designed in a way that allows rainwater runoff the chance to be absorbed from urban area fixtures like roofs, driveways and walkways.

Rain gardens reduce rainwater runoff by allowing storm water to soak into the ground. This reduces erosion, water pollution, flooding and diminished groundwater because the runoff, filled with fertilizers and other pollutants, is not flowing into

storm drains and surface waters.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, a properly installed rain garden can reduce runoff by 25 percent.

By controlling the excess runoff water on campus, a group of five UWRF students hopes to prevent the sidewalks near May Hall from flooding as well as preventing so much runoff from flowing into the Kinnickinick River from campus.

Mike Tansey, Amber Hahn, Ashley Grundtner, Nicole Flipp and Erin Nyhus are the five students involved with the project. These five students come from horticulture, biotechnology and environmental science majors.

In addition to the water being soaked into the ground, Nyhus said the garden’s plants themselves are helpful.

“The plants will absorb some contaminants while the ground acts as a natural filter to purify the water before it reaches groundwater aquifers. The plant material that will be

used is adapted to periods of saturation, but they can also tolerate drought conditions, so there should be very little maintenance on the garden,” Nyhus said. “The garden will match the green approach UWRF is tackling. It’s going to help keep trash out of the Kinni.”

It was the UWRF grounds crew that brought the original idea of the rain garden to the attention of Terry Ferriss. Ferriss is the chair of the plant science department, and she helped the students conduct a preliminary assessment of the area outside May Hall.

“The grounds crew noticed that there is an excess of water collecting between May and Prucha Halls after the snow melts or when there are large rain storms,” Nyhus said.

After hearing from the grounds crew, Ferriss talked to her classes about halfway through fall semester. She asked if anyone would be

See Rain garden page 3

## State budget delays renovations to three UW-River Falls buildings

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On March 16, Gov. Jim Doyle released the recommended 2009-11 Capital Budget that will involve the appraised renovation of 31 projects within the UW System over the next two years, except UW-River Falls.

According to Doyle’s budget, UW-River Falls received approval for the reconstruction of Hagestad Hall, South Fork Suites and Ramer Field, but any final renovations will not be complete until the end of 2010.

According to WTMJ News Radio, western Wisconsin lawmakers and University officials have complained the plan delays academic buildings on UWRF for at least two years, preparing any renovation for the 2011-13 budget.

One UWRF student feels the same way.

“I think it shows that the priority of the UWRF campus is lower than the other campuses,” UWRF student Kelsey Granger said. “I think that they should be put on an equal playing field when it comes to getting updates and renovations.”

Within the UW System, officials believe that certain changes need to be completed first



Foster

in comparison to others.

“Our strategic plan focuses on producing more college graduates for Wisconsin’s knowledge-based economy, and stimulating business and community growth through academic research and development” Mark J. Bradley, UW System Board of Regents president, said in a press release. “To make that plan a reality, we need to invest in the facilities that will nurture record numbers of UW students and support that expanded research capability.”

The UWRF campus will have to wait for any visual changes, yet the financial means needed for these modifications are here.

According to the Doyle’s budget, the renovations to Hagestad Hall, Ramer Field and South Fork Suites will cost approximately \$12.2 million.

As UWRF students are being hit with an increase in tuition, student fees and classroom size, the expensive alterations caused confusion for one UWRF freshman.

“It doesn’t make sense. If they are trying to cut spending, then wouldn’t [the proposed projects] just add to it?” Rebecca Clafin, UWRF student, asked. “So, what I want to know is where is the money for the renovations coming from.”

Interim Chancellor Connie Foster has confronted the financial issue and reassured

See Renovations page 3

VOICE SHORTS

**Barn Cats to play Second Saturday dance**  
The Twin Cities string band the Barn Cats will conclude the 2008-09 season of River Falls' Second Saturday Barn Dance at the Academy Gym from 7 to 10 p.m. April 11. It will take place at the old Meyer Middle School on West Maple Street in River Falls. Family dances suitable for younger children are emphasized during the first half, with more challenging dances in the second half. The barn dances are a joint project of River Falls Community Arts Base, River Falls Parks and Recreation and Whole Earth Grocery. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under.

**Japanese movie to play at Kinni Theater**  
The film MacArthur's Children will be shown 2 p.m. April 13 in the Kinnickinnic River Theater in the University Center. Directed by Masahiro Shinoda, a renowned Japanese New Wave Film director, this 1984 Japanese feature film artistically depicts the impacts of World War II and the U.S. occupation after the war on Japan and its way of life. It also tells the story of a group of young students in a beautiful island community in Kyushu who adopted the sport of baseball as the emblem of American culture as well as a way to display their ambivalent feelings towards U.S. occupation that was first resented, and then tolerated, but never truly accepted. The film is in Japanese but with English subtitles.

UWRF students ask for cleaner, safer air

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In the spring of 2008, Student Health Services at UW-River Falls repeated an alcohol and tobacco survey that had been administered in previous years.

The findings show that more students care about the air on this campus than may have been assumed. Seventy-four percent of students surveyed said a smoking ban would benefit this campus.

Starting in January 2009, a new survey was being administered to University students and faculty regarding the issue of a smoking ban. The next step for UWRF is to use the data from student surveys as evidence and support when they present the findings to the Administrative Assembly, Keven Syverson, UWRF health education coordinator, said.

The Administrative Assembly consists of department heads and leadership of UWRF. The data will be collected and reviewed by June. Syverson said it will most likely be presented after the new chancellor has arrived.

A rule is currently in place which restricts students from smoking any closer than 25 feet from any University building. However, UWRF is aiming for something higher. A ban that would limit students to smoking on city sidewalks rather than those on campus, along with any other property belonging to the University is currently in the works.

Some people may be skeptical of this sort of ban, but it has worked in some cases.

UW-Platteville currently has a smoking policy that limits students from smoking on the grounds of the university that house academic buildings. With this policy, students then are able to smoke outside of residence halls and any grounds of the university that does not house an academic building.

The proposed policy was accepted, with some minor modifications, by Chancellor Markee and was put into place in August 2008. Richard Egley, dean of students at Platteville, stated in an e-mail interview that as of now there has not been much feedback from students, and that for the most part students are complying with the policy.

According to the 2008 survey, students at UWRF claimed that the place they are most regularly exposed to secondhand smoke is while on campus while on sidewalks and in the entrances into campus buildings.

Shannon Wagner is a junior at UWRF and a smoker.

"If River Falls approved a smoking ban on campus I'd be pretty upset. Outside is a pretty big space. If you don't like the smoke, walk around," Wagner said.

Brittany Machus is a senior at UWRF and does not smoke, but she said she feels that a smoking ban would not be the best option.

"As much as I am against smoking and think it'd be nice to not have to see or smell that, I think it would be taking away people's rights."

She said that there should be stricter rules about where individuals are able to smoke on campus.

The next step for UWRF is to use the data from student surveys as evidence and support when they present the findings to the Administrative Assembly, Syverson said.

"We need to get students to give grass root support," Syverson said, "in order to show that those on this campus actually want things to change."

Professor Hedahl retires after ten years at UWRF

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For the past 10 years, theater professor Gordon Hedahl has called UW-River Falls home.

After becoming the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998 and serving in that position for seven years, Hedahl taught in the communication studies and theater arts department until he retired this winter.

"Though I had a lot of work and grading, and many challenges as a dean, my time here has been extremely rewarding," he said.

Hedahl received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Dakota, with his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Before coming to UWRF, he spent 22 years at UW-Whitewater, including serving as vice provost and doing work for the UW System.

"From UW-Whitewater I spent six years at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts," he said.

During his 10 years at UWRF, Hedahl was active in teaching in study abroad programs in Scotland and the International Traveling Classroom.

"I enjoy when the light bulb goes on for students," he said. "It's exciting to watch them discover the wider world and realize that they can navigate their way around a foreign country."

In addition to teaching, he directed eight plays at the University, including "Telling Tales" which ran last December, and which Hedahl himself developed from stories.

"It's always fun to start from nothing and create a play," he said. "Each play has its moments, but the cast members really seemed to enjoy 'Telling Tales.'"

