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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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First eight budgets presented to Senate

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Of the 15 Facilities and Fees budgets, nine are requesting an increase in the total segregated fees paid by each UW-River Falls student. In all, over \$100 in fee increases have been requested so far.

At the Student Senate meeting on Feb. 19, eight organizations presented budgets and their reasoning for maintaining or increasing the fee that students pay to each organization. The remaining seven budgets will be presented at the Feb. 26 meeting. Of the eight that have presented, four are requesting an increase.

Facilities and Fees Chair Dominic Riel said the presentations were to give the senators more background information on the budgets so they can be better prepared for when Senate votes on the actual budgets on March 5.

While the fee increases ran from 25 cents to \$110 per academic year, depending on the organization, Riel said it is important for students to understand these budgets as they will have a direct impact on the amount of money each student pays.

"All of these budgets are supported by student segregated fee dollars," Riel said. "So, even if you use never use a program or use it 100 times, each student pays the same fee."

While formal arguments for and against each budget will be debated on March 5, during the presentations each organization cited the declining enrollment at UWRF for a reason for requesting additional funds.

The declining enrollment means that less students are contributing to the segregated fees and therefore there are less funds for the facilities and fees organizations. For example, Hunt Arena is projecting a loss of \$26,000 next year. This comes from an enrollment projection of less than 6,000 students for the 2013-2014 school year. That is down from the nearly 6,500 students that are currently enrolled, according to the Admissions Office.

Steve Stocker, the director of Recreation and Sports Facilities, has worked with the Facilities and Fees board to recommend a 3 percent increase in the Hunt Arena segregated fee. Under Stocker's proposal, the fee would increase \$1.25 to a total amount of \$43.25 a student per year. The Hunt Arena fee goes to support the upkeep of Hunt Arena, ice rental, open skating and more.

At the Senate meeting, Stocker stressed how the increase was requested to keep student fees low, but to also help provide quality programs.

The dining services committee chair, Anthony Sumnicht, echoed this sentiment when he requested a 5 percent increase for dining services that would be added to the cost of meal plans. The request would equate to an extra \$55 per semester for a 14 meals per week plan and \$56 for a 19-meal plan.

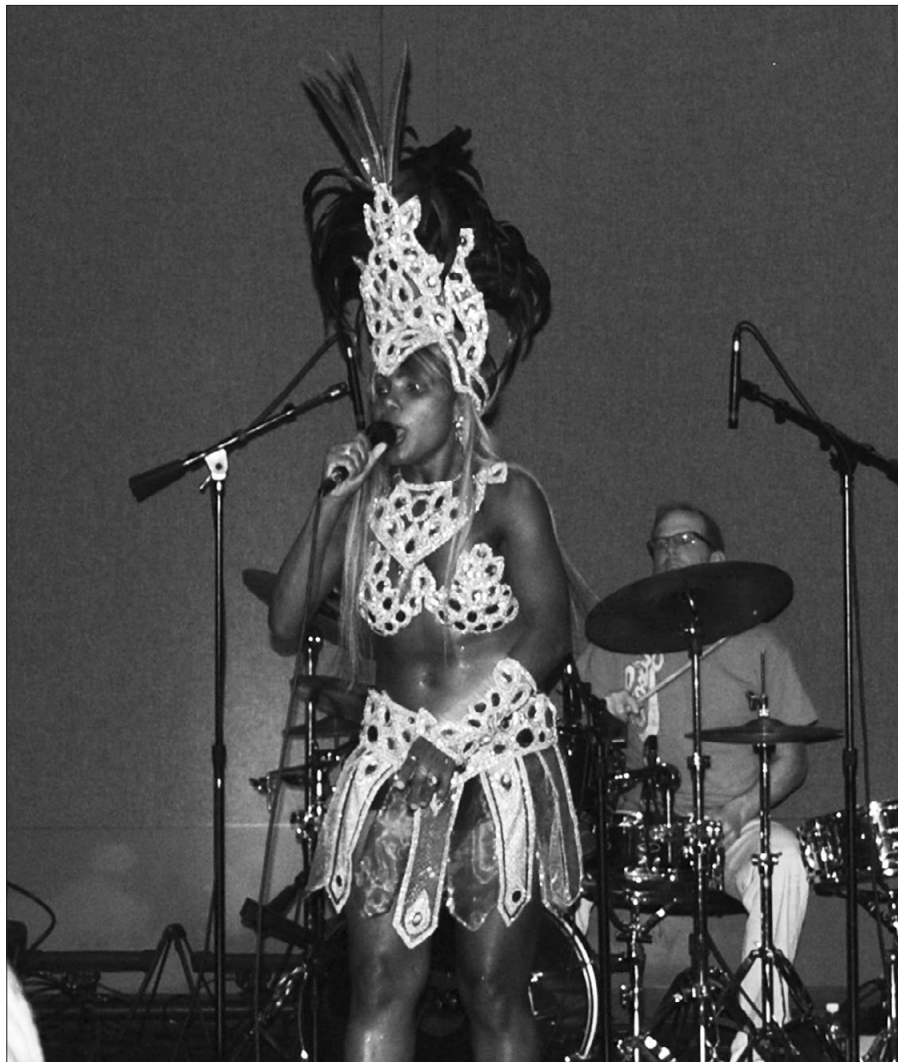
Sumnicht said that the 2013 Cost of Consumable Goods Index is 3 percent, and thus the cost of food alone would require a 3 percent increase.

