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# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE RIVER FALLS

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## Chancellor Foster to retire this summer

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Interim Chancellor Connie Foster will retire June 30, closing the door on 25 years of service at UW-River Falls. The fourth interim chancellor and the second woman to be hired for the position, Foster took up post in July 2008 when UW System President Kevin Reilly asked her if she would be willing to step in. At the time, Foster was interim provost. She said she asked Reilly if he might want to bring someone from the outside in. “He said no,” Foster said. “He thought the campus needed consistency. So I was

obviously very flattered to accept.” Upper administration was never Foster’s goal in pursuing an education. “I would just read or get involved in what interested me,” the physically active 58-year-old said. “I didn’t do it because I thought it would necessarily take me somewhere.” Foster said she loves physical activity and tries to stay active through any job she has held. Three to four times a week she can be found running five miles as early as 5 a.m. She takes a spin class and swims at the Hudson YMCA. “It keeps me focused and balanced,” Foster, who com-

petes in triathlons, said. “It’s just a good time to let your mind relax and to feel the rhythm of the exercise and be in tune with what you are doing and how your body feels.” A passion for physical activity can be seen through Foster’s education choices. Her undergraduate degree is in psychology and her master’s and doctorate degrees are both in physical education with a sports psychology emphasis. Foster received an associate arts degree from San Bernardino Valley Community College in 1970 and a bachelors of science from California State University-Long Beach in 1972. Five years later, Foster earned a master’s at the University of Southern California. Rounding out her education in 1983, Foster achieved her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. Foster said she thought she would move back to California after she got her doctorate, but when she met her husband, Fred Roethlisberger, who was the men’s gymnastics coach for 33 years, that plan fell by the wayside.

“I really had to adjust to the winter,” Foster said. “It seemed like none of my clothes were right and I had to buy a down jacket and long underwear.” Married for 27 years, the two lived in St. Louis Park, Minn., and Afton, Minn., before having settled in River Falls when their son Gus was born. In 1984, Foster was hired as the head coach for the women’s gymnastics team and to teach in the department of health and human performance and UWRF. A coaching highlight she said she remembers is a meet at Hamline involving Hamline, Winona State and UWRF. “We were predicted to be third and we just hit everything and won that meet,” Foster said. Foster began to move up the ranks in 1992 when she became a full professor and the women’s athletic director. Five years later, she moved to the overall athletic director and chair of HHP. Interim Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies Faye Perkins was Foster’s coaching and teaching colleague in the earlier years. Perkins started in 1988



Sally King/Student Voice

**Interim Chancellor Connie Foster is retiring June 30.** and said Foster is very collaborative, understanding and compassionate. “She has a creative mind for working out solutions to problems when, at times, there seems to be no possible solution,” Perkins said in an See Foster page 3

- A few of Foster’s favorites:**
- Favorite color: Green.
  - Favorite dish: pheasant in green chili sauce. “My husband loves to cook,” she said. “He does a lot of bird hunting.”
  - Favorite sweet: dark chocolate.
  - Favorite books: Life and Death in Shanghai by Nein Chen and Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden.
  - Favorite building on campus: University Center. “It’s a great place for meetings, which I am in a lot of,” she said.
  - Favorite movies: Clint Eastwood movies.



Renee Bergh/Student Voice

**A UWRF student shows a horse at the annual colt sale Saturday. Students involved in the Colts in Training program work to train the horses during the semester.**

## Students train horses for colt sale

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The annual UW-River Falls colt sale, held on May 2, turned out to be another successful one for the students involved in the Colts in Training program. The auction was preceded by a preview session. Potential buyers watched as the students rode their young horses around the arena. The buyers examined how the colts moved. Next, buyers talked to each student individually to inquire further about the ponies they were interest-

ed in. After the preview session, the auction began and lasted about three hours. Jack Brainerd and Jim Dollahon established the Colts in Training program at UWRF in 1972. The program gives students an opportunity to start and train young horses with supervision and needed assistance from expert trainers.

After a couple of years, the program was thought to be a bit boring, and students were not getting any recognition for the time they were spending with the colts. In 1976, the idea of hosting a sale arose. The sales attract a higher quality horse because it

**“It’s a pretty unique program. It’s probably the oldest Colts in Training program in the country.”**  
Kris Hiney,  
UWRF equine science professor

See Colt sale page 3

## Multicultural center on Senate ballot, in the air at UW-River Falls

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UW-River Falls students may see a multicultural center on campus in the not-so-distant future. The center would either be a newly constructed building or part of Rodli or Hagestad Halls, former Student Senate Vice President Liz De La Torre said. The center would be an academic and social center with books, computers and other resources for students of color and those interested in learning about culture, De La Torre said. There may be the possibility of scholarships for students interested in a multicultural environment, At-Large Student Senate member Kayla Godes said. Student Senate President Joshua Brock said the biggest problem is going to be finding space for the center and getting the space accepted by the University Administration. “We don’t want a broom closet,” De La Torre said. Brock said the center would focus on providing a space for people to feel comfortable and meet others. He said he is also working on providing space for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community at UWRF as part of the center.

tell what the costs of the center would look like. Nothing is definite at this point, he said. De La Torre said there is money available through the University and state for academic uses that may help fund the project. Where to locate the center has become an issue for the Student Senate and the University Administration. “The location is very much up in the air. We would love for it to be in Global Connections,” De La Torre said. The Global Connections office is not designed as a social center, Greene said. It’s designed as a resource center for international students and is very program structured, he said. “The University has been concerned with retention of students of color,” De La Torre said. “It’s a rural community and there’s a lack of people that look like you in the area.” De La Torre commented about student retention.



Greene

**“The University has been concerned with retention of students of color. It’s a rural community and there’s a lack of people that look like you in the area.”**  
Liz De La Torre,  
former Student Senate VP

community. “We need a center to help people to celebrate and accept diversity and those of color,” Greene said. Some of the administration, like the Diversity Inclusiveness Committee, is supporting the center, Brock said. Greene said he would like to support students of color on campus in every way. “The mixing of religion, culture and values,” he said, “is a wonderful mosaic.”



VOICE SHORTS

UWRF wins at ADSA-SAD contest

Forty-three UW-River Falls students traveled to Fargo, N.D., on Feb. 27 to March 1, 2009, to participate in the annual Midwest Regional conference of the American Dairy Science Association-Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD), hosted by North Dakota State University. The students represented the UWRF Dairy Club and were accompanied by club advisor Dennis Cooper, dairy science professor. Students tested their knowledge of dairy science in two Quiz Bowl contests, including upper and lower divisions. Representing UWRF in the upper division quiz bowl were Michael Johnson-senior dairy science major, Amber Elliott-senior ag marketing communications major, Michael Reps-senior dairy science major and Jeffery Jens-junior dairy science major. The lower division quiz bowl team included Alex Gieser- sophomore dairy science major, Carl Lippert-sophomore dairy science major, Paul Lippert-sophomore dairy science major, and Jeff Orr-freshman dairy science major. The lower division team won first place. For more information, contact Dennis Cooper: (715) 425-3704; dennis.p.cooper@uwrf.edu.

UWRF wins at NAID Challenge

A team from UW–River Falls was one of four teams to receive the Second Place Platinum Award in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC) held March 27 and 28 in Syracuse, N.Y. A total of 29 teams from the United States and two from Canada competed in the eighth annual event, hosted by the Northeast Region NAIDC committee. The team coached by dairy science professor Dennis Cooper, consisted of Jillian Becker, Michael Johnson, Sam Kreidermacher and Brianna Pfluger. The UWRF team spent two days at the contest. On the first day, they combed through cow and farm management data, as well as financial records, then conducted an on-site evaluation. Later that day, they also interviewed the farm owner. After identifying opportunities to increase efficiency and profitability for the herd owner, the team presented its findings to a judging panel comprised of a dairy business owner and four experts in dairy nutrition, herd health, reproduction, and financial management. Teams were judged on their analysis of the operation, recommendations, and overall presentation.

City charges board member for conduct

Pierce County Board member Benjamin Plunkett, 35, has been charged with disorderly conduct for his actions at the March 30 UW-River Falls Student Senate meeting. According to the citation, Plunkett violated statute UWS18.06(30), disorderly conduct on UW lands. Plunkett declined to comment on the charges. “In my opinion, this doesn’t rise to the level of disorderly conduct. He’s going to be contesting the charges,” Brent Nistler, Plunkett’s attorney said. Former Student Senate President Cindy Bendix and current President Joshua Brock did not respond to requests for comment on the accusation. Plunkett was elected to the Pierce County Board in 2006 and re-elected in the spring of 2008. His term expires on April 20, 2010. He is scheduled to appear in court 10:30 a.m. May 18.

Student Senate sends packages to military

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The UW-River Falls Student Senate has made preparations to organize and send care packages to 31 UWRF students who will be leaving for military service in war zones overseas. The Student Senate has approved a budget of \$1,500 to fund the creation and organization of the care packages. The Senate is also putting together a list of items to be included in the care packages comprised of recommendations from student members of the armed services who have previously returned from military service. Cindy Bendix, former president of the UWRF Student Senate, said that the packages will be organized and assembled at UWRF and will then be sent to a military contact in Eau Claire, Wis., who will then send the parcels onto the locations of each student. Personalizing the packages is not an option. “They’re going to have to be the same because we can’t know anything about them or who they’re going to or where it’s going,” Bendix said. Bendix said that the Student Senate plans to send a series of three packages to each deployed student during the summer months. “We organized sending care packages to those students and right now we are looking at sending out three different shipments while they’re gone so that they don’t just get one and then they feel we forget them after that, so there’s three,” she said. The contents of packages sent previously have been used as another reference in the organization of the shipments. The packages will contain a variety of items ranging from essentials such as toiletries to things like candy. An effort to write letters to deployed soldiers is also being organized, Bendix said. “It’s going to be like socks, underwear, tank tops and then there’s going to be some candy, toothbrushes, baby wipes,” she said. “We’ve been making a list based off of what people who have come back have told us what they would like while they were there.” The first packages in the series will be sent in the beginning of the summer and will be followed by two other shipments. Bendix also said that the Student Senate will hopefully plan to send care packages during the next school year. “We’re going to send out one at the end of May, beginning of June, and then probably one again in the middle of summer and then at the end,” she said.

Students can get involved in the effort by making donations for the contents of the packages and the Student Senate has also been working to inform students by asking faculty members to make announcements about the packages in classes. Students may also donate items they have leftover while moving off campus as the semester ends. “If they have any books, if they have anything like that that they’re willing to donate - comic books and things like that - we’d love to put them in the care packages as well,” Bendix said. “We have a bunch of movies now and we’d love to add to it.”