College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Brad Caskey served as the emcee for Hedahl's retirement party on Tuesday and said he has come to know Hedahl well through the years.

"When I took on this job as interim dean he volunteered to come in and talk to me about advice and I've sought him out a few times to talk about issues that I had," Caskey said. "He's just a great person—very level headed, great sense of humor, very professional and always concerned about others."

UWRF student Beth Van Kampen was in two plays under the direction of Hedahl—including "Telling Tales"—and said his enthusiasm for theater always shone through.

"One thing I always appreciated was his clear passion for what he did," she said in an e-mail interview. "He was always so excited about the process of building a show, and that feeling rubbed off easily onto his actors."

Hannah Blake, a UWRF freshman and also a member of "Telling Tales," said she liked Hedahl's ever-present smile.

"It made him very comfortable to be around," she said. "He laughed quite a bit, and that made his class more enjoyable."

Blake said she also appreciated Hedahl's talents as both a writer and director.

"His material was very interesting and he taught me so much about theater that I didn't know," she said. "His style of directing was very good and I was glad to be in such a creative play."

Hedahl said he will miss many aspects of his life at UWRF, including his students, fellow faculty members and work in the theater.

"For me, it's really exciting to work with and see the creativity and engagement in topics with students," he said. "But I'm also really going to miss the theater, as well as my colleagues."

However, in his retirement, Hedahl said he has no plans of slowing down.

"I plan on staying involved with community things, spending time with family and continuing to travel," he said. "Of course, I also want to stay involved with theater, but I also have a long list of movies and books to catch up on!"

Admired by his former students and colleagues alike, Hedahl is not likely to be forgotten anytime soon.

"Gorden was insightful, clever and always so upbeat, no matter the circumstances," Van Kampen said. "One thing I really appreciate about Gordon is his willingness to give people chances. He sees more potential in people than they see in themselves, and he has given me and so many others the opportunity to do more than we thought we could."

Hedahl said he values his time spent at UWRF.

"I've been really lucky and blessed to have had such great people in my life," he said. "I've been at three good universities with great faculty and colleagues and really fine students."

Caskey said Hedahl's presence on campus and around the River Falls community has been an extremely positive one over the years.

"This place is better off for him having been here," he said. "That's the best thing to say about anybody, and he'll be missed."



Sally King/Student Voice  
Hedahl at his retirement party

UWRF receives national online attention after student complaint

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An entry in a political blog by a UW-River Falls student has called attention to alleged anti-Semitic comments made by professor Kiril Petkov in a session of History 101 on March 13.

The blog displayed a message from senior history major Muriel Montgomery. The class session in question was about the theology of Islam. According to Montgomery's narrative, Petkov said that Orthodox Jews would throw rotten eggs on people's cars if they worked on the Sabbath.

Montgomery also said that when Petkov explained an Islamic idea that the real Jesus was never crucified and an imposter died in his place, he said the plan worked "because the Jews are stupid." Montgomery said the rest of the class laughed upon hearing this although she was appalled, and he told her, "Don't take this as a slur against the Jewish people. It is part of the Muslim tradition."

Montgomery also spoke about her evaluation of the lecture in a telephone interview.

"I thought [Petkov] was very outgoing, charismatic and excited about all the topics," Montgomery said. "But it became clearer to me what exactly he was trying to do with the classroom. It seemed like there might be an ulterior agenda. But I don't have proof."

Montgomery said a friend persuaded her to e-mail her thoughts to Pamela Geller, who publishes a blog called "Atlas Shrugs." It focuses on current events in Israel such as the conflict in Gaza, as well as the Islamic world.

"No student should be taught such utter garbage and be forced to sit there and listen to such ignorant racism," Montgomery wrote in her e-mail to Geller. "Please start writing and

calling. If he has tenure, then the kids are screwed, but at least we can shut him up."

Geller replied by phone, Montgomery said, and published the comments on March 16 under the title "Action Alert: University of Wisconsin's Jew Hating Professor Kiril Petkov."

Petkov was contacted by the Voice, but said he preferred not to comment on the issue.

Montgomery attended a meeting with representatives of the history department, including Interim Chair Brian Copp. According to Montgomery, they suggested that her assessment was less than fair and that she may not have taken Petkov's statements in the right context.

Montgomery said that while she could be a very passionate person, she was standing by her interpretation of the class regardless of the department's opinion.

"They just tried to wrap their minds around a more innocent view of what happened in the classroom," Montgomery said. "Which is, to me, sick. A professor has free speech, and I wouldn't argue against the right. However, they should not be teaching blatant anti-Semitism as though it's true."

Copp declined to comment on the issue in detail.

"At this time the issue of the information's publication on the blog is being investigated. I am not at liberty to discuss any concerns between faculty and students. These issues are confidential," Copp said in an e-mail. "There has been no official complaint via published University procedures about this issue."

The Atlas Shrugs blog entry can be found at [http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas\\_shrugs/2009/03/university-of-wisconsins-jewhating-professor-kiril-petkov.html](http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/03/university-of-wisconsins-jewhating-professor-kiril-petkov.html).

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RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

**April 2**  
- A cell phone was reported stolen at the University Center.

**April 3**  
- A bike was reported stolen at Ramer Field.  
- Benjamin J. Plunkett, 35, was cited for disorderly conduct at the University Center.

**April 4**  
- Jeffrey G. Hamble-Helget, 22, was

cited for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (OMVWI) and possession of drug paraphernalia at the 200 block of North Main Street.  
- Max H. Olson, 19, was cited for underage consumption at the 200 block of North Main Street.  
- Tyler D. Burk, 19, Aubrey J. Barnaby, 19 and Benjamin J. Meyman, 19, were cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of North Fourth Street.  
- Scott T. St. Claire, 21, was cited and

arrested for OMVWI at the intersection of Main and Walnut Streets.  
- Joel K. Yogerst, 18, was cited for underage consumption at the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

**April 5**  
- Joseph P. Gotmer, 20, was cited for underage consumption at the 100 block of South Third Street.  
- Bethany L. Stepanek, 19, was cited for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.



## Chapters 17, 18: UW System Board of Regents to hold final vote on issue May 7, 8

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years, Student Senate member Matt Dale said he is most concerned with what could happen down the road, and the possibility for abuse.

“I think that giving a huge amount of power to a small number of people without specific limitations is bad because we don’t know who will have that power in the future,” Dale said.

Community members neighboring UW-Milwaukee’s campus are largely responsible for pushing the code revision due to reoccurring issues with students. Many of the initial complaints to the university were focused on noise violations.

Some of the residents near campus “were experiencing disrespectful conduct from students such as public urination and minor destruction of property by breaking trees or fences when they were drunk,” Roberts said.

Punishments issued by the universities would be in addition to any punishment received from the civil justice system.

Senior Katie Kantrud said she feels the revisions are unnecessary because there are already laws that punish individuals for social misconduct.

“If you’re doing something illegal you are going to already get punished by the law,” Kantrud said. “There are bigger responsibilities the university should be focusing on while the law is already taking care of that.”

Roberts said he also believes that the misconduct of students off campus is not the university’s responsibility.

“It is my personal opinion that the residents of Milwaukee should be talking to their City Council and lobbying for an increase in police patrolling of their neighborhoods if they want these problems to abate,” Roberts said.

The Board of Regents can choose to make changes to the revisions based on the statements taken at the listening session. If there are no changes made to the proposed revisions, the Board will meet again May 7 and 8 in Milwaukee to hold a final vote on the matter. Should the revisions pass the final vote, they will become effective beginning fall semester 2009.

Dale said he feels that it does not look good for those who are opposed to the revisions.

“I think the outlook is bleak,” Dale said. “It will probably pass exactly how it is.”

Because each University can choose to mold the revisions to its specific campus, UWRF has created a committee in preparation to draft a policy paper outlining an implementation strategy about how the new revisions will affect UWRF specifically. The committee will hold a listening session in the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center at 5 p.m. April 15 to hear students, faculty and members of the community voice their opinions about the revisions.

## Spring Formal: Event saw higher than average ticket sales this year

from page 1

other years when tickets had been as much as \$10.

In previous years, Spring Formal was held off-campus and required a bus ticket that added to the expenses of the ticket price. Now that Spring Formal is held on campus, they have been able to charge much less.