See Budgets page 3



Brianna Samson/Student Voice

Facilities and Fees Board Advisor Greg Heinselman explains to Student Senate the importance of the shared governance system during the non-allocable budget process.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice

Carnaval Brasileiro brings taste of Brazil to UWRF

Dandara, in the headdress, is a Brazilian guest singer for the 10-piece Brazilian Carnival Band, Beira Mar Brasil. The group played for UWRF students and the River Falls community in the University Center on Feb. 14. The event, which was part of the Wyman Series, featured Brazilian music, food, dancing and art.

New staff member to help with allocable budget process

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The UW-River Falls Allocable Fees and Appropriation Board could be gaining a professional staff member to help student organizations manage and obtain their money.

This financial specialist position has not been officially approved, but it would theoretically assist AFAB leaders and student organizations by helping them manage their money.

It can also help with account management for Student Life and Falcon Programs, said Paul Shepherd, director of Student Life.

The current person who has been helping students with AFAB requests has been Rocio Bonilla Madrigal, the student organizations budget graduate student intern.

She said that the three or four hours she works per day is not enough to keep up with the demand that has been created by the roughly 70 organizations that have requested money.

She meets with student organization leaders, normally the presidents or treasurers, to help them receive the money that they have been approved for by

discussing what the money will be used for and how to get reimbursed.

That reimbursement factor is one that Shepherd said is something he hopes students can fully understand.

Before the position that Bonilla Madrigal currently holds was created two years ago, student organizations did not have a point person for their questions.

Professional staff in Student Life fielded those questions.

Some of the questions included, "OK you're telling me I have this money but where is that money? How do I go and get it? Should I just go out and spend money and then hope to get reimbursed somehow?" Shepherd said. "There's a lot of confusion sometimes and a lot of uncertainty around that whole process."

Those are questions that Shepherd said have been answered after hiring Bonilla Madrigal and hopefully will continue to be answered when the new staff member is hired.

This staff member will also work closely with the AFAB board of student representatives

that approve student organization budgets.

"They're kind of like an advisor to us if we have questions or things like that, but it's the students that decide where that money goes and then it's their job to kind of help the students get that money from that point," said AFAB Chair Kayla Edstrom.

"They're kind of like an advisor to us if we have questions," said AFAB Chair Kayla Edstrom.

This year the board has been made up of more new student senators than in years past, along with more at-large students, which can offer "a lot of diverse perspectives," Shepherd said.