Sorority myth does not hinder housing

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A legend circulating around UW-River Falls says that the sororities on campus are not allowed to have houses for their chapters due to a City of River Falls ordinance. This, however, is a myth, according to the future River Falls City Administrator Scot E. Simpson. The myth states, no more than eight women can live in a house at one time in the City of River Falls without it being considered a brothel. The zoning section of the City ordinances of River Falls states that a fraternity or a sorority house means a building occupied by an organized group of 10 or more students where succession of membership and lodging are given to the houses occupants. The City has no problem with both sororities and fraternities having houses within city limits, the myth was something that was started a long time ago and has been traveling through Greek chapters and campus every year, according to Simpson. The only houses that are currently being used by campus Greek life are those that are occupied by the three fraternities: Alpha Gamma Rho, Theta Chi and Delta Theta Sigma. The five sororities on campus include Alpha Omicron Pi, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Sigma Alpha and Phi Mu. Although some members from each sorority may live together, they are not allowed to have a specific house designated for their sorority according to an agreement called the National Panhellenic Housing Agreement. There are some sorority members who are aware of this agreement, but there are some, especially new members to the Greek community, who have been given the myth as a reason as to why their chapter does not have a house. This is not required to be addressed among sororities on campus but can lead to confusion among the newer members. Ashley Clow, in her first year as a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, found that when she asked her sisters why they did not have a chapter house she received a mixed response.

“... a sorority house means a building occupied by an organized group of 10 or more students where succession of membership and lodging are given to the houses occupants.”

Scot E. Simpson, River Falls city administrator

The first response Clow heard was that, due to a City ordinance concerning the amount of girls living in one house, they were not allowed to own one for the chapter. The second response that she received from senior members of Sigma contained information about a national housing agreement that bound the sororities in deciding not to have houses for this campus. The National Panhellenic Housing Agreement was first drafted in 1989. “The purpose of this agreement is to secure for all sororities an equitable housing plan through cooperation with each other and with their respective National Councils,” Sara Gliniany, UWRF’s Greek Coordinator, said. The agreement was drafted because the National Council wanted to make sure that all of the sororities on campus could afford housing for their chapter. They decided that if one sorority could not afford to own a house than the other sororities should not have them as well out of respect. This was also intended to be used to cut the cost for students who wished to be a part of a sorority on campus, according to Gliniany. There is a worry that while having a house may increase the number of potential new members for a sorority it would also bring with it more unwanted drama among sisters, Clow said. “I think that it would be amazing if we could have houses because everyone would be centrally located so that we would not have to take up a room on campus just to have a meeting. This would allow all sisters in the sorority to have better communication as well,” Alexis D’Aquistto of the Phi Mu sorority said. One member of a sorority on campus said she feels that the addition of a chapter home would be the best thing because it would separate sororities from feeling like a club on campus instead of a sisterhood. “Right now the sororities on campus seem more like a club than a sisterhood because we are not allowed to have a house,” Katie Sheehan of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority said. “I think that the sisterhood among us would become stronger and would also make Greek life more popular within the campus.”

UWRF performs Shakespeare play for first time in four years

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Margaret Swanson, theatre professor and director of "As You Like It," said she believes that springtime is about love. The joy and happiness of the season allows people to associatewith UW-River Falls' latest theatre production. The UW-River Falls theatre department performed William Shakespeare’s “As You Like it,” a comedy about love, on April 30, May 1, May 2, May 7 and May 8 in Kleinpell Fine Arts. The show cost \$8 for adults, and \$5 for students. Swanson said she also chose it for practical purposes since there are more female roles and gender neutral roles, giving female theatre majors a chance to perform in a Shakespeare play, and also making sure there are enough men for the cast. There are four principle woman roles, which is twice as many as others, Swanson said. “It is not my favorite, but it was the right show for our purposes,” Swanson said. Swanson also directed the two previous Shakespeare performances at UWRF. “I love taking something that is almost 500 years old and making it come alive to a present audience,” Swanson said. “It’s great to be able to bring the work of someone who has been dead for almost 500 years to life,” Swanson said another reason why she likes performing Shakespeare is that “Shakespeare texts leave so much to the imagination, which means you and the

casts have a lot to play with.”

“There are so many ways you have to dig in and change things,” Swanson said. Senior theatre major David Frank, who plays the role of Touchstone, said he also likes this about performing Shakespeare. “We have created subtext to compliment Shakespeare’s genius,” Frank said. The UWRF theatre department has not performed Shakespeare in four years. Their previous Shakespeare performance was “Twelfth Night” in October 2004. Before that, they performed “Romeo and Juliet” in 1999.

Swanson said the reason they do not perform Shakespeare more often is because of the difficulty. Swanson said the most challenging thing about directing a Shakespeare play is getting the students to understand the language. The first two weeks of rehearsal was working on the language, Swanson said. “The biggest challenge in performing Shakespeare is to convey the meaning behind Shakespeare’s archaic language,” Frank said. “Once you finally discover the meaning behind Shakespeare’s words you get the feeling as if you’ve just uncovered a treasure.” Freshman theatre major and second Lord in “As You Like It,” James Zappa, agreed that the language is a challenge when working with Shakespeare. “The lines really matter,” Zappa said.

“The biggest challenge in performing Shakespeare is to convey the meaning behind Shakespeare’s archaic language.”

Margaret Swanson, "As You Like It" director

When working on a Shakespeare performance, the language is a challenge that stage managers do not normally deal with in non-classical shows. “Along with the regular stage manager duties, the other big aspect is understanding the language and making sure the actors understand the language,” Stage Manager Greg Lund said. Though the duties for an assistant stage manager are different than a stage manager, when dealing with a Shakespeare performance, an assistant stage manager also has to deal with the language of the piece. First time Assistant Stage Manager Karen Biederman said it is a challenge, but she enjoys it. This year’s Shakespeare’s performance offered something different to theatre students. For the first time, there was a Shakespeare performance class offered that is taught by Swanson. Every student in the class is participating in the performance of “As You Like It” in some way, Swanson said. The class has helped the students with the performance a lot, Swanson said. Even though not everyone in the cast of “As You Like It” is in the class as Swanson said she had originally planned, Swanson said the cast is terrific and it has been a great process. Swanson said she feels it is important to perform Shakespeare once every four years so that each student may experience Shakespeare in some way.

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 27**  
- A bicycle was reported stolen from the Regional Development Institute at 782 E. Wild Rose Ave.  
  
**May 2**  
- Michael J. Dematties, 20, was cited for underage consumption at 127 S. Main St.

- Trenton B. Beighley, 20, was cited for underage consumption at Stratton Hall.  
  
**May 3**  
- Andrew R. Harrington, 22, was cited for a bicycle violation at 127 S. Main St.  
- Michael T. Tansey, 21, was cited for public urination at 109 N. Main St.



# Foster: Interim chancellor has held plethora of administrative positions at UWRF

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e-mail interview.

In February of 2002, Foster took over as interim dean in the College of Education and Professional Studies. A year later, she applied for and landed the job which she held until 2007. In August of 2007, Foster stepped in as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, according to her résumé.

Her most recent administrative career, Foster said, is a positive for everyone to see that it could happen to them if they are ready and willing.

“I thought back in my career and it seems like whenever anybody asked me to do something I almost always said OK,” she said. “All of us need to think of ourselves as leaders and be willing to step in when asked to do so. Leadership isn’t always about what title you have. It’s about what you contribute.”

Foster said her biggest accomplishment as interim chancellor has been working with a lot of other people to move UWRF’s program prioritization forward. The most difficult part of being the interim chancellor has been making difficult decisions.

“Particularly in this budget crisis we’ve had to make difficult decisions on how we allocate our resources,” Foster said. “We can’t do as much as we would like.”

Improving salary compression is goal seven of UWRF’s strategic plan and only a few initiatives for instructional academic staff were made, Foster said.

Interim Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Lisa Wheeler said she got to know Foster in the early 1990s through serving on various committees together and both having a personal interest in running.

Wheeler said she will miss Foster’s optimism and laughter.

“My office is next door to the conference room in North Hall,” she said in an e-mail interview. “I can always tell when she is in a meeting because I can hear her (and others) laughing. But no one should doubt that she is also very serious and thoughtful.”

A favorite memory of Foster’s is a budget retreat two years ago when she worked with Wheeler and many others to rethink the way UWRF did planning and budgeting.

“We started using a model of integrated planning by linking our resources towards strategic planning,” she said. “That was a first and

“I will miss watching how she can bring people together to work toward a common goal. It’s truly a gift of Connie’s.”

Faye Perkins,  
Interim dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies

Frequent flyer:  
Foster’s family and travels

Foster grew up in a military family—her dad was a fighter pilot in the Air Force. Kindergarden, first and second grade were spent in Japan. High school years meant living in England for two and a half years.

“It was the late ‘60s so it was an exciting time to be in England. The pop culture was huge,” Foster said. “I remember taking the train from the town we lived into London with friends for a day.”

Her first year at college was at the University of Maryland extension in Munich, Germany. The family returned at the height of the Vietnam War.

“The hardest part was when we came back to the states in 1969,” she said. “It was such a culture shock... There was protesting all the time and I was not used to that.”

Other places Foster has traveled to includes Spain, India, and China.

“I have traveled a lot,” Foster said. “So upon retirement I will probably do some traveling, but I don’t have a need to travel.”

Foster said she married into a “highly skilled family.”

Wheeler seconded this statement.

“Connie has been known to say that she is the slacker in the family.”

Her husband Fred Roethlisberger, stepson John Roethlisberger and stepdaughter Marie Roethlisberger are Olympic gymnasts. John co-owns a gymnastics camp called

Flip Fest in Crossville, Tenn. Marie had to have elbow surgery for bone chips so she could not compete.

She is now a family physician and lives in Madison, according to Foster’s resume.

Foster’s son Gus Roethlisberger is a senior at the University of Minnesota and will graduate this May.

She and her husband live on a 50-acre hobby farm south of town with three hunting dogs a munsterlander Spot, a Brittany Louie and an English setter Patch.

Fred retired four years ago. Foster said there has been a little pressure for her to retire.

“I will have more time to help him with the garden now,” she said. “He is always asking me to help him with the garden.”

# Colt sale: UWRF students spend 90 days training the colts during the semester

from page 1

gives the breeders an incentive to send their colts to UWRF. In addition, students receive acknowledgement for the work they did with the colts.

“It’s a pretty unique program. It’s probably the oldest Colts in Training program in the country,” Kris Hiney, UWRF equine science professor said. “A lot of other programs have tried to model it off of this one.”

This semester there were 45 students in the program. Each student got about 90 days to work with their horse and to get them broke. When the students received their colts, the animals were only halter-broke. This means that the horses could walk alongside people and other animals on a halter and remain calm. For their first ride on their colts, the students did not use anything to hold on to the horse; they were just getting a feel for how the body of the animal moved.

The horses are contracted to UWRF from all over the United States. The owners of the colts will get the money the animal makes from the sale. The owners also have the option to no-sale the horse if it did not sell for very much.

“Because the horses are fairly well bred, a lot of them do go on to be performance horses,” Hiney said.

The majority of the colts are bred as reining and cutting horses. Reining is a competition for horses where the riders guide them through a precise pattern of circles, spins and stops. A reining horse must be quick and agile as well as responsible to the rider’s commands. The aid of the rider should not be easily seen, so the horse and rider must be quite in tune with each other. Students train reining horses to have an excellent temperament to perform with both speed and precision.