“We are really lucky we have such a wonderful building that we are able to take advantage of for our event,” Bremer said.

Tickets were sold in advance at Stratton and McMillan Hall, and for the first time at the UC’s info desk and Stucrew desk which helped to increase sales. Acker said that the Wednesday and Thursday before the event are when most of the tickets are sold. This year it reached a little over 100 sold before the day of the event. However, sales increased on the day of the event. Ticket sales this year were higher than average and were able to cover the loan of \$1,300 that the Area Council provided for the event.

“I think one of the best parts about going to college is getting together with your friends and having a fun time participating in campus events,” Bremer said. “It’s a chance to dress up, show your dance moves, enjoy some food and win some great prizes.”

## Renovations: New HHP facility proposed, not yet approved

from page 1

UWRF students.

“There is a timeline factor that students need to be aware of. Students voted for the approval of these projects, which were far ahead of the actual construction,” Foster said. “The voting took place years ago and the University has been saving money for [the changes].”

The recent budget cut affected the auxiliary funds—the finances that are reserved for future construction projects on campus.

“A certain percentage is going to be given back. I don’t know how that will affect things, but there will be some adjusting,” Foster said.

Other than UWRF, only one other campus’ future construction is at the bottom of the list. Other UW campuses will see dramatic changes within the next year.

According to a March 31 article in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, the losers under the plan include UW-Eau Claire and UWRF. The winners in Doyle’s plan include a major expansion at UW-Milwaukee and a new energy and medical research buildings at UW-Madison.

The approval of the future changes to the selected facilities on campus are supported by Doyle because of the benefits they provide to students.

According to Doyle’s budget, Hagestad Hall is used as temporary office and classroom space but does not meet the requirements of the proposed program. The future project will create a central, one-stop enrollment services center including admissions, financial assistance, registrar and graduate admissions.

The new Ramer Field will include a pro shop, concessions and a ticket booth beneath the bleachers. The existing press box will be replaced with a new combina-



Rena Bergh/Student Voice

**Hagestad Hall, along with the South Fork Suites and Ramer Field, are the three UWRF buildings to receive reconstruction approval after Gov. Doyle’s 2009-11 budget was released, though final renovations will not be complete until 2010.**

tion press box/VIP suite complex. Also the existing concession stand will be converted into an officials’ locker room, the turf will be replaced with an artificial playing surface and existing field light are also in the plans to be replaced.

“The high school uses the Ramer Field too. So, they need to help pay for it as well,” Claflin said.

According to Doyle’s budget, the South Fork Suites project will include a 240-bed addition, with shared common areas and approximately four single bedrooms and eight double bedrooms within

12 resident clusters. The project will bridge the predominant dormitory-style housing and suite-style housing, and is targeted for second-year students.

The addition to student living is needed, but one UWRF student said he feels this may not be the solution.

“A new dorm or even two dorms seem more logical because then there would be less extended housing and I’m sure people like living with only one person more than four,” UWRF student Tyler Czuba, said.

Three projects are on the way to the planning and

design stage, yet one project that was proposed but has not been approved is the Health and Human Performance building.

“The enumeration of a new HHP building at UWRF has been recommended by the Board of Regents for the past three biennium, yet enumeration continues to be delayed by the Building Commissions,” Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor, said in the Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing Testimony.

“Meanwhile, the facility the HHP building will replace is literally crumbling.”

## Rain garden: 24 species of plants to be incorporated into new garden

from page 1

interested in coming up with something to control the flooding.

“We started taking our first measurements around Thanksgiving,” Tansey said. “The whole process of designing has been done in this semester. We [the designers] meet about once a week.”

In addition to designing, the committee will also be in charge of purchasing plant material that is appropriate for the rain garden, and will ideally be able to help the grounds crew plant the garden when everything is ready.

“We’re looking for plants to give the garden a more native, nature feel. We want it to match the other gardens

around campus. Like, the ones in front of KFA and the Ag Sci building,” Grundtner said.

So far, the crew has about 24 different species of plants in mind for the rain garden, which range from roses to thyme. The plants must be strategically picked for color; they need to have an allure to them in the summer and the winter.

“Each person brought in about 10 ideas of what species they thought of,” Tansey said. “We pooled all the plants together and narrowed them down.”

In addition to color, other qualities of these plants need to be taken into account. There will be the possibility of people driving around the garden with events like freshmen move-in and snow

removal. The crew has taken the measurement of about one tire-width into account when planning the garden.

“Also, specific plants need to be planted in certain spots to keep students from walking through the garden,” Hahn said. “We’ve dropped the garden six inches down, but that won’t stop everyone from walking through. That’s why we’re thinking about roses as the border.”

The committee has not begun purchasing any plants, but Ferriss said that day is coming fast.

“We need to calculate how many plants we’re looking for,” Ferriss said. “We know the types, but we’ve got to get thinking about how many we’re going to need.”



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EDITORIAL

Customer service lacks at Registrar

UW-River Falls has an annual equivalent to tax season. The same stress, frustration and tension of taxes accompanies the all too familiar worrisome late nights of registration time. Each spring, every student who intends on returning to campus the following fall must suffer through the headache of meeting with an advisor, selecting classes out of a shrinking availability pool, fighting with obnoxious overlapping schedules and then cry havoc as courses fill completely.

And when the inevitable time comes that something goes horribly awry on a student’s DAR or with adding an already filled course, students are sent to the dungeon that is the Registrar’s Office. The Office, quite literally a hole in the wall, is staffed by a group of workers whose apathy for students is almost palpable. It is the UWRF DMV.

One Student Voice editorial board member recently had the misfortune of entering the Registrar’s Office. At first they tried entering the “In” door, which was locked and adorned by a sign instructing students to use the other door. When they entered the other door, they were met with hostility over using the “incorrect” door. After the workers got over that apparently egregious error, the ed board member was given a wild goose chase as an answer to their question.

Members of the Student Voice staff have also heard complaints from other students over the Registrar’s Office, highlighting the fact that the workers can be intimidating, not helpful or even neglectful over their job. One student brought up the fact that she needs to take a “W” for a course she dropped early this semester because the Registrar’s Office neglected to process the drop card and refused to take responsibility.

University workers, in any capacity, are employed with the ultimate goal of aiding students. Everything they do is towards that aim. That being said, the employees in the Registrar’s Office need to realize that they exist solely to help students with their questions and problems, not treat them condescendingly or rudely. The Student Voice understands that there are perfectly wonderful people working in that office, but they are overshadowed by the elite few that wear their scowls as a wardrobe piece. The same goes for all offices on campus: Financial Aid, athletics, the various Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Special Assistant offices, etc... Students on this campus are the customer, and the customer is always right.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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Pedestrians nix common sense

I’m going to ask The Voice’s readers a few questions loosely related to the article about safety in River Falls’ crosswalks. Think of it as a pop-quiz, if you like. There are no wrong answers, just be sure to have a solid explanation in case you’re called on in class. Approximately when did we shift from a “look both

ways and wait for nearby traffic to stop,” to “multi-ton vehicles be damned, I’m crossing,” mentality? Is there a visibility issue when it comes to pedestrians standing on corners? If one exists, is it due to nearby cars, lighting at various times of day, etc? Do you, as a pedestrian, feel that it’s intelligent to enter the crosswalk, simply expecting traffic to stop? Do you, as a driver, feel confident enough in your reaction abilities (and those

of any drivers behind you) to safely stop your vehicle when a pedestrian suddenly enters the street? Would it be reasonable to suggest students should leave several minutes earlier and expect to wait for traffic instead of rushing to class at the last minute? Would it be reasonable to suggest drivers should plan ahead to avoid large groups of students crossing the street approximately 10 minutes before each hour when classes end?

In no less than five complete sentences, explain why pedestrians are justified in crossing a multi-lane road without considering oncoming traffic, whereas a driver looking to do the same thing must wait for an opening. If no valid argument seems to exist, simply write the complete lyrics to Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up,” and hand in your paper.