The funding for this position, if it is approved, will be coming from the Student Life budget and \$12,000 will be paid for out of the Senate operating costs budget.

Senate is able to provide that amount of money because Senate President Bobbi O'Brien took the time to efficiently restructure their operating budget

to plan more intentionally where their money is going and how it is being spent.

After the budget was re-evaluated, this money was put toward the new position that would help out AFAB and student organizations, a direct tie to Senate.

Last year, another committee was formed to distribute money in a reserve account to student organizations that wanted to make bigger purchases that would not have been possible through their normal AFAB budget allowances.

For example, this money made the Duck's Unlimited duck pond restoration and the purchase of updated equipment for campus media possible.

Some organizations that requested and had money approved for different things through this budget had that money taken back because it was never spent. That money returned to the reserve account and will stay there until Senate approves that so it can be redistributed. That money will not be included in this budget season's base of funds to distribute to student organizations, said Shepherd.

Senate has approved the funding for the position.

Day planned for supporting donors

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On Feb. 28, UW-River Falls will join nearly 100 educational institutions across the world to participate in the first National Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day.

The event is a global initiative to create a culture of student understanding of philanthropy. The premise is to grow engagement between donors and students on campuses, according to a statement released by the UWRF Alumni Relations office.

Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines philanthropy as "goodwill to fellow members of the human race."

The goodwill that Dan McGinty, the director of Alumni Relations, said for UWRF students is to thank the nearly 400 donors who have given over \$670,000 for student scholarships at UWRF, among other contributions to the University this past academic year alone.

Hannah Carlson is a senior political science major. She is the recipient of two of the 687 scholarships from the UWRF Foundation that were awarded during the 2012-2013 school year. Carlson said these scholarships are a part of why she will graduate in May with no debt.

"I am extremely grateful for these scholarships. They have helped me pursue a college education and have allowed me to be involved on-campus because I didn't have to spend all of my time working to pay off tuition," Carlson said.

Carlson is at at-large senator on Student Senate and was recently named the elections commissioner for the spring Senate elections.

McGinty said that the goal of philanthropy day would be to show a deeper appreciation of donors, like Carlson said.

See Philanthropy page 3

Education Abroad Fair introduces new and exciting opportunities

Professor Rick Seefeldt, left, shows a video about the British Studies Program to Amanda Jacobus, middle, and Megan Giesiewicz, right, who were looking around at the Education Abroad Fair. The fair took place in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center Feb. 14.

Maggie Sanders/Student Voice



Wellness Challenge promotes healthy lifestyles

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Student Health and Counseling Services is continuing its annual campus-wide Wellness Challenge.

This program is for students and faculty to promote healthy lifestyles from Feb. 18 to March 17.

“It started to get people active and engage in a healthier lifestyle as we move into spring,” said Keven Syverson, UW-River Falls’ health education coordinator.

The program started about six years ago and is run this year primarily by Cassie Swenson who is an intern for Student Health Services. The program is based on the honor system. Participants have a points log that they turn in at the end of each week for four weeks on Desire to Learn (D2L).

There are weekly prizes and grand prizes

at the end of the four weeks which have been provided by local businesses and the campus community.

Participants can choose to either do this program as individuals or create a team of five to eight people.

Last year, the program had about 185 students and staff sign up which included 23 teams and 42 individuals.

As of Monday, Feb. 19, Swenson said the program has one-third less participants than 2012 including just 13 teams.

“[The program] really looks at nutrition, physical activity, relationships, mental health and overall health,” said Syverson. “It’s an opportunity for campus to come together and continue it not just during the challenge but year-round as well.”

Both Swenson and Syverson are part of a team with three of their co-workers from Student Health Services and are excited to be together.

“You recognize what you’re doing and how you can improve,” Swenson said. “It’s a really good incentive to stay motivated.”

Joining the Wellness Challenge has other perks such as free access to the Knowles Center and Hunt Arena for ice skating.

They also are able to have one free equipment rental a day from the Kinni Outdoors Adventures and during the four week challenge they get one free rock climbing session and one free spin class.