Cutting is a competition where a horse and rider are judged on their ability to separate a calf away from its herd and keep it away for a short given period of time. When the calf attempts to return to its herd mates, the rider loosens the reins, and it is entirely up to the horse to keep the calf separated. Cutting horses must be suave, mature, patient and independent. It’s the job of the trainer to get the horses into cutting-shape.

The colts are broke by the students and then auctioned at the sale. This year, the top colt sold for \$9,000.

Hiney



Find Freddy’s Feather...

...will be returning next fall in the Student Voice!

Last week’s winner: Li Shang

# UWRF graduating seniors reflect on college experience

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May 16 marks the day 640 UWRF graduating seniors will walk across that stage dressed in their cap and gowns and receive the fruit of their hard earned labours—a diploma.

There will be two commencement ceremonies to accommodate the large number of graduates this year. They will be held in at 9:30 a.m. and at 2 p.m. in the Roger P. Knowles Center.

Graduation is a huge accomplishment in any college student’s life. It proves that all the years of homework and exams were not endured for nothing.

For senior marketing major Melissa Roberts, walking across that stage means starting a new chapter in her life.

“I feel like I will have taken the next step in my future,” Roberts said. “Walking off that stage will be my walk towards the real world.”

Roberts, 21, said she hopes to work in the marketing department of Lifetime Fitness after graduating.

One thing that Roberts said she wished someone would have told her when she started college is that “it is OK not to know what to do with the rest of your life.”

While her classmates went out and partied, Katie Delk, a marketing communications major, kept her nose to the grindstone, however she said she regrets not cutting loose a little more often.

“I only spent four years here and I will very likely never turn back,” she said. “Don’t get me wrong, I have great memories, but I studied more often than necessary and quite possibly missed out on some pretty great college times with my friends.”

Along with Roberts and Delk are the 1.6 million other college graduates receiving

degrees this year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. With an unpredictable economy, it is uncertain how recent graduates will fare out in the real world.

Despite the tough economic times, six UWRF seniors said they feel they are optimistic about finding jobs in their chosen field.

Double majoring in physics and mathematics, McNair Scholar Devin Underwood said he thinks he will have no trouble finding a job because of the excellent education he received at UWRF.

“I have dedicated teachers who work hard to prepare students for the real world,” said Underwood. “When the time comes that I end up going to work I will be plenty prepared.”

After graduation, Underwood will be headed to Princeton University, where he will pursue a Ph.D. in electrical engineering.

Not all students had good things to say about their time at the University. One graduating business major, Matthew Page, said he was frustrated with some of the professors they had at UWRF.

“I didn’t enjoy some of the professors because they were hard to understand and I feel that I didn’t receive a lot of information in some of my classes,” Page said.

For underclassmen looking for a leg up on the competition, business administration major Skipp Haseley, who currently has an internship with North Western Mutual Financial Network, and will be working there full time after graduation, offers a bit of advice.

“My advice to any underclassmen would be to start looking for internships early in college,” he said. “In today’s economy it’s all about who you know and your experience.”

FOCUS ON U

Miss the last episode? Don’t worry! It will be rebroadcast all summer long on channel 19!

9 a.m., 5 p.m., 9 p.m.



EDITORIAL

Graduates need to reflect on college

The Student Voice would like to congratulate this year’s graduating class. The seniors taking that hallowed walk across stage are closing one chapter in their life. The life of all-nighters, finals and thirsty Thursdays is ending. But a new, equally exciting chapter is now opening in your life. But every ounce of excitement is matched with fear and apprehension. This year’s graduates have the added challenge of entering the job market during one of the worst economic hardships since the Great Depression. But don’t get discouraged. Instead of using this summer to relax one last time, take the opportunity to work at internships and volunteer for charity work, both of which will make you more employable. This University has a long-standing record of lighting the flame within countless influential and successful people. UWRF alumni include an economic adviser to President Obama, a department head at NASA, a physical trainer for the New York Jets, a famous explorer of rural China, etc... UWRF has provided you with a robust set of skills that will lead to advancement in any sector.

Think about all the classes you have taken, the friendships made, the lessons learned. Take everything that has happened over the past four or five (maybe six) years and apply that to your future. Because that is all college really is. A series of moments that can be molded into teachable moments, each with a specific and unique lesson that, when understood and applied correctly, will impart on you not only knowledge but wisdom. Take some time out of your busy schedule and thank those who have helped you along the journey. As you walk out of your finals for the last time, shake your professors’ hands and thank them. You have had many professors in your time here, but remember the few who have had a great influence on your education and career path. Thank your adviser for showing you the path(s). Tell your RAs and/or HMs from years past what their advice meant to you. Keep in touch with the friends you have made. One of the biggest crimes you can commit is leaving those who influenced you ignorant to the change they were a part of. Go forth and change the world, each in your own personal way. It may take some time to break into the sector or industry you want, but stick with it. Get an internship in the time being and hone your skills. Good luck in all your future endeavors.

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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By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student defends beliefs, religion

Normally when a student writes a paper or gives a speech, they gather research from various sources. It really breaks my heart that students care so much for their grade, but not for the feelings or personal beliefs of other students. Does anyone really know the true meaning of Christianity or Catholicism? Or are they basing their understandings on one person’s comment or allowing the mistake of a Christian to be amplified because they assume all Christians claim perfection? It’s never fun to admit you’re wrong, but I will admit that I’m not perfect at handling these sorts of situations. I believe we’re all sinners, and no person is better or worse than the other just because their sin is bigger or smaller. It’s hurtful to share with people that I’m a Catholic and have them cringe. I feel very rejected from this campus when I see countless references mocking my faith. I think it’s sad to take cheap shots at the Catholic Church and draw comics of the Pope melting. That shows a large lack of maturity and that puts false blame on the Catholic Church being the only church that believes that gay marriage is not of God. On the subject of homosexuals, before you bash the opinion of a Christian, you should understand where

that opinion comes from. I, personally, have been taught that the sin does not lie in the feelings of a person, but the actions. A pastor, and friend of mine, related the sin of homosexuality to that of a sexually promiscuous person (for example, if a woman has sex with several men). This action does not encourage the traditional idea of marriage. It breaks the bond of two people becoming one, because she gives herself to more than one man. Homosexuality breaks the bond of two people becoming one because when they would consummate their marriage, they would remain as two individuals. Both of these are selfish and for personal pleasure. Neither act would be done to carry out the will of God. I think the major upset with Mr. Sparks’ column was that he thought civil unions would not be enough for the homosexual community. He wanted more, and thought they deserved more. Mr. Bergquist said, “If Christians wish to define marriage on their own terms and sanctions certain types of unions in their churches, they are free to do so.” We already have. Marriage was established the day our Lord created Adam and Eve. I think a fundamental difference in the argument would have to be the definitions of happiness and marriage. I associate happiness with fulfillment, and I believe that total fulfillment will come only from God because He created us and knows how to perfectly love

us and make us happy. Why do homosexuals feel oppressed? I have a hard time believing that their unhappiness can be blamed on the restrictions of their legal rights. If my happiness depended on the government I’d be depressed. It’s arguable to say whether being gay is a choice or not. Nonetheless, marriage is a choice. Straight or not, at some point in a mature relationship the two people marrying have to consent their commitment making a choice. Regarding Ms. Pollock’s statement about Ted Haggard, it is clear to see that he is an example of a preacher with homosexual tendencies. However, just because an imperfect human made a mistake does not mean that God’s law changes. If Mr. Brookins truly believes that Catholics instill fear into their children, he has some intense research to do. When the word ‘fear’ is used in the Bible, it means wonder and awe. We are to be fearful in the presence of Christ. We adore Him. My parents raised me to be loving and act as Christ, not be scared of Him. Religion isn’t built on fear, it’s built on faith. Many people think that Catholics are against gay marriage. I am not trying to restrict the rights of anyone, but I’m trying to protect my personal convictions. Last time I checked, I have the same rights to do that as a homosexual. If any-

one’s opinion of the Catholic Church is taken from a bad priest or know-it-all parishioner and hates the Catholic Church, they need to study the foundations of the faith before they form an opinion. There is more proof that Jesus walked this Earth than there is that rocks formed a billion years ago, and we, as imperfect humans, try to follow this real man’s teachings and praise Him for forgiving us of unavoidable ignorance and stupidity. We believe that all faiths of Christianity are our loving brothers and sisters and that all non-believers are still loved more than they want to be. I think the hardest thing for non-Christians to understand is what Christians really believe. I know that I believe that God isn’t just mine. He’s all of ours. That’s why it’s so hurtful to see how rejected He is. These are my beliefs as a Catholic Christian. My beliefs and opinions in this letter are my own. Just because I am not a product of our liberal education system does not mean that I am wrong. I, as an American citizen, have freedom of speech as well, even if it doesn’t match up with yours. I, however, believe that to live in a country of freedom is a privilege, not a right, and hope that we all step back and think more before we abuse that privilege.

Katrina Ripley, student

Student Voice works for your information

Working for a paper, I’ve witnessed a large amount of ridiculousness. Although sometimes ridiculousness can turn into a mess, sometimes it adds to things of betterness. Every Wednesday night our little family of at least 11 puts this thing that you’re reading together: the paper. Your very own campus newspaper. What comes with a paper is responsibility. Reporters turning in stories, editors puzzle-piecing pages together, photographers selecting photos and proofreaders making sure those annoying little mistakes aren’t made. And, of course, there’s your responsibility: to read the paper—to be informed by stories and to check out the blotter and disagree with the



Abby Maliszewski

The point is, you react. The point of our campus newspaper is to inform you to react, giving you a vehicle to react through. The press reports on campus happenings: Senate meetings, current events, administration issues. Its the press’ job

to let the public know what’s up—even down to the police blotter. People can argue what’s news and what isn’t, but you probably wouldn’t value the news until it isn’t offered to you anymore. I often overhear editors discussing stories: is it prominent enough? Is it well written? Does it deserve to show up on page one? We’re an ever-changing staff with a life-expectancy of four to five years. We begin as inexperienced and end with the knowledge of our mistakes. The Voice may never be perfect; and we don’t expect to. But as far as I know, we’re trying. We appreciate your feedback. We value your opinion. We thrive on your support. It is our job to keep you informed—without you, we really have no purpose.

Abby is a graduating senior double majoring in marketing communications and journalism.



# Mother’s, May Day result from conflicts

Generally when people think of May Day and Mother’s Day, we think of appreciating our mothers and May Day baskets and parades.

May Day became recognized as International Workers Day in the late 19th century. Labor rights activists were then in a struggle to get the eight-hour work day. The union, American Federation of Labor, adopted a historic resolution which asserted that “eight hours shall constitute a legal day’s labor from and after May 1, 1886.” Eight-hour strikes occurred on this day in Chicago, which was at the heart of the labor movement, New York, Detroit, Milwaukee and other cities in the U.S.

Three days later, a protest meeting was held in the Chicago park Haymarket Square. A large crowd turned out to listen to key anarchist organizers August Spies, Albert Parsons and Samuel Fielden. The rally was very peaceful, until the last speaker was closing his speech and an “unknown” assailant threw a bomb into a crowd of police officers (there were about 200 officers monitoring the meeting).