Andrew Hanson, student

Students’ vocabulary hindered by anger

Eff my life. UW-River Falls should change their motto, whatever that might actually be, and as people enter the campus there should be a raised banner with the words “eff my life” written in red and black. Oh wait, sorry, current lingo would have that be FML because the world apparently is now in a text down-grade. OMG! FML! UWRF is full of students who have taken this saying as their personal attitude toward school life. These students seem to have a problem that is seemingly life threatening to the point where they can imply “the hell with this, I’m out.” Get over yourself, no one’s life on this campus is that bad. Those who joke about their life are fine. They may be following the current “fad” that is placed on our young society, but they don’t seriously believe their lives are horrible. If anything, I see you people as pioneers in insulting those who think having a ten page paper due in two days that had a two week time-span of working on it. You people



Aaron Billingsley

are, in all honesty, what makes the older generations worried how we are going to survive in this world. Everyone is lazy; not many students care or even think to do a paper ahead of time. UWRF is a four-year institution, people. We may be enrolled in a small-time school in terms of other universities surrounding us, but we’re still in a higher place of learning. The years of high school teachers coddling us is over—this is where we learn how to take care of ourselves and prepare ourselves for future endeavors. If you want to complain that your workload is too much, that’s fine, but don’t do it in class and waste everyone’s time with your whines. As students we already have it easy at this institution and all you FML loyalists do is prove that we are freeloaders—give us an inch and we’ll want a mile.

Aaron is double majoring in journalism and creative writing. In his spare time he enjoys interacting with the Student Senate in a positive manner.

Reality television misses out on the reality

In America right now, the biggest thing that people have to take their minds off of the current state of their lives is, has been, and probably always will be television. Currently, the biggest thing that garners the attention of people are programs that are based within “reality.” These programs are misnamed, as obviously if there wasn’t a camera present, the events that viewers see would never happen. Yet there is still the regular aspect that the people shown on camera aren’t actors but real people. I contend that even though these programs feature real people in controlled situations, the audience still doesn’t get even a shred of reality. First off, for those of you not in on the way television and film are made, the entire production the audience sees is controlled by the creators. Yes, what we see did really happen at a certain point, but what else has happened that the audience isn’t seeing? In shows such as “Survivor,” the producers of the show go through all the footage they have gathered and select storylines for the actual broadcast of the show. The cold-hearted bitch that the people



Nathan Piotrowski

ple see might not actually be that bad most of the time, but only the footage of her acting like that is selected. This situation is one of the most commonly occurring in shows such as “Survivor,” “Big Brother” and “The Real World.” It is not reality when someone decides what is going to be shown rather than be completely objective. In other shows, such as “American Idol,” the entire show is a complete sham as it would never happen in real life. Not a single person who is on that show would or could have gotten a record contract in reality. Plenty of people have good singing voices, but if everyone was willing to work as hard as most people are to break into the music industry, this show would not exist. These people got lucky and were chosen to be given a chance to win their dreams on what is essentially an over-glamorized game show. Not to be unfair about its popularity, I understand the concept proves to be quite entertaining, but is not a real thing.

It is not reality when someone decides what is going to be shown rather than be completely objective.

Having shot enough videos of me and my friends before, I have come to see that no one acts exactly like they normally do when there is a camera around. When almost everyone acts for the camera when it’s supposed to be a representation of reality, doesn’t that make it not real at all? When people see a camera they generally start acting—that’s just the way it is—and it adds just another level of non-authenticity to these shows. Am I mad at these people who get selected to be on the show, or those who create the show for these things? Not at all. I am, however, upset that most people don’t understand that what they are watching and saying is real, is in fact the product of controlled situations and outside influence from the creators of the show and those who appear on it. So, if these shows are what are able to distract you from what is going on in your own life, good for you. However, just realize that what you are watching is in fact just as loaded with reality as Harry Potter.

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



# Gay, lesbian marriage requires equal respect

I am not known as a very outspoken person. I'm not a politician or an activist. I am not a member of any clubs, I don't march along with protests and there is no one cause that I passionately stand for.

I think a lot of students here are the same way. We are bystanders, not agitators. We are calmly observing a fascinating period of history as it unfolds before our eyes. Contrary to the views of some social commentators who criticize our generation as apathetic or hopelessly distracted, there are certain principles we stand for—we simply express ourselves with more modesty and rationality than did many college students in the '60s and '70s. As many of us realize, you can make waves without whipping up a hurricane.

Although I don't make a huge deal out of my opinions, there are many things I support—like gender equality, international cooperation, pacifism, education, free speech, the acceptance of human nature and (of course) the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” And I was happy to hear that earlier this week, Vermont became the fourth state to

as straight couples.

If you happen to have misgivings or moral objections about gay marriage, fine; many people still do. But the fact is morality and religion should have nothing to do with this issue. It is not the government's job to uphold Christian values. Their obligation is to improve the lives of U.S. citizens. For all intents and

purposes, same-sex marriage is a question of equal opportunity and representation under the U.S. Constitution. Quite apart from any spiritual meaning one might attach to a marriage, it is a legal arrangement, and any two people have the right to access it if they wish.

Unfortunately, in a situation that has been repeated many times throughout our history, this right is not yet respected by most of the country even though it was spelled out in black and white in 1776. Two hundred thirty-two and a half years ago.

I'm as patient as the next person, but sometimes I have to ask myself: when is this country finally going to learn? How many times will we have to repeat this pattern? It seems like there was always some group

we were looking down on, some group whose rights we were leaving in the dust. And there was always an excuse. “Blacks aren't civilized enough to handle freedom from slavery.” “Women are too emotional to handle voting.” And now we hear, “Gay people and their relationships threaten our values.”

I say that if anything threatens U.S. values, it is that age-old tendency to disregard the civil liberties of people we happen to disagree with. That's what we really need to watch out for.

Our founders started out with a great vision, but it's our job to see it through, and previous generations have dropped the ball time and time again.

I think we should be part of the solution, not the problem. And supporting the rights of gays—in our own practical, understated way—is a great place to start.

Nathan is a perpetual miscreant majoring in journalism. He enjoys death metal and the color blue.



Nathan Sparks

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# Online course offerings lacking at University

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My schedule looks to have worked out well, even though a few of the classes I wanted to take overlapped each other.

Every registration season, I check out the options for online courses. I've taken two here at UW-River Falls, which were very well put together. I have no complaints about how the classes are run.

My problem exists with the variety and number of classes offered. For fall semester of 2009-10, there are four online classes offered here at UW-River Falls. FOUR. I'm sorry if I find that a bit ridiculous.

When I've brought this up before, I've been directed to the University of Wisconsin Colleges Online courses. I took a look at the courses that were offered next fall.

Yes, they offer some of the general courses we need. However, I'm going to be a senior (credit-wise) next year, and I've got most of my general credits covered. Therefore, I had

no need to register for those courses. What I don't understand is UWRF

isn't exactly a secluded campus.

We are 30 minutes from the Twin Cities right? A lot of people do commute. And even if you don't commute, online classes may benefit you.

I have the problem of classes overlapping. I've heard seniors tell me that they might have to end up sticking around an extra semester to take one or two more classes. This is simply because they weren't offered or didn't fit into their schedule.

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amount of responsibility.

It may take a bit of extra work, but wouldn't you rather do that than stick around to take one class? I also feel that by limiting the number of online classes, the college is missing out on a certain



Cristy Brusoe

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# Smoking reasons fall short on logic

I used to get headaches when I was around smokers. You know the kind? The ones that sort of start as a light tingle in the back of your skull and then move through the center of your brain and end in a constant vibration and pulsing of pain—as if someone were taking a tweezers to the back of your eyeballs. Yeah.

Having spent a lot of time in the smoke filled bars and restaurants these past few years, I've managed to adapt to secondhand smoke, so I'm super thankful for that. On the other hand, it still annoys the urine out of me. Anyway, I'm pro-anti-smoker, but not anti-pro-smoker (see next week's column).

I can't stand the lot of smokers—not a single one of them. There's an overabundance of 'em of all kinds: the chain smoker, the occasional smoker, the I-need-to-have-a-smoke-break-now-not-because-I-need-one-but-because-I-enjoy-being-lazy-and-pissing-my-fellow-coworkers-off.