Those who were unable to register for the Wellness Challenge are still encouraged to be healthy by Swenson.

“We still have the points log on the [Student Health Services] website,” Swenson said. “The only things they’ll be missing out on are the prizes.”

Students and faculty are encouraged to follow along with the points log and to take advantage of outdoor activity.

“The biggest thing would be to be out and

being active,” Syverson said. “Being outside is great, too, and River Falls offers a lot of great areas.”

Syverson said that there is a map located on the Student Health and Counseling Services website which shows all the parks around campus and in the River Falls community.

Student Health Services can also provide students and faculty with tips on how to get healthy and can offer support when needed.

“I just hope that everyone that has signed up will stay with it,” Swenson said. “Stay active and pay attention to your wellness.”

Both Swenson and Syverson want to remind students and faculty that although the deadline has passed to sign up for the Wellness Challenge this year, it will be offered again next year.

For more tips and information on ways to stay healthy in River Falls, students can visit Health Services in Hagestad Hall.

News briefs: UW-River Falls RADD Jazz Festival and ensemble concerts

During the month of February, the UW-River Falls Music Department will host a series of events.

To begin, is the UWRF Jazz Festival. It goes from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22. The Jazz Festival features performances by outstanding regional high school and middle school jazz ensembles.

The Jazz Festival is a non-competitive event, and provides learning experiences for students of all levels with professional jazz clinicians and knowledgeable music educators.

In addition, the UWRF RADD Jazz Series is proud to present Mike Stern in concert with the UWRF Jazz Ensemble. In a career that spans three decades and a discography that includes more than a dozen eclectic and innovative recordings, six-time Grammy nominee, Stern has established himself as one of the premier jazz and jazz-fusion guitarists and composers of his generation.

Stern has performed and recorded with legendary jazz and jazz-fusion artists including Miles Davis, Jaco Pastorius, Michael Brecker, David Sanborn, Bob Berg, Kenny Garrett, Bela Fleck, Billy Cobham, Yellowjackets, and Blood Sweat and Tears.

As a leader, Stern has recorded several suc-

cessful studio and live albums and DVDs since his debut in 1985.

In addition, guest clinicians include Greg Keel (MacPhail Center for Music), David Singley (Carleton College), Chris Olson (McNally Smith College of Music) and Phil Holm (Minnesota youth Jazz Bands). UWRF music faculty Craig Hara, Eric Graham, Thomas Barnett, and David Milne will also be featured in clinics and performances.

The Jazz Festival will feature a concert for all participants by the UWRF Jazz Ensemble, featuring jazz guitarist Mike Stern, at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, in Abbott Concert Hall at the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building

The UWRF RADD Jazz Series will also present the UWRF Jazz Ensemble featuring Mike Stern at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, in Abbott Concert Hall in KFA.

Recital, band concert features Jason Ham

Jason Ham, 1st Sgt. and Euphonium soloist for the West Point Military Band, will be in residence at UW-River Falls from Feb. 25-28. Ham will present a free recital at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, in William Abbott Concert Hall.

Ham will be joined by pianist Min Jung Kim, Gary Bird on the tuba, and a brass quintet as they present a variety of selections for audience enjoyment.

Selections will include “Concerto for Eu-

phonium in B flat” by Dominique Roggen; “Suite for Euphonium, Tuba and Piano” by Barbara York; “Chopsticks” by Brandon Ridenour and brass quintet selections of Elegie by Peter Meehan; and “Kaleidoscopic Overdrive” by Ben McMillan.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Ham will perform a premier of the “UFO Concerto” by Dutch composer Johan De Meij with the UWRF Symphony Band.

This event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the William Abbott Concert Hall with a collaborative euphonium/tuba ensemble of excellent players from Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus the Symphony Band led by Kristin Tjornehoj, and the University Band, Gary Bird, director.



for Euphonium and Concert Band” by James Curnow. Other selections include “Grace and Glory” by Jack Stamp; “Amparito Roca” by Jaime Texidor; and “American Variations” by Bilik.

The Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble will play “Washington Post March” and “Locus Iste” by Anton Bruckner plus “Broadway Limited” by Gregory Fritze.

Admission cost is \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 for seniors and \$2.00 for students. Contact director Kristin Tjornehoj for further information: 715-410-7416, by email at kristin.tjornehoj@uwrf.edu, or visit the website at http://uwrf.edu/music/instrumental.

UWRF dance team hosts third annual Dancing with the Stars

The UW-River Falls dance team is hosting its third annual Dancing with the Stars event at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

Tickets will be sold from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Feb. 21, 22, 25 and 26 in the University Center across from Riverside Commons. Tickets will also be available at the door.

All the earnings will be helping the dance team with registration costs for Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla. which is held April 10-14.

UW-River Falls to host open house for St. Croix Valley Bull Test on March 16

The UW-River Falls Department of Animal and Food Science, St. Croix Valley Bull Test, and UW-Extension will be hosting an educational program and open house on Saturday, March 16.

The open house will allow producers to preview the bulls for the sale as well as provide a short educational program addressing current topics for cow/calf producers.

The open house, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be held at the UWRF Dairy Learning Center on the Mann Valley Farm, located 2.5 miles northwest of River Falls at 129 South Glover Road.

The beef cattle industry has faced many challenges in the past few years. Input costs, especially feed costs, have increased significantly and farmers

Free furnished bedroom in large Greek Revival house with off-street parking in restricted Zone C located 1/2 block from KFA on campus. Obligations: feed pet cat and house-keep when owner (retired U. Prof) is absent. Call (715) 425-5692.

are seeking ways to better utilize forages for their herd. The open house will feature Grant Crawford, director of Beef Technical Services at Form-A-Feed Inc., who will discuss how to better utilize forage. Feeder calf prices, on the other hand, have witnessed record highs and with another decrease to the U.S. beef herd this year, the demand for feeder calves should remain strong into the near future. Patrick Gunn, beef cow/calf extension specialist from Iowa State University, will address how to raise heifers more cost effectively.

The value of genetics should not be underestimated in management of herd efficiency, according to the St. Croix Bull Test. Amy Radunz, assistant professor of Animal & Food Science at UWRF, will discuss the use of feed efficiency in bull selection. The St. Croix Valley Bull Test is measuring individual feed intake on bulls to evaluate feed efficiency this year.

An overview will also be provided on how farmers can use genomics and performance data in selection of herd bulls.

Registration for the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. There is no charge for the program. The UWRF Beef Management Team will offer a lunch for \$6/person. Pre-register by contacting the St. Croix County Extension Office at 715-531-1930.

UW-River Falls offers summer camp for young engineering fans

UW-River Falls will host the UW-Madison College of Engineering’s Camp Badger Exploring Engineering on July 7-13 on the UWRF campus.

Students with an interest in math and science who will enter eighth grade in the fall are invited to apply.

The week-long summer camp provides an introduction to what engineers do and is designed to interest young students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines (STEM). Participants stay in the UWRF residence halls and eat in the campus cafeteria.

“Experience has taught us that this is the best way to help young people understand engineering,” said Camp Director Philip O’Leary, a professor of engineering professional development at UW-Madison. “Campers are directly involved in the learning process and they leave with a better idea of what engineers do in real-life situations.”

Each day campers follow a 12-hour schedule of activities, all facilitated and chaperoned by university faculty and college students.

Popular activities are field trips to local companies and engineering facilities.

Activities also include project-based exploration, hands-on exercises, team-building projects and small-group discussions.

All campers receive a workbook with questions designed to guide journaling and discussion of their experiences. There are no tests.

This summer marks 15 years of successful sessions in Madison and the third summer on the UWRF campus.

In addition to the camp session held in River Falls, there are five sessions held on the UW-Madison campus.