This “unknown” assailant has long been blamed as one of the anarchist protesters, though I think it’s pretty obvious that the perpetrator was actually an officer or someone else associated with the powerful who were trying to keep workers from gaining the rights that we take for granted today in the U.S.

Eight labor rights activists were arrested (all anarchists) and sentenced to death for supposedly throwing the bomb. Of the eight, four were hung, one committed suicide and two were eventually pardoned by the mayor of Chicago. The mayor pardoned them because he felt they had been charged for a crime they did not commit. May Day became an international workers day in recognition of these men who died for the eight-hour work day.

Mother’s Day also has its origins in the latter half of the 19th century. Anti-slavery and anti-war activist Julia Ward-Howe organized the first Mother’s Day in reaction to the Civil War, and the violence that followed the end of the War. Many soldiers

were still engaging in violence against civilians and several other veterans were homeless.

Ward-Howe wrote a poem about the ravages of war, and called for all mothers to be citizen activists. She began Mother’s Day to end the atrocities that a senseless war causes. Over a century has passed and we still face the same struggles that these holidays were intended to address.

Labor relations may have gotten better in the U.S. (which can be debated because of the excessive use of prison labor) but not in other countries like China, India, Mexico and essentially any country in Central and South America.

The majority of consumer goods that we have in this country are coming from these countries, whose factories have conditions that parallel the conditions that used to be in the U.S. and are often referred to as slave labor. Just because this isn’t happening in our backyard, doesn’t mean that we don’t have an ethical obligation to recognize that millions of people are being treated poorly and living in poverty, in a capitalist system that benefits relatively few people (in context of the world’s population).

We are in a senseless war right now. Numbers of casualties and injuries of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians and soldiers well exceeds 1 million. We are in the worst recession since the Great Depression, but the military budget keeps growing to fight this unjust war, as well as funding other military escapades.

In 2008, the defense budget was 21 percent of the overall U.S. federal spending, according to the Congressional Budget office. This is over \$500 billion that could have been broken up to help our health care crisis, declining education system or a number of other social problems in the U.S.

I think it is important to recognize that the problems of war and labor/human rights violations still impact us today, much as they affected people when nearly 150 years ago the anti-war and labor rights movements gave us the holidays May Day and Mother’s Day.

Tracey is a journalism major and sociology minor.



Tracey Pollock

# Religion’s usefulness limited in politics, grand scheme of life

I haven’t addressed the recent “gay rights vs. religion” debate in the Voice since Shawna Carpentier wrote her first column, and I guess it isn’t necessary.

Enough has been said about that particular issue since last month, with many other people offering good arguments of their own.

But after a while, the whole business did get me thinking more about religion—and, specifically, why it is better off separated from government.

It’s true that we all hold certain convictions, and they did play a role in the founding of this country. But there are different degrees of belief.

Some ideas are held by almost everybody, stemming from practical experience and observations on how a healthy society can operate. But other beliefs are based in spiritual notions, specific codes of moral conduct and assumptions about the way people ought to live. These amount to what we call “faith.”

Faith by itself is not well-suited to our legislative process, and the reasons should be obvious. Faith is a set of ideas held outside the bounds of reason. These ideas are extremely subjective, varying widely between individuals, cultures, environments and religious influences. Therefore, as the founding fathers well knew, it should not be a guide for setting, changing or enforcing legal policy.

So when I hear people talking about their religion as if it’s supposed to direct our political process, that’s where I draw the line. After all, the United States is not a theocracy.

This place was founded with a

far more productive and sensible vision. Here, you are allowed to be anything you choose—religious believer or not—as long as you don’t harm other people, break laws or try to overthrow the government. Our rights are there in black and white, and should be consistently enforced.

I think that as long as our human rights are respected, we don’t need much else to be fulfilled and happy people.

I was once religious myself—Catholic, to be precise—but by my early teens I decided it was adding nothing of real value to my life, or to the lives of my friends. I refused to accept unproven answers to all of life’s questions, because I didn’t need them. I am comfortable with uncertainty.

**Faith is a set of ideas held outside the bounds of reason. These ideas are extremely subjective, varying widely between individuals, cultures, environments and religious influences.**

Has anyone else considered that religion may just be distracting us from what’s really important about the human condition?

Do we have to surround ourselves with so many artificial boundaries and conflicting belief systems?

Why can’t we settle for common sense, and forget all the unnecessary pretenses?

We have built-in urges, instincts and evolutionary drives that, if channeled through logic and discipline, allow us to meet all of our practical needs in life.

Why ask for anything more? Why do so many of us still

believe our dead relatives and friends are “with God?” Why do we swear on the Bible and say “God bless America?” Why would God care about who wins a game, an election or a war, as so many politicians have claimed?

I spent years asking myself those questions—until one day, my favorite comedian (George Carlin) blew most of them away with one answer.

“It’s delusional thinking,” he said bluntly, only a few months before his death. “And Americans are not alone with these sorts of delusions. Military cemeteries all over the world are packed with brainwashed,

**... taking faith beyond your own personal lifestyle is a bad idea—because there’s a good chance that everyone who does so is just playing a zero-sum game.**

dead soldiers who were convinced ‘God was on their side.’ America prays for God to destroy our enemies, our enemies pray for God to destroy us; somebody’s gonna be disappointed. Somebody’s

wasting their fucking time. Could it be...everyone?”

I might have put it more politely, but he was right. I don’t want to be part of that process (nor do I need an invisible father figure on my side).

That is why taking faith beyond your own personal lifestyle can be a bad idea—because there’s a good chance that everyone who does so is just playing a zero-sum game. The only faith I really need is faith in myself.

That’s my final word on religion ...and my final word as a columnist, since I’m finally graduating this month.

Whoever you are and whatever you might believe, it has been a pleasure to write for you. Remember to appreciate the color blue. (And if you haven’t listened to death metal before, try it sometime...it’s really not that bad.)

Nathan is a graduating senior journalism major.



Nathan Sparks

# Summertime troubles garner experiences

So I’ve been wondering a lot about what this summer will have to offer, or what I’ll have to offer this summer. It will be my fourth summer while attending UW-River Falls, and the three previous have all suggested different tones, adventures and outcomes.

My summertime tales after freshman year proved that hard work was not only worthwhile, but entertaining as well.

I picked up multiple jobs, worked my ass off and sailed through most of my sophomore year having paid a hefty chunk of tuition.

Sophomore summer was a little less entertaining as the hard work became more monotonous as I burned my hands, drank all sorts of car fluids and changed oil constantly while tending to a local golf course part time.

So now I ask what you’re all doing. What sort of trouble will you all find yourself swimming through?

I’d have inquired about this sooner as to get your minds thinking early, but like a lot of you, I also haven’t the foggiest how I’ll turn up in late August when I return to deliver pestering words of cynicism, encouragement and irrational thought.

We, the student population, are all so young, and therefore need to take it all in. Yeah, you’re going to have to perform some tasks you really

don’t see yourself making careers out of, but that’s the journey through life.

I won’t spend a second of my summer sitting around wondering what I should or could be doing. If you’re jobless right now, check your local classifieds. Get out there and live it up. I’ve spent this year approaching life in the shoes of a storyteller—I’ll usually do things for the story.

You never know when you might be sitting around, surrounding by your overbearing, attention-hogging friends who’ve never spent a moment away from mommy and daddy’s arms—bragging about whatever boring lifestyle they live or gossip they’ve heard. Suddenly you have a story to combat their mundane day-to-day activities.

Yes.

You can admit you purposely ran over that tree stump with the lawnmower just to see what happened. You put your life on the line, survived, now you have free rein to tell the story in whatever dramatic fashion you wish.

As they sink into a dark hole of awe, you take over the conversation. You never know when you might run into someone who worked the same

job, kissed the same style of boss’ ass to get a day off, or spent a week looking forward to the weekend only to get sucked into being the sober cab.

As the sober cab, you ended up convincing your least-favorite drunk friend to engage in a bidding war against a hobo.

The prize? His cardboard box shelter. You’ll never go to the annual homeless sleep out on campus here the same way again.

If not for the money, then for the story—for the memory. So don’t be afraid to work a thoughtless job—you can always quit after a few weeks and move on.

The most well-rounded people I know have moved from monotonous job to the next and talked about it with an optimistic tone.

Yeah, it’s cool to complain, but you know it was for the better.

Use those experiences to propel your-

self toward a job that pertains to your area of study, or a special section of your own interest. You can’t possibly know where you’ll end up, so give it a shot. You never know where you’ll end up.

I look forward to seeing you all next year. Have a fantastic summer, and don’t forget to let the chips fall where they may.

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



Brad Brookins

**If not for the money: then for the story—for the memory. So don’t be afraid to work a thoughtless job—you can always quit after a few weeks and move on.**

# STUDENT Voices

## What are your summer plans?



Logan Wiley, sophomore

“I’m staying on campus and working for the University this summer.”



Katy Sipple, freshman

“Hanging out with friends and I’m trying to find a job for the summer.”



Kelsey Hanson, freshman

“I’ll be going home for the summer and working a lot to help pay for school.”



Ryan Foley, junior

“Working a lot and I might do some traveling with friends.”



Brandon Meyer, freshman

“This summer I’m going to be working on campus as a custodian.”



Trask Reed, senior

“I’m going home to teach sailing and I’ll be working at a restaurant in Hudson”



# Superior ends season for Falcon softball team

Justin Magill  
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

Despite wins in its first two games of the WIAC Tournament, including one against No. 4-ranked UW-Whitewater, the UW-River Falls softball season ended after a loss to the host school UW-Superior 9-3.

Superior finished the WIAC regular season with a 2-13 record, but managed to score four runs in the third inning after a Chelsey Jarzin grand slam, which put the Falcons away for good, ultimately ending its season.

“We beat the big teams we faced,” UWRF Head Coach Jody Gabriel said. “But Superior had our number and we couldn’t get past them. Beating both Eau Claire and Whitewater, who are both headed to post season play on at-large bids, were big wins that proved we can compete with the best in Div. III softball.

Senior Mindy Rudiger, who played in her final collegiate game last weekend, said teams do not know what to expect from Superior.

“Superior is an interesting team,” Rudiger said. “They didn’t play well in the season, but they hit the ball hard and that grand slam really hurt us.”

UWRF did not leave without some fireworks however, after beating regular season conference champion Whitewater in its second game 5-2.

The Falcons scored four runs in the first two innings and took advantage of five Whitewater errors to win the game.

“That was an amazing game,” Rudiger said. “We got some runs early and Rose

[Tusa] pitched a great game for us.” Tusa, a freshman, pitched the whole game for the Falcons and did not give up an earned run. She also helped her cause in the second inning with a home run to center field. Two batters later, catcher Patty Olson picked a great moment for her first collegiate home run, sending a line drive shot over the left field fence.

That was all Tusa needed—she allowed seven hits, struck out five and walked one batter for the game.