They're all odd. I feel no sympathy for the ones who huddle together outside of buildings on campus here as they try dearly to abide by the “be sweet—stand 25 feet!” rule.

I've seen them holding each other together in the negative degree weather, and it's super hysterical when the wind-chill (minus four more degrees) plays devil's advocate by extinguishing their poorly lit matches or lighters.

Take that, suckers! For two sum-

mers I worked with all smokers. As we attempted to change oil and work under the hoods of steaming Hondas and Saturns, I'd constantly be reminded that I'd have to take over eventually by myself because the rest of my crew needed a smoke break.

“Oh I need a cigarette right now” is the most common line of real dialogue the smoker unleashes when they, indeed, need one.

In case you find yourself working around smokers in stressful environments—hell, ALL environments—watch out for the symptoms. A sweaty forehead and shortness of temper are always the signs of the sickness.

It's almost like deciphering a cryptogram—you put the pieces together, forehead dripping with sweat, the smoker's lips pursed as if they had an imaginary cig in their mouth, jittery movements and an inability to complete a sentence without tweaking their shoulders as if dancing for MC Hammer in 1990.

Eventually I got sick of hearing the “I need a cigarette right now” line, so I started responding sarcastically with “go have a cig—no, have TWO.”

But that never matters. Having two cigarettes in a row doesn't double the smoker's time between natural cravings. GOD. I especially love the excuses smokers use to

justify their habits: “well I'm addicted, see?” Fine. You still stink.

“Well I'm gonna be a smoker for just a FEW years...” OK. Great, then what? You're gonna have to lose the habit eventually, right? Oh, and let's not forget the dollar issue! I can't stand when I hear someone tell me they can't hang out because they “don't have any money.” Really? I wonder why.

And smokers are all super-defensive about it, too. They like to band together and fight the world. There may be some logical reason why you do it, why you accept the tar into your lungs, why you can't go a day without it—you need it like diabetic needs insulin. Got a problem with me?

Alright—here's how we'll settle

it. You can chase me with whatever blunt/sharp/jagged object you can find; I'll even help you select one. If you can catch me, then you can leave me in whatever condition your rusty heart desires. Until then, I'll see you hovering around KFA (25 feet, please!) until next week. Be sure to read my next column—you'll all be happy.

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



Brad Brookins

# Useless footwear functions increase

In the new comedy “I Love You, Man,” Jason Segel plays an eccentric named Sydney Fife. This dude's idea of a good time is meandering down the Venice Beach boardwalk in shorts and Uggs Boots, letting his gastrically-overactive terrier lay turds directly in the path of oncoming rollerbladers and strolling romantic couples.

Now my interest in this particular scene does not arise from the dog's hilariously-timed sphinctral discharges but rather from the chosen footwear of its owner. While I think it's hilarious that Sydney wears Uggs around town, it invariably brings me to the concept of footwear—they have gone far beyond their originally intended purpose.

In the beginning, humans struggled mightily to overcome the curse of calluses, corns and howling red blisters. Shoes, probably invented by Thomas Edison (just a guess, I'm going by the odds), helped early cavemen and homo erectuses heal their screaming feet and get on with the business of evolving. Originally just pieces of leather or fabric insecurely tied to the foot, shoes have made the ascent to the category of “fashion essentials.” As a society, we're now obsessed.

To illustrate our obsession with footwear, take a look at the last few decades. These past years, shoes have gone through several fashion phases of extreme

uselessness. For instance, I have no idea who invented disco-era platform heels—while they accomplish their supposed goal of looking freaky as hell, they supply no other observable function and that annoys me. Hypocritically enough, I have a pair of really “tall” retro swing shoes, known as creepers, and they serve hardly any other purpose besides looking frickin' sweet. But my Creepers are exempt from my harsh judgments because if you lift up the insole of either shoe you will find a coffin-shaped secret compartment, inside which I store my roll of fifties.

Shoes are a fashion essential, aren't they? I have heard of others my age spending extraordinary amounts of money on shoes—upwards of \$150 or more—something is wrong with that. I don't care what occasion they're for, generally, the more you spend, the less functional the shoes are. I know those fancy, expensive heels from the mall may look spicy hot, but all I hear is complaints about how painful it is to wear them.

Reconsider the purposes of footwear. We've perverted shoes from their original principle by adding wheels, blades, metal spikes, six-inch heels, secret compartments and even animal hair in the case of Uggs, the BOOTS with da FUR. But people: the shoe fetish must end.



Joe Hager

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group of individuals.

Community colleges are attractive to those with a “real life schedule.” No offense. I've personally picked up some classes at Century College in Minnesota so that I can hopefully graduate next year.

In comparison to UWRF, Century (a community college) offers 109 online classes. The difference is unbelievable. I have a major problem with UWRF offering four.

We need to accommodate those who have real jobs and a family at home. I believe it would bring in a whole new crowd to UWRF.

I've heard the complaints. If you take an online class, you don't have to do the work. You can cheat. No. 1... you have no conscience if you do that. No. 2... there are programs to “lock down” your browser when you take a test.

Online courses offer you the ability to work at your convenience, use the best method of learning for you and flexibility. I would appreciate a few more options. I'm not asking for 100, but 10 would be nice.

Cristy is a sophomore majoring in journalism. She enjoys lemon with chicken and professional wrestling.

# STUDENT voices

## Do you think UWRF should offer more online classes?

Emily Hagstrom, sophomore

“Yes, because it would be more focused and teachers could use videos to teach.”



Jessica Miller, freshman

“Yes, it would be nice because of the convenience.”



Kevin Kicker, sophomore

“I think they should over the summer because it would be more convenient.”



Juliana Schlinsog, sophomore

“It's a good idea because it would better coincide with student's schedules.”



Steven Farmer, senior

“I think it should. I took three online classes last semester and it was nice cause it was flexible.”



# Falcon Invite finishes before snowfall

Justin Magill  
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It was looking as if the annual spring snowfall that Midwesterners are used to was going to affect the Falcon Invitational, but the track event was finished just in time at Ramer Field on the UW-River Falls campus.

“Pretty good weekend for our team,” senior Kim Altenhofen said. “It was a good performance and it was a little cold, but we did great.”

One of the strong events for the Falcons in the indoor season was the long distance running events and last weekend they proved to be solid yet again.

On the women’s side, sophomore Natasha Arnold won the 400-meter event with a time of 1:01.38. She also placed fourth in the 200-meter dash.

In the 3,000-meter run, Carly Eggert took first place honors with a time of 10:44.48 and finished more than a minute faster than her next opponent.

“Some people are intimidated by the bigger track outside,” UWRF Head Coach Martha Brennan said. “Our athletes have been looking forward to getting outside and our long distance runners have done well.”

Junior Leah Korf had a successful 1,500-meter run with a second place finish and a time of 4:59.68.

The men’s team dominated the 400-meter dash, taking home the top three spots.

Dan Rodewald won with a time of 50.65 and beat teammates Indy Liljevall and Lucas Mueller, who were all in the same heat together.

With the Falcons participating in their first outdoor event of the season, some of the younger throwers

were going to have to try different events such as the javelin and discus, which are not performed during the indoor meets.

The men did not fare well in the throws. Out of the three events, only one made it to the finals, and that was sophomore James Walrath in the javelin with a toss of 116-10 and a ninth place finish.

The women did better in the throwing events.

In the shot put, Altenhofen, who is a two-time All-WIAC second team member in the event, finished second with a 41’ 4 1/2” mark in the finals.

Sophomore Caitlin Brendum was the best of all the women’s throwers with two second place performances.

In the hammer throw, she finished with a 142-2 mark and followed that with a 98-6 toss in the javelin for second place honors.

“Great first outdoor meet of the season,” Altenhofen said of the throwers. “We had some new people in new events and they all did a good job for the first time being out.”

With the weather in the Midwest changing by the minute, Brennan said it is the field events that are affected the most.

“It’s the throwing events, the high jumps and pole vaults that feel it the most,” she said. “There is so much that you have to look at when you go into those events.”

With UWRF participating in its first outdoor meet of the season, Brennan said she was not expecting anything that would surprise her, good or bad.