Interested students are invited to apply no later than March 11 for the 30 spots available. Qualified applicants will possess determination, creativity, problem solving and time management skills, as well as the ability to get along well with others in a team environment.

Cost for the full week, including lodging, meals and field trips, is \$595 per student. Need-based scholarships are available.

“One goal of Camp Badger is to offer an experience to kids who would not otherwise have the opportunity,” O’Leary said.

Females, representatives of traditionally underserved populations, minority group members and young people who have not had an experience with a pre-college program are encouraged to apply, he said.

Additional information, including application forms, is provided by visiting www.uwrf.edu and enter search term “Camp Badger,” or by contacting the UWRF Outreach office at 715-425-3256.

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Students to lend helping hand over spring break

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The Destination program at UW-River Falls is planning its annual spring break service trips for the year.

Destination Programmer Cailin Turner said she is part of a two-student staff, Destination Programmer Shanna Thomsen, who helps run the program, is the other.

The program has four different branches. The first branch is the domestic branch where trips are planned over spring break to locations specifically in the United States.

Next is the Regional branch. This is a new branch that consists of one weekend trip in the fall.

Then there is the international branch. The trips under this category vary by year. The trips occur either over J Term, or in the spring after graduation.

Finally, there is the Local branch of the program, and this is where students just work within the community.

However, for the trips planned over spring break, Turner said that there are 45 students involved in the Domestic branch of the program. Those students are split up between four different locations.

Students will leave the weekend before spring break officially begins, and will return that following weekend.

Each location that students travel to will cover four different issues. The locations are:

Cincinnati; Apopka, Fla.; Moab, Utah; and Maryville, Tenn.

The students traveling to Cincinnati will focus on the issue of poverty and homelessness. Apopka is the second destination and is where the students will be learning about the issue of immigration.

In Moab, students will be learning about environmental restoration, specifically plateau restoration.

Finally, in Maryville, the Native American culture is the main focus. Students that are participating will reach their destination by van, which Turner said will be time for a lot of group bonding.

The program is highly focused on educating participants on each of the specific issues so when they return from the trip students can apply what they learned to the River Falls community.

Turner also said she is proud of the program. Students who have participated said that the trips have been life changing for them. Turner said of these students, “they have actually changed their life paths.”

She said that students have even returned to the program to participate in another service trip.

“You look at life through a different lens,” Turner said.

Destination Manager Elise Koop has also actively participated in the program. This year, she was in charge of marketing for the



Photo submitted by Cailin Turner

Top: Students worked with an organization called St. Leonard's Ministries that helps men and women make the transition of returning to society after serving time in prison. Pictured from left to right: Megan Conant, Jared Ley, Andrew Sisulak, Charlotte Stanford, Lauren Johnson, Rashad Momoh, Abby Holt and Cailin Turner.

Destination program.

One technique she used was having past participants write a story on their personal experiences.

However, Koop has also been on service trips. She said she has been to Virginia and Alabama, and she went on the regional trip to Stillwater, Minn. The trip to Stillwater was

to visit Arcola Mills. While there, students learned about the history of the house as well as preservation of the environment.

Koop said that each trip has its own memorable moments.

“You learn so much about yourself,” she added. Both Koop and Turner recommend participating in the program.

Budgets: Proposals add up to over \$ 100 in increases if passed by Student Senate

	2012-2013		2013-2014 Projected			
Institution	14 MP/ Semester	Daily Rate	% increase On 14 MP	Semester Increase	Annual Increase	14 MP/ Semester
*LaCrosse	\$1,376	\$7.19				~\$1,417
*Oshkosh	\$1,248	\$8.29	5%	\$62.40	\$124.80	\$1,310.40
Platteville	\$1,472					~\$1,516
*River Falls	\$1,104.50	\$6.39	5%	\$55	\$110	\$1,160
Stevens Point	\$1,375	\$8.10	7.27%	\$100	\$200	\$1,475
*Superior	\$1,380	\$7.04	3%	\$41	\$83	\$1,421
*Parkside	\$1,380		3.50%	\$48	\$96	\$1,428
Stout	\$1,227		3%	\$37	\$74	\$1,264
Madison			3.40%			
Milwaukee	\$1,785					~1,839
*Eau Claire	\$1,495	\$9.06				~1,539
*Green Bay	\$1,250					~1,287
*Whitewater	\$1,190					~1,226

This information was compiled by the dining services committee and was presented to Student Senate as additional information for its budget presentation on Feb. 19. This chart compares prices of meal plans throughout the UW System. Some universities elected not to disclose information.