Rudiger was unable to break the WIAC record for most career collegiate home runs of 38. She tied the record on April 28 against St. Mary’s University (Minn.).

The record is shared by UW-Eau Claire’s Cassey Leisgang (2005-08) and Superior’s Sarah Tarasesicz (2002-05).

Rudiger’s power at the plate will be absent next season as her collegiate career has now come to a close, but others have picked up the slack.

“Mindy Rudiger has been a great athlete and a very hard worker,” Gabriel said. “There are big spots to fill, but as a team we will work together to be the best team we can be regardless of who is wearing the jersey.”

The last four seasons have been nothing short of amazing, Rudiger said. For her, they will always be remembered.

“I will never forget these last four years,” she said. “They have been the most fun I have ever had. They really have been special to me.”

UWRF had a young team this season, which included 11 freshmen. One of them was Sarah Fern, who was a force

this season with five home runs and 51 runs batted in (RBI), second only to Rudiger’s 12 home runs and 56 RBI.

In addition to Fern, the other freshmen gained valuable playing experience, which they might not have received if they were on a more experience club.

This is one reason why Gabriel said the future should be bright for the Falcons.

“I think the program has a very solid foundation for years to come,” she said. “2010 Falcon softball expects to contend for a conference championship and earn the postseason bid we have just missed the last three years.”

First-year assistant coach and former pitcher for the Falcons, Brittany Rathbun, said coming into the season with a team as young as the Falcons were, it is hard to determine from a coaching standpoint, how it would do.

“With so many freshmen, it’s tough to really know what to expect,” she said. “Our team really came together and played well, especially at the WIAC tournament. I couldn’t have asked for a better tournament. We sent both Eau Claire and Whitewater home, which was a huge accomplishment. If anything, it really proved what this group of individuals can do with a little more time and experience. I thought the year went exceptionally well.”

UWRF had two games prior to the elimination games. It beat UW-Eau Claire in the first game 7-6, but lost to Superior in the second 7-0. The 1-1 record pitted the Falcons against UW-Stevens Point.

The Falcons played the Pointers in the first game of the elimination round and won 10-5.

Tusa struck out seven , allowed six hits and had one walk for the win.

UWRF scored five runs in the second inning, highlighted by Fern’s bases loaded double, which scored Olson, Jessica Lundgren and Rudiger.

Even though the Falcons fell short of their goal of reaching the postseason, Gabriel said the 2009 year was a good one.

“I think we had a good season,” she said. “We did not reach our team goal of earning a banner and getting to postseason, but we were only two games short of it. We got better every day and peaked at the end where we fought hard through the conference tournament. Overall, 2009 was successful for Falcon softball.”



Sally King/Student Voice  
Falcon pitcher Rose Tusa delivers a pitch on April 29 at Ramer Field.

## Packers invite former Falcon center Scott Witte to mini camp

Justin Magill  
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

After four seasons, three of them including All-WIAC honors, Scott Witte, a center for the UW-River Falls football team, has a chance to further his football career with the Green Bay Packers with an invite to the teams’ rookie minicamp.

“Just a great feeling,” Witte said in a telephone interview while at the mini camp. “It’s always been a dream of mine, so now I have a chance.”

A dream does not mean all fun and games, though.

Since he arrived, Witte has been on the field for nearly 12 hours a day. On top of that, there are more film sessions, where coaches and players analyze and break down the practices.

Witte is among some stellar competition at camp with players from the Div. I level, who were not select-

ed in the 2009 NFL draft, trying out for spots on the Packers roster.

“I’m at a disadvantage,” he said. “I played Div. III and most of these guys played at the highest level in college, so I have a lot of work to do.”

For Falcon Head Coach John O’Grady, it has been a long wait to have one of his players be chosen to take part in the NFL.

“[It’s] been a very long time,” he said. “Can’t really remember the last time one of our guys was in that position. Scott is a great football player and we are all very proud of him. It is pretty exciting.”

The Falcons have changed their offense from the wishbone, primarily an all rushing attack, to a more conventional or spread offense to adapt to the athleticism of their players.

O’Grady said the new offense has helped Witte, but he will learn quickly about the importance of pass

protection in the NFL.

“I think the change in offense will help him,” O’Grady said. “But the league is much more complicated in blocking. If you can’t pass block you will not survive there. It has been like that for a long time and will continue to be that way.”

The change of offensive schemes might have saved UWRF from losing Witte, especially after the attention he was getting from the season he had during his freshman year, as he was considering a change in schools.

“I thought about transferring after my first year,” Witte said. “I decided to stay and we got a new offense. The wishbone is not used that much anymore and there is none of it in the NFL.”

Witte said he owes the success he had in college to his coaching staff. In particular, O’Grady, who has been the Falcon head coach since 1989, and offensive coordinator and

line coach Andy Kotelnicki.

“If it wasn’t for them I would not be in this position,” Witte said. “They have helped me so much in becoming a football player.”

Prior to coaching at UWRF, Kotelnicki was the starting center for the Falcons from 2001-03 and was the team captain in his senior season.

“It has been a big help to have him coach me,” Witte said. “He really understands the position well.”

The past football season was Kotelnicki’s third as a Falcon assistant coach and with Witte being a center, the two have worked closely together during those seasons.

Even though they both played the same position for UWRF, Kotelnicki said the comparisons end there.

“I can tell you one thing. He was a hell of a lot better player than I was,” he said.

For Kotelnicki, he said it is a thrill to see one of his players, especially

from a position that he once played, get a chance at the professional ranks.

“It’s really exciting,” he said. “We had a feeling that he would get a shot, whether it was the CFL [Canadian Football League] or the NFL. He is that good of a player. Scott has the size and strength to do really well there.”

The chances might be slim for Witte and O’Grady acknowledged that, but said he still has a chance.

“Let’s be realistic. It’s going to be tough,” O’Grady said. “But he is there and he got a shot to play and that is all he could ask for. As long as you get a shot, you can do something.”

If the NFL does not pan out for Witte, he said there are potential for other plans in football.

“There’s always the possibility of coaching,” Witte said. “It would be something small. Probably back home at my high school.”

## Women’s hockey, softball have successful seasons while others struggle

If it was not for the women’s hockey and softball team, this sports season would have been a tough one for many Falcon sports fans.

Almost every other athletic team finished in the middle of the conference standings, or did not do much in the conference tournaments to spark any sort of excitement for fans.

The football team had its fifth consecutive 3-7 season and has not won more than three games in seven years.

The lone highlight came on UWRF’s homecoming game against UW-Stevens Point, a 36-30 win for

the Falcons. It was also Head Coach John O’Grady’s 100th career coaching win, all with UWRF.

There were some let downs this season, such as the men’s hockey team, which was supposed to contend for the NCHA titles this season.

Well, that did not even come close to happening in what was a surprise season in the conference with St. Norbert College falling down a few spots while the College of St. Scholastica and UW-Stout took over NCHA supremacy.

The soccer team had issues scoring goals early in the 2008 season

and won only two of its first 10 games.

On Feb. 24, the men’s basketball team almost had one of the biggest upsets of the season in the first round of the WIAC tournament against powerhouse UW-Whitewater.

The Falcons were down by as many as 21, but cut the Whitewater lead to two late in the second half, only to lose by a final score of 86-81.

With all the other poor showings UWRF sports teams had this year, it was a breath of fresh air to watch the women’s hockey team play.

This team really had it all.

It started with great coaching by Joe Cranston, who finished second in the nation for Coach of the Year honors.

UWRF won the regular season and tournament titles and hosted the O’Brien Cup.

The Falcons won a thriller championship game against Stevens Point and followed that up with an even bigger win against then No. 1 ranked Gustavus Adolphus College in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

UWRF made it to the Frozen Four, but lost to Elmira College (N.Y.) and Middlebury College (Vt.).

There was also the softball team, which was a big help during the spring.

The weather was pretty cold all year, but the Falcon bats were pretty hot.

Mindy Rudiger proved to be one of the best WIAC players, tying the

conference career home run mark with 38.

She led the Falcons to a solid showing in the WIAC tournament, when they eliminated No. 1 seed Whitewater.

UWRF eventually lost to UW-Superior, the host school for the tournament to end its season.

Falcon Head Coach Jody Gabriel really had her team playing well at the end of the season when it mattered the most.

The best part of her team will come in the future, because the softball team is young and talented, which will benefit in the next few seasons.

It was a tough year for Falcon sports this season, but the women’s hockey and softall teams came through in the end to be successful.

### WIAC Tournament Results May 1

Game 1 - No. 3 Oshkosh 4, No. 6 Stout 1

Game 2 - No. 2 La Crosse 3, No. 7 Stevens Point 2

Game 3 - No. 5 UWRF 7, No. 4 Eau Claire 6

Game 4 - No. 8 Superior, No. 1 Whitewater 4

Game 5 - Stevens Point 4, Stout 3 (Stout eliminated)

Game 6 - Whitewater 4, Eau Claire 2 (Eau Claire eliminated)

Game 7 - La Crosse 4, Oshkosh 1

Game 8 - Superior 7, UWRF 0

### May 2

Game 9 - Whitewater 8, Oshkosh 1 (Oshkosh eliminated)

Game 10 - UWRF 10, Stevens Point 2 (Stevens Point eliminated)

Game 11 - La Crosse 13, Superior 2

Game 12 - UWRF 5, Whitewater 2 (Whitewater eliminated)

Game 13 - Superior 9, UWRF 3 (UWRF eliminated)

### WIAC Championship Game May 3

La Crosse 2, Superior 0



# Non-traditional student finds home on UWRF rugby team

Leila Hirsch  
leila.hirsch@uwrf.edu

After spending four years in the United States Air Force, Jason Anderson, 30, decided it was time for a change in his life.

Little did he know that after coming to UW-River Falls that change would include the UWRF club rugby team.

Anderson grew up in Ellsworth, Wis., before joining the Air Force in 1997 straight out of high school. He traveled from two bases in Texas to find a home in Omaha, Neb., for three years. While still serving his country, Anderson managed to run his own photography business in Ellsworth that he started at the age of 20. It was after leaving the Air Force that Anderson decided to give his education another shot as a bio medical major.

In Omaha, Anderson consolidated all of his belongings into one moving van and hit the road back home to Ellsworth and to a new future.

“When you’re gone from your family for so long there is nothing like seeing their faces to make you realize you made the right decision,” Anderson said.

Upon arriving at UWRF,

Anderson quickly found a home with the rugby team. It was at the Involvement Fair that rugby club president Crague Cook spotted Anderson and approached him about playing for the team.

“When Jason asked me what the objective of our organization was, I told him that we strive as a club to produce valuable rugby players through practice and utilize them when we compete against other clubs to obtain a victory,” Cook said.

Cook said he assured him that the team wanted him to come to practice even though Anderson said he had some inhibitions about his age affecting the game. When indoor practices started in early February, Anderson decided to jump in head first and learn the ins and outs of the complicated game of rugby.

Being the oldest member of the team, Anderson said he was worried about the demand of the physical workouts. At 6 feet 5 inches and 260 pounds, Anderson said he thought that his physical status on the field would help the team in its future games. Having already competed in football and wrestling in high school, Anderson had the physical agility needed to play the game.