“It’s the first one of the year so I don’t expect any record numbers,” she said. “We just want to get out



*Renae Bergh/Student Voice*  
**Miranda Dohrn, a freshman on the UWRF women’s track and field team, competed in the high jump at the Falcon Invitational last week at Ramer Field. It was the first outdoor meet for the Falcons.**

and have a good meet and see what we have to work on for the WIAC meet, which is coming pretty fast.”

For the past several seasons, the Falcons have traveled to southern states to start the outdoor season. They did not go this season and were constrained to practicing indoors for most of the year.

“I think most of us were ready to get outside,” Brennan said. “We did not get a chance to go down south, so we might be a little bit behind some teams, but we are excited to get going.”

The Falcons are scheduled to be at the Gustavus Adolphus Invitational this weekend. The aforementioned WIAC meet is May 1 and 2 at UW-Oshkosh. The NCAA meet is on May 21 at Marietta College (Ohio).

## Falcons softball team struggles in WIAC play

Joe Engelhardt  
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After winning seven out of 10 possible non-conference games in Florida over spring break, the UW-River Falls softball team has hit a wall, dropping four straight games to begin conference play. Losing two games each to UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater has left the Falcons last in the WIAC.

“It’s a very tough way to begin the conference season, playing the national champion and the runner-up in back to back games,” senior shortstop Mindy Rudiger said.

On April 2, the Falcons played a doubleheader on the road at Eau Claire. In game one, the Blugolds got two in the second inning and one in the third inning to take an early 3-0 lead. The Falcons tied it with a Dana Book three-run home run in the top of the fourth. After a scoreless fifth inning, the Blugolds took the lead back with a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth by freshman Jenny Janke. The Falcons failed to score in the top of the seventh, leading to a 4-3 victory for Eau Claire.

In game two, Eau Claire once again scored first with two runs in the third and three runs in the fourth thanks to RBI by Aleisha Harper and Bekki Kidnie. The Falcons were able to cut into the lead in the fifth thanks to a two-run single by Rudiger, and an RBI single by freshman Jamie Klein. Those three runs were the last runs to come across, as Eau Claire took the game 5-3.

“After facing Eau Claire, we really felt like we could compete on the same level as them,” Rudiger said.

On April 4, the Falcons played a doubleheader at home against Whitewater. In game one, the Falcons struggled to put any runs on the board against Warhawks’ sophomore Jessica Stang, as she pitched a two-hit shutout, walking one and striking out eight. Patty Olson and Rudiger were the only Falcons who got hits against her. The Warhawks won the first game 10-0.

In game two, the Falcons put freshman Heidi Emmer on the mound looking for revenge for the game one blowout. After each team put a run across in the first inning, Whitewater took off, scoring five more runs over the next three innings to lead 6-1. In the fifth, senior Rachel Mathias scored on a wild pitch, and freshman Sarah Fern drove in a run with an RBI single, leaving the Falcons down 6-3. The Warhawks shut down the Falcons the next two innings winning the game 7-3.

“Losing is always tough, especially after playing well and bonding in Illinois and Florida,” Rudiger said.

With 11 freshmen on the team, the seniors feel like they need to show leadership on and off the field.

“We [the leaders] know that there is a leadership role and we need to spend some time talking to and teaching the freshmen how to play UWRF softball,” Rudiger said.

The Falcons attempted to turn their poor conference start around, but their game April 5 against UW-Oshkosh was postponed due to inclement weather. The Falcons return home with their next game 2 p.m. April 10 at Ramer Field, vs. UW-Stout. It will be their only home game for the next two weeks when they play Hamline University (Minn.) on April 23.

## STANDINGS

Softball		
WIAC Standings	W	L
Whitewater (16-2)	6	0
Eau Claire (17-4)	5	1
La Crosse (17-7)	2	2
Oshkosh (7-9)	2	2
Stout (11-11)	1	3
Stevens Point (13-5)	0	0
Superior (9-5)	0	0
River Falls (11-9)	0	4
Platteville (3-15)	0	4



For complete stats check out the UWRF athletics Web site at [www.uwrf.edu/sports](http://www.uwrf.edu/sports)

# 2009 Masters Champion will not be Tiger Woods

The course has been set up for only one person to win and that man-Tiger Woods-will not be wearing the green jacket in the Butler’s Cabin on Sunday evening.

After he torched the field in the 1997 Masters Tournament, Augusta National Golf Club has had numerous facelifts to guard against such a lop-sided margin.

Trust me; I would love to see him win. It is great for the sport of golf and the fans.

They spend big money on the event and want to see the world’s best at the top.

With Augusta being notorious for its hills and awkward lies in the fairway, this will be the first tournament Woods will be in where it will test his recently repaired knee.

He played in the World Golf Championship match play in Arizona and at Bay Hill; both do not have the undulation of Augusta.

One advantage Woods has against the field this week is his short game.

While injured, he was able to spend more time putting and chipping, which is what helps players score well, especially at the



Justin Magill

Masters, where fabulous short game is needed.

His length off the tee will not be much of a factor as in the past.

Woods use to overpower players and courses, which resulted in “Tiger Proofing,” courses, so he could not blow away the field.

This has not been the case at the Masters the last two years.

Iowa native Zach Johnson won in 2007, who is known to be one of the shorter hitters on the PGA Tour.

In his four rounds, he laid up on all 16 par fives he played and had 11 birdies. He hit shots in the right position and used his superb wedge play to calm Woods, who was playing a group behind him on the final day.

Last year it was South African Trevor Immelman. Same thing.

He played to his strengths and made minimal mistakes and garnered the green jacket, the first South African since Gary Player to win.

The last big bomber to win the Masters was in 2006, that being Phil Mickelson.

“Lefty,” has the power to keep up with Woods, but it is his imagination and touch around the greens that won it for him.

With the course being lengthened it has only increased the risk-reward ratio for the big hitters like Woods and Mickelson.

On the back nine, two par fives, holes 13 and 15 are reachable in two.

Problem is Ray’s Creek runs in front of the green on 13 and has collected many Titlists throughout the years.

There is also the big pond in front of 15. The green dries out faster than most on the course, which makes it harder to hold a second shot, but even a layup and a wedge shot are not safe.

I’ve seen so many players spin a ball off the green and into the pond with the hopes of a green jacket drowning for that year.

Woods is near the top of his game, evidence of his victory at Bay Hill two weeks ago, but this is the Masters, the first major of the year.

He is the one to take down, even when he is wounded.

Players practice more, workout for a change and have become more creative since he has joined the tour. They are finally catching up to him, at least a little bit.

The best players in the world will be at Augusta National this week and one of them will find a way to win.

The aforementioned Mickelson has won twice. He has just as much game as Woods

does and has been lying in the weeds during the last few majors, so he might be due.

Another solid wedge player is Jim Furyk. Along with his short game, many golf analysts wonder why he has not won the Masters yet.

Sergio Garcia. Just kidding. You have to be able to putt well to win the Masters. Do we dare look back at the 2008 British Open?

Garcia has an excuse for everything and I am sure there will be plenty after his rounds are finished.

One person who has been quiet this year is the champion of the last two majors, the British Open and PGA Championship, Padraig Harrington.

So far, a slow year for him, but he is starting to come around. Harrington has always played well at Augusta and do not expect anything different this week.

However, my pick to win is Stuart Appleby.

Solid ball striker, great off the tee and a pretty good putter.

His game is built for Augusta and if he gets hot, the rest of the field is in trouble.

Appleby has been in the hunt at this tournament before and is hungry to finally win it, beating out the almighty Tiger Woods.

Sunday evening, it will be Immelman sliding the coveted green jacket on Mr. Appleby.