“I was hoping that the physical workouts would help me keep up with the younger guys,” he said.

According to Anderson, he started to feel his age around the 20-some-things, but he felt that the effort that he was putting forth would be well worth it in the long run even with the aches and pains after the late night practices. The team was giving Anderson a chance to feel young again and to live the life of a college student that he had never experienced before.

Rugby coach Leif Berg had nothing but good things to say about his newest player. Berg said he thought that the addition of someone older would help the younger guys stay motivated and strive for greatness on the field as leaders of their sport.

“I’m encouraged that Jason sought us out as an organization to be a part of while he spends his four years on campus,” Berg said.

At 30 years old, Anderson is an unconventional student who shows a player does not have to be young in age to feel young at heart.

The UWRF rugby team is giving Anderson a second chance to experience college and to enjoy the camaraderie of being a part of a team once again.



Leila Hirsch/Student Voice

**Jason Anderson is an Ellsworth, Wis., native and joined the Air Force in 1997. He is now a member of the UWRF club rugby team.**

## Sports Wrap

### Six Falcons named to All-WIAC teams

Six Falcons were named to 2009 All-WIAC softball teams.

Shortstop Mindy Rudiger (Sr., Menomonie, Wis.), center fielder Jessica Lundgren (Jr., Cushing, Wis. St. Croix Falls HS) and first baseman Sarah Fern (Fr., Brooklyn Center, Minn. Park Center HS) were all named to the first team. Left fielder Rachel Mathias (Sr., Ripon, Wis.) and pitcher Rose Tusa (Fr., Roseville, Minn. St. Anthony Village HS) both earned honorable mention. Second baseman Cassie Peterson (Sr., New Richmond, Wis.) was named to the All-Sportsmanship team. The team is selected in a vote by the league coaches.

### Three Falcons Named to NFCA All-Great Lakes Region Teams

Three Falcons were named to 2009 National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Great Lakes Region teams.

First baseman Sarah Fern (Fr., Brooklyn Center, Minn. Park Center HS) was named to the first team. Shortstop Mindy Rudiger (Sr., Menomonie, Wis.) and center fielder Jessica Lundgren (Jr., Cushing, Wis. St. Croix Falls HS) were both named to the second team.

Rudiger, who was named to the third team in 2008, holds several Falcon career records. This year she hit 12 home runs which ties her for the UWRF single season mark. She has hit 38 career homers and that ties her for the WIAC career mark. Rudiger has scored 171 career runs and has 142 RBI and those marks are second and third respectively in the WIAC career records book

The Falcons finished 27-16 overall and 8-8 in the WIAC. The Falcons advanced to the WIAC Tournament where they finished 3-2. UWRF defeated No. 20 ranked Eau Claire, 7-6, and No. 4 ranked Whitewater, 5-2, at the tourney.

## Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information

## Track and field ends WIAC season at Oshkosh, prep for NCAA meet

Joe Engelhardt  
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Nearing the end of long season for the UW-River Falls track and field team, the WIAC outdoor track and field championship was held May 1 and 2 at UW-Oshkosh.

The men’s team finished eighth, while the women finished fifth in the meet. This being one of the first events that scores were actually kept, Head Coach Martha Brennan said she was happy with the way the athletes performed.

“The meet went great. We had several kids do their personal best this time around,” Brennan said in a telephone interview. “Everyone seemed to try a little harder, since this one was scored.”

The men’s team scored 34 points on the second day of the meet, giving them a total of 38. The women scored 57 on Saturday, giving them a total of 78 points.

The one struggle for the Falcons was the throwing events, aside from Colleen Kopel, who won the javelin throw with a 102-5 toss.

Throws coach Peter Miller discussed the throwing events in an e-mail interview.

“We only scored points in two of the eight throwing events, which are frustrating, but since we are in the toughest conference in the country for Div. III it is tough to pick up points in many of the events,” Miller said. “At the same time if you look at where the

athletes were seeded coming in and where they finished you will find most of them moved up and threw well beyond their seeded mark, which is what one hopes for at a conference meet.”

Kopel was the best performer of the weekend, singlehandedly winning three events for the Falcons. She won the javelin throw, the 200-meter dash and the heptathlon, and finished second in the high jump.

The Falcons also did well within the 100-meter hurdles. Jessica Reed won the event with her time of 14.82 seconds.

Kopel and Reed each earned All-WIAC first team, while Kopel and Maranda Dohrn earned All-WIAC second team recognitions.

The only thing left before the National meet is the Last Chance meet May 14 and 15 at UW-La Crosse.

Brennan said that it would be ideal for UWRF to get 7 to 10 kids to go to Nationals.

With so little time left before the summer, Miller said that those people who qualify for Nationals are looking forward to it.

“Many of the athletes who are getting close to Nationals are seniors, so the idea of extending their final track season is something to hope for and look forward to,” he said. “Before they can get too excited we have to get each of them a better mark then we can get really excited about going to Ohio.”

The National meet will be held May 21 to 23 at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

## UWRF baseball cut due to weather, academics

Here we are again, at the height of baseball season, and for the seventh year UW-River Falls students have no varsity team to root for.

A common misconception among students is that the team, which was cut after the 2001-02 season, was lost because of Title IX—a U.S. law that requires schools to have an equal number of male and female sports.

In reality, it had nothing to do with Title IX and was a combination of weather and academic factors, according to UWRF Athletic Director Rick Bowen.

“Cutting baseball was one of the more difficult decisions we have ever faced as an athletic department,” Bowen said in an e-mail interview.

Because of the cold weather in the Midwest, the conditions are not good enough until early to mid-April to start play. That leaves a little less than a month to play 30 games.

According to Bowen, the doubleheaders would sometimes start at noon or 1 p.m. because the conference required baseball to play nine-inning games, unlike women’s softball, which plays seven innings.

Adding to the problem, UWRF was unable to bring on a full-time baseball coach, and the school had extremely high turnover with part-time coaches.

According to Bowen, sometimes



Ben Brewster

players were required to show up at 10 a.m. for batting practice before a noon doubleheader.

The end result is that players were missing too much class trying to squeeze that much playing time into April and May.

Bowen said that professors complained more about baseball players missing class than all the other sports combined.

These are all valid reasons and obviously something had to be done, but to completely remove the National Pastime from UWRF seems drastic.

They even built tennis courts on the field, leaving only the scoreboard as a remnant of the former program.

This effectively crushed any hopes of bringing baseball back to UWRF, because now the school will have to pull a giant sum of money out of thin air to build a new field before even thinking about how to fix the problems that caused the program to be cut in the first place—and with this economy, I’m not holding my breath for that to happen.

Now, the club baseball team that has been at UWRF for the past few years is forced to play its “home” games in Cottage Grove, Minn., about 30 minutes from River Falls, according to club baseball player Rob Silvers.

With no decent option for a home

field—the team has only played three home games this season—most of its games are played on the road, sometimes in places as far away as Michigan and southern Illinois.

A club team with no home field is a poor substitute for a varsity team. I understand why action was needed, but with the destruction of the field it’s almost like they wanted to remove any chance of bringing baseball back in the future.

Rather than cutting the team, other options could have been considered.

What about playing more weekend games? Or building lights so the team could play later at night and not have to start so early? Or finding a coach who wouldn’t require players to be at the field so early before the game?

When I decided to attend UWRF it didn’t even occur to me that there might not be a team because baseball is such a basic and popular sport. I was looking forward to playing for, or at least following, my school’s team. It was dumb of me not to check beforehand, but had I known it would have definitely affected my decision to come here—and I’m probably not the only person who feels that way. The WIAC has nine schools in it, and all but UWRF and UW-Eau Claire have a baseball team. If seven schools in our conference can support baseball, why can’t we?

Ben is a graduating senior journalism major and the editor of the Student Voice. He has still not fully recovered from the loss of Johan Santana.

## UWRF FINAL STANDINGS

**Football**  
3-7 (2-5 WIAC, T6)  
John O’Grady wins 100th career game, Scott Witte invited to Packers mini camp.

**Soccer**  
5-13-0 (3-5-0 WIAC, 6th)  
Megan Church and Jen Terry earn All-WIAC honors.

**Volleyball**  
15-22 (2-6 WIAC, T6)  
Kelsey Scheele, Gina DeRosa and Justine Speckel earn All-WIAC honors.

**Tennis**  
8-9 (1-5 WIAC, 6th)  
Mindy Rudiger places second in singles at WIAC tournament.

**Women’s Hockey**  
20-7-3 (15-2-1 NCHA, 1st)  
NCHA regular season champions, O’Brien Cup champions and Frozen Four appearance.

**Men’s Hockey**  
10-15-2 (4-9-1 NCHA, 6th)  
Derek Hansberry earns All-NCHA honors.

**Women’s Basketball**  
14-12 (7-9 WIAC, 6th)  
Tiffany Gregorich and Kelli Hilt make All-WIAC team.

**Men’s Basketball**  
11-15 (5-11 WIAC, 6th)  
Jesse Eling, Jontae Koonkaew, Aaron Anderson and Jake Voeltz make All-WIAC teams.

**Softball**  
27-16 (8-8 WIAC, 5th)  
Mindy Rudiger ties WIAC record for career home runs.



# Summer movies will allow science fiction to make comeback



Joe Hager

2009 is shaping up to be a remarkable year in film. Captain Kirk and his diverse crew of interstellar explorers are traveling through space and time in the upcoming “Star Trek” remake— a badass-looking sci-fi action flick that, with luck, will be everything the new Star Wars trilogy was not. It’s OK, it’s 2009 and science fiction is finally becoming cool again. In a few short weeks, everyone will be talking about Spock and Scotty and the USS Enterprise—I’ve never even been a Trekkie but I’m damned excited for May 8.

There are other notable returns to the silver screen this year and other films I anticipate. Several of my favorite filmmakers—including Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino and Sam Raimi—are releasing new movies in 2009, and I’m so excited I already got my Mr. Pibb and Red Vines.

I’ll first mention Tarantino’s World War II-era facemelter “Inglourious Basterds.” The title’s misspelling is intentional. I think Quentin wants everyone to be well aware that this movie is in no way a serious film and will most likely be exactly as crude and uncouth as its title suggests. The film, a “spaghetti-western”-style war epic, follows Brad Pitt’s character 1st Lt. Aldo Raine as he leads his Jewish soldiers (“the Basterds”) across Europe. They embark on a mission to take out high-ranking members of the Third Reich but mainly, to kill Nazis. I have a feeling Tarantino will cross the line.

On Oct. 2, Martin Scorsese is

releasing “Shutter Island,” his first film since 2006’s “The Departed.” He’s calling once again on Leo DiCaprio to fill the leading role, as a 1950’s-era U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels. DiCaprio will be joined by an excellent cast that will include Mark Ruffalo, Emily Mortimer and the always-badass Ben Kingsley. Teddy Daniels and Ruffalo’s character Chuck Aule will be investigating the escape of a female serial killer (Mortimer) from a hospital for the criminally insane on isolated Shutter Island.

Another prominent filmmaker that is making a return is James Cameron, who hasn’t released a major motion picture since “Titanic,” in 1997. His new film, a science-fiction action epic called “Avatar,” is coming out in December and has yet to make a sizable splash in the cultural conscience. But I consider the epic scope and fantastic success of “Titanic” and the fact that Cameron is spending more than \$195 million

on “Avatar” and I just can’t doubt him. The film follows the story of a group of humans stuck on a distant planet in the far future. The humans battle against the indigenous population as they struggle to exploit the planet’s resources (Entertainment Weekly). All the money Cameron is dropping on this flick is going toward advanced CGI effects, as this movie will apparently introduce some new revolutionary computer effects.

There are other films releasing this year that I’m excited for, including Michael Mann’s summer action flick “Public Enemies” (which follows the story of bank robber John Dillinger, played by Johnny Depp) and “Spider-Man” director Raimi’s return to the horror genre in the form of his new gore flick “Drag Me to Hell.” But the last movie of 2009 that I want to publicize for everyone’s benefit is “The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus.” Not much is known about the film’s plot but the movie

will be noted for featuring Heath Ledger’s last performance, a character named “Tony.” Since Ledger died during production, director Terry Gilliam brought Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell aboard to complete the filming of the role. And my favorite musician, Tom Waits, fills out the already-impressive cast in the role of Mr. Nick, the devil incarnate.

Many of these releases feel epic to me; “Star Trek” will undoubtedly cause a bigger splash than many of you think it will. Just wait and see. Scorsese has turned into one of my very favorite directors and even if he filmed crap on a paper plate for two hours, I’d buy an \$8 ticket. So the fact that he’s bringing Leo back for a movie about a murderess in an insane asylum has me pants-wet-tingly thrilled. But this week: “Star Trek” hits the screen. Start practicing the Vulcan salute!

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

# ‘X-Men’ takes audience through confusing plot with random twists



José Cruz, Jr.

Is knowing the past of Wolverine really that necessary? Probably not. But apparently, comic book fanboys think it was, as legions of them called for a prequel to reboot the series. Maybe 20th Century Fox thought it was still a good idea, since it was put into production even after the disappointing “X-Men: The Last Stand.”

Whose ever fault it was does not matter, since “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” came out on top opening weekend at the box office, earning roughly \$85 million. Despite the quality, the film made a large amount of ticket sales and proved that marketing is everything when selling a movie to the public.

“What can go wrong with making an origin film about the ever-so-awesome Wolverine?” you may ask. Well, you will most likely be surprised, as this is a fairly messy and bland viewing experience (assuming you had high expectations for another comic book movie).

The film begins in 1845, with James Howlett, aka Wolverine, seeing his father murdered, after which he proceeds to kill off the murderer who also happens to be his real father. James has the ‘power’ to heal rapidly, and has bones that come out from his knuckles like claws.

He runs off with his older brother, who can heal fast as well, but sports fangs and long fingernails. There is a long montage, which reveals to us that James (Hugh Jackman) and Victor (Liev Schreiber) have fought in every American war to kill people. Rather than being executed for killing their fellow soldiers, a government man named William Stryker (Danny Huston) recruits them to join Team X, a team that uses their mutations for special missions.

After Victor kills more innocent people, Wolverine quits. Six years later, Victor is killing off the members of Team X, as well as murdering Wolverine’s girlfriend. Wolverine obtains help from Stryker, who injects his body with a special metal, render-



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‘X-Men Origins’ stars Hugh Jackman.

ing him almost indestructible. The rest of the film is a maze of a revenge story, as he is out looking for blood and answers.

Let’s start with the action sequences. For one thing, the fighting between Wolverine and Victor is repetitive and for the most part, not amusing. Each brawl begins with the two standing several hundred feet apart from each other, with nothing in their way. Then they charge at one another, with claws out and shouting in anger. Victor picks up pace by running like a cheetah (or some other kind of cat), which usually results in him knocking down Wolverine on his ass.

A lot of slashing claws and weirdly long fingernails ensues, with little to no blood being shed. However, neither person really gets injured, because they have “healing power.”

There is pointlessness in all this fighting. Much of the other action includes ridiculous explosions, slow motion gun tricks (that you can see in pretty much every action flick made since “The Matrix”) and a boxing match with a morbidly obese man.

Although clocking in at almost 15 minutes shy of two hours, it seems much longer than that. Wolverine spends the movie trying to find out where his brother is, in which the next scene Victor shows up for the action sequence only to run off again. Every scene tends to drag on, as the scenes with talking go on forever, and the fight scenes are uninteresting. Characters come into scenes to conveniently save our hero, with little no explanation as to what their purpose is. This creates complications as well as plot holes in the X-Men universe. Other lesser mutant characters are introduced for no other reason than to have Wolverine go on a revenge journey for an hour and 45 minutes.

This is not the worst comic book movie I have ever seen, but it is not a good one. On top of trying to create a past for a character like Wolverine that fits with the other X-Men films, they have also tried to make Wolverine a likeable person. Well, he is not likeable, and rather dull. Wolverine’s claws and strength were awesome in middle school, but it is now commonplace and more of a trademark than an impressive mutation.

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



Nathan Piotrowski

“X-Men Origins: Wolverine” is supposed to be the movie to set the tone for summer. If that is the case, let it be known that it will be a long summer for this movie lover. This flick was obviously put together strictly to cash in on the franchise, and I guess it worked considering its box office returns, but that is further proof that money isn’t everything, considering what a worthless pile of crap “Wolverine” really is.

With a plot that is incoherent, horrible special effects and not to mention enough bad characters (with actors reflecting their depth) aside from Wolverine and Sabretooth, this is truly a film that is meant to rot the brains of all involved.

The story begins with Wolverine as a child, and shows his progression through several different wars with his half-brother Victor. The film then sees the two recruited by the government for “a special team with special privileges.” From here, all consistency throughout the film disappears when Wolverine leaves the team. The audience gets farther and farther lost by seeing random people that we don’t care about and generally aren’t onscreen long enough for us to enjoy their presence, as well as Wolverine’s name somehow changing from Jimmy to Logan for no reason and numerous other bizarre tidbits that ruin the experience.

The special effects in the X-Men movies so far have been great, but this movie showed a very different side of special effects. The CGI, which comprises a great deal of the flick, looks like it was done by a drunken teenager using Photoshop, and



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‘X-Men Origins’ centers around two brothers with supernatural powers.

we’ve all seen enough of that to know how bad that is. When computer animation is something that a movie relies on, you would think the makers of it would be more responsible with their budget to make it look real, or at least like it did in the original series.

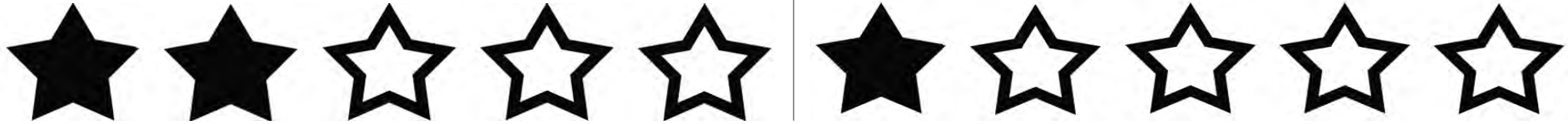
Finally, I understand that it is a comic book movie and that there has to be something thrown in there for the fanboys. However, when almost all of the side characters are only cool for those who followed the comics, and when they truly are the example of disposable heroes, it annoys the rest of the audience.

Also, whoever casted the actors wasn’t thinking, because they obviously didn’t consider the reaction from people when they see someone and go “Hey, that’s the guy from (Insert TV series or movie here)!” It got old very quick, and distracted people further from paying attention to what is happening in the film, and if you miss a little bit, you will have no clue what is going on.

The lone saving grace of the film is the fact that Hugh Jackman and Liev Schreiber can act. These two were at least enjoyable to watch as half-brothers, and they had the only fight sequences that were even worth watching. I feel bad for them having to go through this movie, when they both obviously are better than what this film turned out to be.

With all the promise this movie showed, it was a bitter disappointment. It is truly sad to see how far this franchise has fallen, starting with the third movie and going even lower with this one. If you had asked me a week ago which was going to be my pick for best opening movie of summer, “Wolverine” or “Star Trek,” I would have picked this one hands down. Now having been proven horribly wrong, It’s time for me to set my phaser to stun and sit in my swivel chair, and hope that this abomination did not set the tone for the blockbuster season.

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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# UWRF area coordinator resigns

Ken Weigend

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Jason Neuhaus, the east end area coordinator for the UW-River Falls campus, has resigned effective June 30. A search and screen committee has been put in place to find a replacement.

According to Sandi Scott-Deux, the director of residence life, a search and screen committee has already been meeting and has identified the candidates that they will be conducting phone interviews with. After the initial round of phone interviews, the committee will bring to campus the candidates they like sometime in late May. The desire is to fill the vacant coordinator spot in summer so they can become acclimatized to campus before fall semester.

Neuhaus has worked for UWRF as one of the two area coordinators for just under five years. According to the position job description “the area coordinator is responsible for creating and administering a comprehensive living learning environment for 1,250 students. This position manages operations, programs and services for five residence halls and adjudicates the student conduct process in five residence halls. Additionally, the area coordinator advises area council and NRHH and supervises five undergraduate hall managers and 32 resident assistants.”

Neuhaus said he resigned in response to a push by Residence Life to move the two area coordinators on-campus. Neuhaus could have stayed at UWRF if he had decided to live in the apartment in South Fork Suites. Neuhaus said he decided not to because of his two-year-old son and his dog.

Scott-Deux said she will miss Neuhaus and all that he brought to this University.

“I will miss Jason, his wit, his desire to serve students and his acts of kindness. He is a wonderful person.”

### Background

Neuhaus grew up on the family farm in Bennington, Neb. His parents, Larry and Karen, farmed mainly corn and beans, with some cattle for the spring sale. As a child, Neuhaus said he enjoyed playing basketball, singing in the choir and participating in the school theater productions. His most notable role came when he assumed the role if Kinnicki in Grease.

“I had to change some the lyrics because I knew my very conservative grandfather would be in the audience,” Neuhaus said.

After graduating the same high school his father and grandfather did, Neuhaus attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“I chose there because I was offered a few scholarships, including the Regents scholarship,” Neuhaus said. “But I lost that one in the first year because I had some difficulty understanding my honors calculus course.”

In his junior year, Neuhaus switched his major from math to psychology.

That same year, Neuhaus became a resident assistant (RA) in Harper Hall. Little did Jason know at the time, the position

would influence the rest of his professional career.

During his three years as an RA, Neuhaus was mentored by his hall director, Matt Phillips.

“I remember he encouraged me to pursue student affairs as a career,” Neuhaus said. “I was shocked and asked ‘You can do this for a living?’ He simply replied ‘I do this for a living.’”

After graduating, Neuhaus went immediately into a masters program in counseling and student personnel at Minnesota State University Mankato.