# UWRF students spend break serving communities

Kelly Richison  
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Nine students from UW-River Falls participated in a multi-state community service trip that took place during spring break. The students that took part in the trip were members of the Falcon Fellows program on campus, which is a collaboration of two different organizations: AmeriCorps and UWRF Student Support Services. Students who join Falcon Fellows agree to do 300 hours of community service throughout the year. During the trip, they had the opportunity to log hours while helping others. The group from UWRF met up and traveled with another student group from Dickinson State University in North Dakota. The group left for the first service location on March 13, and returned to River Falls on March 22. Gina Seveck, Falcon Fellows coordinator, traveled along with the students from UWRF. She said that there were other student groups from different universities across the country

that also departed on community service trips that were also part of the “Pay it Forward Tour.” “There were a bunch of buses that all left from different universities across the nation, and they all were feeding into either Washington D.C., Memphis, Tenn. or Houston, Texas, and at the end of the week they all convened into one of those bigger cities,” Seveck said. Seveck said that the group did work in Minnesota, Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky and Iowa, and that they spent a day doing community service at each site on the route towards their destination in Memphis. Michelle Meyer, UWRF junior and conservation major, is one of the students who took part in the trip. She said also that the group left on Friday March 13 and stopped at the first service location in Minneapolis, Minn. to help with a bridging program. “When we went to Minneapolis, we did some bridging which is like building furniture or collecting furniture for people who are

homeless or immigrants or other people who are less fortunate,” she said. Meyer said that group spent the day after in Oak Park, Ill. in an effort to remove a plant species which had grown over the other flowers and vegetation. “The next day we went to Oak Park, Ill., which I found very interesting because I am a conservation major, we went to this big park area, like this wooded area and we got to cut down all of the Asian honey suckle that was an invasive species and was invading the tree land area,” she said. Meyer said they spent time in Canton, Ohio later in the trip, helping with activities and lessons in a kindergarten classroom. Seveck said that there was a leadership corps on the bus that was made up of students who organized the service locations of each day. A travel routine was established and at the end of each day they stayed at either a church or a YMCA. “We would get up early in the morning get ready and by probably 7 or 8 a.m. we’d be at

our site. We would do our service pretty much all day and afternoon until maybe about one or two and then we would have a meal. A lot of times we would have meals with the community members on the site that we worked with and then we would get on the road to the next place,” she said. “So we would then head to the next service state and hook up with a YMCA or church, stay there overnight and then do the same kind of thing.” In Lexington, Ky., Meyer said that the group did community service at a food bank and they also did service at a church where they cleaned out an office and inventoried furniture. “We found out later on that what we did inventory on was going to go to houses that the church just bought and that the people we had talked to previously that day were going to actually get the furniture,” she said. “So that was very inspirational to us.”

## Flo Rida serves his listeners best in smaller increments



Andy Phelps

The top of the Billboard chart caters to an exclusive clientele, and if the last three years are any indication of a trend, we can expect an annual rocket to the No. 1 spot by rapper Flo Rida, who has carved his own niche as ring-tone rap poet laureate. On March 31, just in time for my birthday, he dropped his sophomore record “R.O.O.T.S.” (acronym for Route of Overcoming the Struggle) an incredibly infectious 14-track effort that Flo uses as a vehicle to describe (utilizing every cliché imaginable) how awesome his party life is. Currently ruling the airwaves is the terribly catchy, world-dominating single “Right Round,” which has spent six weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 and has already shattered the single week download record. An adventurous and creative sampling of ‘80s staple “You Spin Me Right Round (Like a Record)” provides the backbone for this upbeat and infectious mix of bass-saturated swagger and standard pop-rap boasts. It is truly a masterpiece as singles go. Needless to say, Flo Rida (Tramar Dillard) will never be mistaken for a top-notch (or even above average) wordsmith, but it doesn’t matter, because no one listens to his lyrics anyway. The harmonious and sonically appealing production, well-chosen samples and star-studded guests veil the fact that Dillard blitzes through his elementary rhymes with a silky flow and roadrunner speed. Fortunately, the lyrical pace often meshes with the backbeat almost perfectly, creating a synth-infused, energized, party atmosphere. The song “Jump,” featuring a barely-recog-

nizable Nelly Furtado, works out in an interesting way and stays true to the time-tested algorithm of deep vibrating bass and a chanting, repetitive electronica chorus combined with Dillard’s usual bragging about how balla he is. “You ain’t scared of heights when you sip-pin’ on Goose,” he states matter-of-factly to listeners, dismissing any notion of a global recession. While Akon’s familiar soulful howls are a welcome addition to “Available,” the ubiquitous motif of seeking out attractive women already begins to wear extremely thin around the record’s halfway mark. Unfortunately, all of the tracks that attempt to inject real human emotions into this Auto-Tune-happy, hook-fest feel flat and uninspired (fornicating with unnamed girls doesn’t count).

...Flo Rida will never be mistaken for a top-notch wordsmith.

A Wyclef Jean guest spot is largely wasted on the laughably corny “Rewind,” on which a nice background melody and clockwork tempo are negated by verses such as “I try sticking to the rivers that

I’m used to / But these tears got me searching for an inner tube.” “R.O.O.T.S.,” in its entirety, never ceases to look, feel and sound like anything more than a guilty pleasure. The content is pretty much pure candy—junk food for the ears. Too many replays may leave the listener feeling a little empty and nauseous, but it can be absolutely fulfilling in the short-term, given the right moment, setting and level of inebriation. If the anthems of Flo Rida manage to have an addicting effect through cell phone speakers and iPod headphones, then they probably have the effect of crack cocaine when unleashed in its full electro-heavy extravagance on drunken club-goers on the dance floor.

Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap operas. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.



## ‘I Love You, Man’ changes romantic comedy formula



José Cruz, Jr.

Romantic comedies have always been a genre of formulaic and predictable storylines. An outline of these scripts will usually consist of the old, tired “boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy wins back girl.” For some reason, we still tend to love these exhausted plot elements. Every so often, a romantic comedy will come along that brings a new point of view or approach to the material, and gives us a breath of fresh air. “I Love You, Man” is definitely that, as it takes the usual elements and makes a unique, yet quirky romantic comedy for guys. Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd) has finally got the guts to ask his girlfriend Zooe (Rashida Jones, best known from “The Office”) to marry him, despite being in a relationship for only eight months. Peter is completely devoted to her, and spends all of his time with her, rather than with his buddies (this is simply because he doesn’t have any). Both he and his family agree that he has always been more of a “girlfriend guy.” This brings about the dilemma of a best man for Peter. After overhearing Zooe and her friends talking about her friendless fiancée, Peter decides to find a guy to befriend him in time for the couple to tie the knot. He comes across several strange guys, almost bringing him to defeat. But he soon meets Sydney Fife (“Forgetting Sarah Marshall’s” Jason Segel) at an open house for Lou Ferrigno, and they hit it off nicely. Peter spends a lot of time with Sydney, “slappin’ da bass” (Peter’s

words, verbatim) and going to Rush concerts, while simultaneously altering his relationship with Zooe. This is certainly a movie for frat guys. It is profane, vulgar and a bunch of other words that give the impression of the frequent use of naughty words. But the relationship between Sydney and Peter is a peculiar one, as it plays out like a boy-girl relationship you would see in a conventional romantic comedy. In this case, boy meets boy, boy loses boy and boy wins boy back. But it is done in entirely platonic and un-erotic fashion. Frat guys and teenage boys alike can now enjoy a romantic comedy while avoiding any scrutiny for it by their peers. If this flick has any down side at all, it is in its disjointedness. Clocking in at just less than two hours, it can be tedious viewing at some points. What could have easily been a 90-minute movie with a fine-tuned editing job ends up stretching the plot excessively over the course of its running time. There are unnecessary scenes, but they all come out funny and charming to some degree. “I Love You, Man” may very well be the funniest comedy of the year so far. Rudd and Segel make a dynamic “couple,” as they fill in their niche roles very nicely and have a potent chemistry alongside one another. Rudd’s character is a highly likeable yet socially awkward one, while Sydney is like the charming and somewhat obnoxious guy from high school that still has not grown up. “I Love You, Man” can be tedious at times, but is a crude and funny time at the movies nonetheless.