“I went for my master’s right away after having an amazing experience taking a course in orientation on student life and development. Matt urged me to take the course and it really gave me a sense of student affairs was all about.”

After graduating, Neuhaus took a position as a hall director at the University of Minnesota-Morris in 1998.

On the campus of only 900 students, Neuhaus was one of two professional directors.

“I liked it,” Neuhaus said. “It was the most liberal campus I have ever worked at but the students were all smart and hard-working. I served as a role model for some very talented undergrads, and I still remain in contact with several of them.”

After four years at Morris, working in the middle of nowhere, Neuhaus said he wanted more of a social life. So he began applying to some larger schools in bigger cities and wound up at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

There, Neuhaus assumed the role of area coordinator in charge of two halls: one directly and the other by supervising an undergrad hall director.

“I lived in Ireland Hall,” Neuhaus said. “The building was 100 years old and one winter I caught 30 mice. And I was on the third floor.”

In 2003, while working at St. Thomas, Neuhaus joined eHarmony after a year of unsuccessful dating. On the day that his one month trial ended, Neuhaus was contacted by Hallie Harris.

“We were engaged after six months and married within a year,” Neuhaus said.

Shortly before the wedding, Neuhaus was contacted by Carie Fealy, an area coordinator for UWRF. She encouraged Neuhaus to apply for the upcoming open position of live-off area coordinator. Neuhaus came to campus for an interview.

“I was really impressed that 15 students came to a summer open interview,” Neuhaus said.

Neuhaus was offered the position two days before his wedding, on July 8, 2004.

### UWRF

“What I’ve liked most about UWRF was the students,” Neuhaus said, “how genuine and hardworking they are. It’s also been very unique working with so many first generation students.”

Neuhaus says that although he loves this campus, there are a few things he will not miss.

“Some days I don’t spend as much time in the residence halls as I would like,” Neuhaus said. “And I really won’t miss the crappy conversations with students and their parents that are

the result of poor decisions.”

Neuhaus said he will miss the members of the residence life professional staff here at UWRF. Staff that, according to Neuhaus, are very genuine and who foster an atmosphere of recognition.

And several members of the pro staff said they will miss Neuhaus as well.

“Jason has always made himself available to staff and students and cares deeply about their growth and development,” Scott-Deux said. “I would be hard pressed to find anyone who has a stronger sense of ethics and values. Students have benefited from the conversations and interactions they have had with Jason and the gentle challenging he has done with them to encourage them to take high road.”

Kristie Feist, the assistant director of community development and education, said she remembers when she first arrived at UWRF. Neuhaus was very helpful in showing her around the University and River Falls community.

“Jason has shown the students he works with compassion and kindness. Never one to take things too seriously, Jason could always be counted on for a laugh or to lighten a tense mood,” Feist said.

Neuhaus also helped orient Tracy Gerth, the new west end area coordinator.

“I’ll miss him being in the next cubicle,” Gerth said. “He has been a fabulous resource for me to bounce ideas off of, to ask questions about the history of the department and generally talk to about UWRF. He has been a huge help to me and I will miss being able to go to him for assistance.”

Neuhaus has influenced more than just the professional. He said he has really enjoyed working with the hall managers and seeing them grow and develop.

“I would describe Jason as a very caring supervisor who wants what is best for students,” Mallory Schultz, the Johnson Hall manager, said. “He has continually gone out of his way to lend a hand and has a unique sense of humor. He will definitely be missed at UWRF.”

### Future

“My wife was completely supportive of my decision when I was deciding to move on campus or not,” Neuhaus said. “But I didn’t want to raise my son, Heathley, in a dorm and moving on-campus would mean I would have to get rid of my dog.”

Neuhaus has begun looking for another job around the Twin Cities, where Hallie works as a teacher in the public school system.

“I’m open to working in any area of student life,” Neuhaus said, “but there are no student affairs positions open right now. I have applied for a few private sector customer service positions but I will ultimately want to get back to helping college students and their transition into adulthood.”

Neuhaus said that leaving the possibility of leaving student affairs saddens him. He said he has really enjoyed building relationships with students and seeing the sparks in students’ heads as they “just get it.”

# UWRF graduate joins World by Road expedition

Collin Pote

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UW-River Falls graduate Nels Thoreson is traveling around the world in a truck as part of the World by Road expedition. It is expected to take 26 months to complete.

The World by Road is an expedition where a group of selected individuals travel around the world by ground while promoting cultural awareness. Thoreson has been on the road for a little over three months.

“I was living with my brother, Neil, in a one bedroom apartment in Lakewood, Colo. I was on craigslist looking for some side work for my brother and stumbled upon the Web site,” Thoreson said. “I sent a whole bunch of information to them, and got a response. I thought it was a joke, so I researched their endeavor, found it was legit, gave a four-day

notice to where I was teaching Pre-K, and flew to Panama City, Panama.”

Thoreson graduated from UWRF in 2005 with a degree in political science and a minor in professional writing.

Before embarking to Panama City, he was located in Bailey, Colo., for a year teaching pre-kindergarten children.

The World by Road Expedition was started by founding members Steve Shoppman and Steve Bouey out of a desire to learn more about the world and a want for travel. The expedition is unique. The notion to travel the world in two 4x4 trucks is highly ambitious. Planning is extensive and requires the team to have adequate health insurance, the proper forms to go in and out of some countries,

competent skills in first aid and a willingness to cope with the language barrier.

## “I just feel very fortunate for this great opportunity.”

Nels Thoreson, UWRF graduate

guage, and to totally get immersed in their culture,” Thoreson said.

Some of the costs of the expedition are alleviated by numerous sponsors, the most notable of which is Toyota.

The group initially was sponsored by Denver-based Stevinson who supplied them with two similar model trucks. However, shortly afterward, they were contacted by the regional representatives who eventually outfitted them with a then - unreleased redesign of the Toyota

Tundra, making the participants of the World by Road Exhibition some of the first people to drive the vehicle.

The Exhibition is currently located in Denver and will be heading north towards Alaska before making its way across Canada and eventually ending up in New York City.

They actively record their expedition and have plans to release a documentary and as a book.

Interest has been shown in doing a nationwide campus tour to talk about the experience.

Brent Greene, director of Global Connections at UWRF, while not directly involved in the World by Road Exhibition, showed interest in

the endeavor and said he hopes that should the group do a campus tour that Thoreson’s will come visit his old college. According to Greene, the ultimate endeavor of the exhibition is in line with the mission of the

## “I wish I would have been fluent to be able to communicate to the people in their language, and to totally get immersed in their culture.”

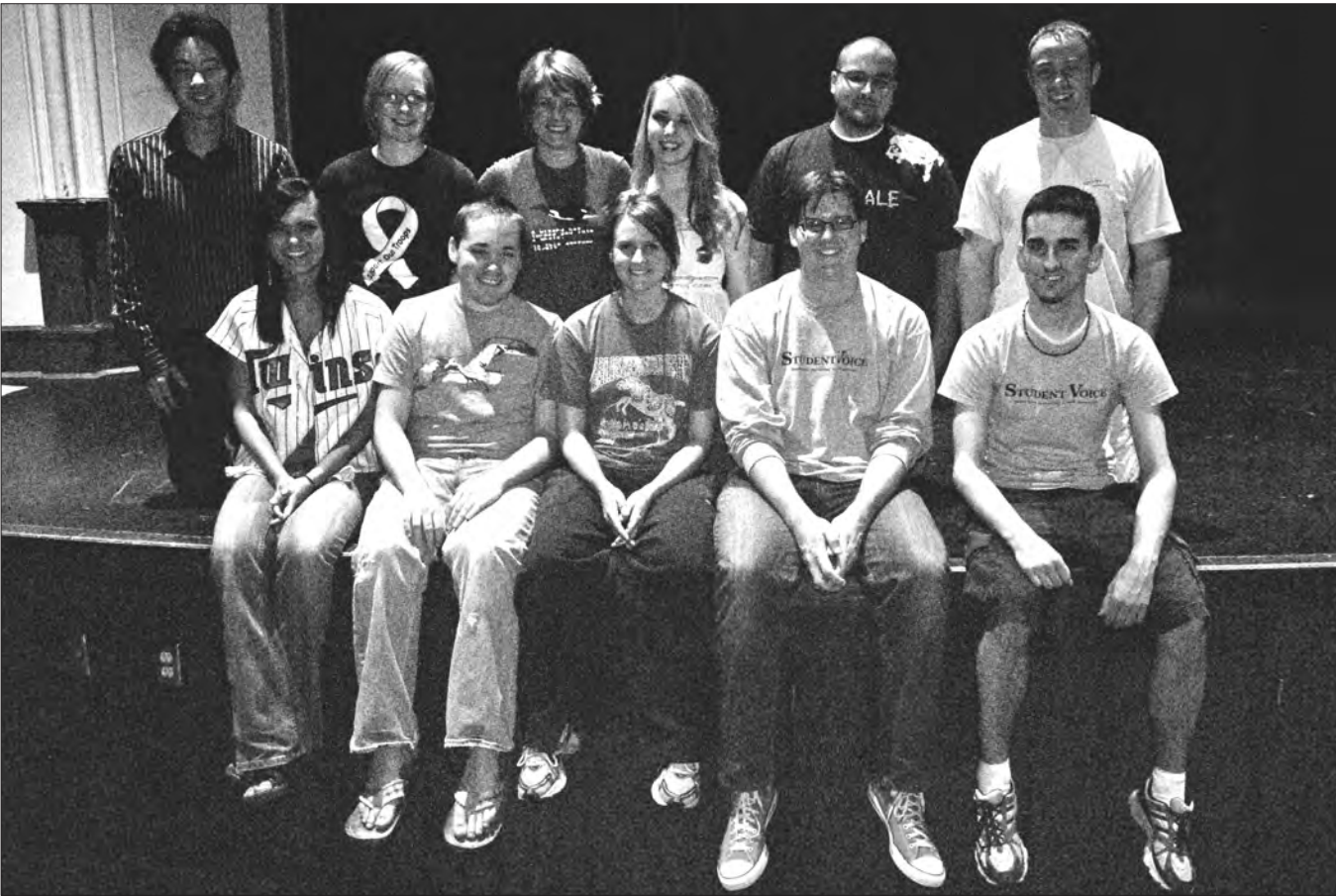
Nels Thoreson

department and hopes their exuberance will inspire students to pursue abroad travels themselves.

Thus far, Thoreson has traveled through several countries in Central America and is enjoying it.

“I just feel very fortunate for this great opportunity. I think something like this comes once in a lifetime,” Thoreson said. “I am forever grateful for all of the support, with many of those people living in Wisconsin.”

# Have a good summer, thanks for reading



## Spring 2009 Student Voice Staff

Pictured in order from left to right.

Back row:

- Andrew Phelps** - Chief Copy Editor
- Joy Stanton** - Proofreader
- Kirsten Blake** - Business Manager
- Sally King** - Chief Photographer
- Aaron Billingsley** - News Editor
- Justin Magill** - Sports Editor

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- Eric Pringle** - Front Page Editor
- Abby Maliszewski** - Viewpoints Editor
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