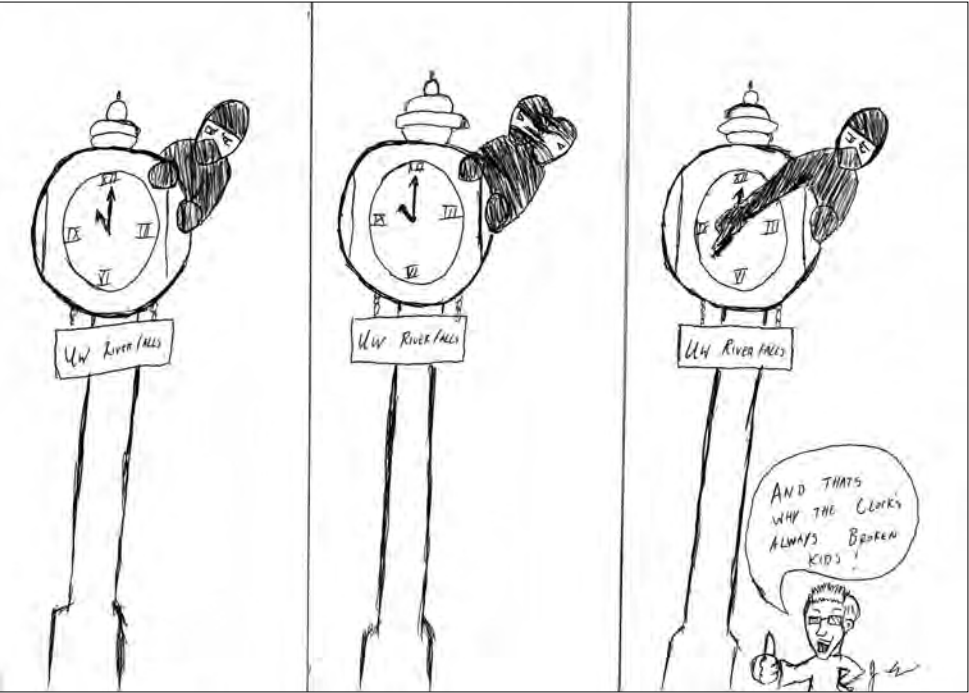
Source: www.iloveyouman.com  
“I Love You, Man” stars Paul Rudd and Rashida Jones.

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



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## Student Voice cartoon



By Jon Lyksett

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# UWRF alumnus excels at journalism career

Ken Weigend  
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Boyd Huppert, a broadcast journalist for KARE-11 out of the Twin Cities, has won four Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) Edward R. Murrow journalism awards, a National Headliner Grand Award, a Gabriel Award and was also awarded the first ever National Press Photographer Association's (NPPA) Journalist of the Year award. Huppert also won a National Emmy for feature reporting and over 30 regional Emmys. His work has been syndicated and shown nationally on CNN and NBC. But Huppert's beginnings were humble, growing up on a farm just south of the University he would one day graduate from UW-River Falls. Huppert is a prime example of the kind of success and national acclaim that an education and degree from UWRF can provide.

Living just outside the city limits on the family farm, Huppert said it just seemed natural to attend UWRF for college. At the time, tuition was under \$1,000 a year and the campus was a mere three miles from the homestead, saving Huppert money on room and board.

Like most college-bound students, Huppert said he had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. Becoming a journalist was something he stumbled upon, Huppert said in an e-mail interview.

"One day in high school, one of my teachers, Don Richards—now the mayor of River Falls—approached me about a part-time job at WEVR," Huppert said. "Don was doing high school play-by-play for the station at the time and he told me about an opening on Sunday afternoons playing commercials during the Brewers and Packers games. Just like that, I was in broadcasting. I did all sorts of things at WEVR from playing records to writing and voicing commercials, but over time I gravitated toward news."

Michael Norman, a retired professor of journalism and former chair of the department, said he remembers Huppert as a student: shy, soft-spoken and naturally gifted at what he did.

"Boyd was an extraordinarily committed student with an intense desire to learn all he could about broadcast journalism, whether in radio or television—the only two choices back then," Norman said. "His talent was very, very apparent as an undergraduate. He would devote hours to reporting a story or shooting video on the big, old video cameras we used."

According to Norman, Huppert was someone that his fellow students listened to and respected. But Huppert was humble about it.

"He never assumed he knew everything and wanted to keep on challenging himself," Norman said.

During his time at UWRF, Huppert worked several internship positions, all TV broadcasting. It was those positions that convinced Huppert a career in TV news reporting was the right fit for him. The date was 1974, 25 years ago.

The education he received has served Huppert well, and he said he does not regret for a second his decision to attend the hometown college.

"I've worked with reporters from some of the premiere journalism programs in the county: Columbia, Northwestern and Missouri. I've never felt lacking for having attended River Falls," Huppert said. "To this day I stay in touch with several of my journalism classmates; [we] cut our teeth together on the third floor of North Hall. If I had to do it again, I wouldn't change a thing."

Huppert was fortunate enough to have a job waiting for him immediately following college. The summer before senior year he had interned at WSAW-TV in Wausau, Wis. The new director of the station, Mark Zelich, held a spot for Huppert until he graduated.

"I owe him a great deal for giving me my ticket in," Huppert said.

A week before moving to Wausau to fill the position, Huppert married his high school sweetheart, Sheri.

"Sheri's a native of Prescott, [Wis.]," Huppert said. "We were 17 when we met at the Pierce County Fair. Can't get much more

**"In June, I will celebrate my 25th wedding anniversary and 25 years as a reporter."**

Boyd Huppert,  
UWRF alumnus

grounded in a relationship than that."

Two years into working for WSAW-TV, Huppert moved to Omaha, Neb., after accepting a reporting job at KETV. Three years after that, a job opened up at WITI in Milwaukee that Huppert applied for and received.

"My goal all along was to make it back to the Twin Cities area," Huppert said. "In 1996 I accepted a position at KARE and have been here ever since. In June, I will celebrate my 25th wedding anniversary and 25 years as a reporter."

Over his career, Huppert has had many highlights. But the one that he said sticks out in his mind as the greatest was his coverage of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"That stands out as the most fun I've ever had on assignment."

But the story that stands alone as the one Huppert is singularly the most proud of is a piece about Kaziah Hancock, an artist in Utah who painted portraits of fallen soldiers from Iraq. The piece was picked up by NBC and played on The Today Show. Because of that exposure, the piece became eligible for a national Emmy nomination.

**"[Boyd] never assumed he knew anything and wanted to keep on challenging himself."**

Michael Norman,  
retired journalism professor



Submitted

**UWRF alumnus Boyd Huppert works on a story for KARE-11 out of the Twin Cities. Huppert has won a series of journalism awards including a National Emmy award.**



Submitted

**Huppert stands in WRFW's radio station during the WRFW reunion Nov. 22 2008.**



Submitted

**Huppert joins current and former faculty and students during the WRFW reunion.**

According to emmyonline.org, the official Web site for the Emmys, the News and Documentary Emmy Award is "a major national broadcast journalism competition. It promotes journalistic excellence by awarding the coveted Emmy to the very best news reports and documentary films aired on national television each year."

Huppert won. "I was thrilled to be nominated and went to New York for the ceremony never expecting to win," Huppert said. "The stars just seemed to be aligned. I'll never forget it."

Although statistics regarding the actual number of UWRF journalism graduates working in the journalism field, Colleen Callahan, the current department chair, said that only a very few graduates go on to win national awards.

Even with national acclaim, there is still a side of reporting that Huppert doesn't enjoy—anything crime related.

"I like it when people are happy to see me," Huppert said. "I'm less happy covering the dark side of our society. I still cover plenty of crime and work hard to find the human stories there, too. But as I get older I gain far more satisfaction focusing on the

extraordinary accomplishments of ordinary people."

Huppert has dedicated his life to informing the public and presenting unbiased, award-winning journalism. But he said he sees the writing on the wall, signaling a change on the horizon. Like all areas of journalism, the TV

industry is struggling to find advertising and a legitimate way to compete with the Internet.

"Things are changing very rapidly now, in ways I never would have imagined. Trouble is, no one has been able to figure out a model to earn enough money on

the Internet to support a full service news staff," Huppert said. "People need to realize Google and Yahoo are not gathering news about our communities. The Star Tribune and the Pioneer Press and the television networks and affiliates are the news gatherers. As their budgets tighten and staffs are reduced, the very role of the press in our democracy is being challenged. I don't know how this is going to evolve, but I don't like where it's going."

**"...as I get older I gain far more satisfaction focusing on the extraordinary accomplishments of ordinary people."**

Boyd Huppert,  
UWRF alumnus

**To find Boyd Huppert's work online, visit:  
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