From page 1

That does not include labor or operating expenses. Sumnicht also said that contributions from dining services also has gone to projects such as Cascade, the Campus Mall, utility upgrades and road improvements.

Although Sumnicht concluded the increase in fees would increase the quality of food provided, several Senators questioned if there would be oversight or a guarantee that food quality would increase. The Senate will debate questions that leave doubt or uncertainty March 5. The Senate meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Willow River Room of the University Center and meetings are open to the public.

Sumnicht also noted that of the 13 four-year UW institutions, UWRF has consistently ranked lowest for cost and daily rate, which is the rate paid to the contractor to feed each student.

The budget that got the loudest sound of approval was for Textbook Services. Currently, each UWRF student pays \$143.30 to rent textbooks instead of purchasing them outright. Several Senators said this saved them approximately \$500 a semester. Textbook Services is not requesting a fee increase as they requested

the fee stand at \$143.30.

Other organizations requesting an affirmation of their segregated fee include the Creative Hours Learning Development (C.H.I.L.D.) Center that stands at \$21, the Student Life budget that has a fee of \$85 a year, and the intramural complex fee that stands at \$8 per year.

Kinni Outdoor Adventures requested the smallest increase thus far at 25 cents. This fee increase is to help launch a new offering, which includes bike repair service and a bike rental program.

Kinni Outdoor Adventures requested the smallest increase thus far at 25 cents. This fee increase is to help launch a new offering, which includes bike repair service and a bike rental program.

Senator A.J. Hansen noted that UWRF is one of the most biker-friendly campuses in the UW System and that by offering bike services students will be able to utilize the trails on campus.

The final request presented before Senate on Feb. 19 was a 54 cent increase for intramural programs to help with

administrative support since they now have to support 15 percent of salaries and fringe.

Now that the presentations have been made, Senate will discuss and ultimately vote on each organization’s budget. Each budget will then be forwarded to Chancellor Dean Van Galen for approval.

The remaining budgets that will be proposed include: the University Center, Career Services, Recreation and Sports Facilities, among others.

Philanthropy: Increasing awareness of stewardship for scholarship recipients

From page 1

“Without the private support of our donors, the cost to attend our University would be much higher,” McGinty said. “By increasing the awareness of stewardship as a scholarship recipient, it is always our hope that others, too will pay it forward like these donors have done.”

For philanthropy day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UWRF will have a giant thank-you card in the University Center in Heritage Hall for students to sign.

The first 100 students to sign the card will receive a coupon for a free drink from Peregrine Perk.

McGinty said the thank-you card will then be dis-

played at events where donors are present.

Other participating schools from around the nation are writing letters to their donors, passing out stickers/t-shirts, completing testimonial videos to be shown to donors, etc. However, the donors provide more than just scholarships, McGinty said. Other programs funded by donors

include undergraduate research, international travel, building projects such as the Falcon Center project, Ramer Field renovation, Hunt Arena and the Wall Amphitheater.

Other projects that students can see directly are projects such as classroom grants to enhance labs and equipment and campus beautification projects adding trees, benches,

landscaping and walking trails, among others.

Along with the Alumni Office, Student Life and the Chancellor’s Student Ambassadors will be sponsoring this first-ever event. UWRF is one of 300 schools in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Affiliated Student Advancement Programs (CASE ASAP).

The schools comprise of student alumni associations, student foundations and similar organizations. Its goal is to foster and enhance student involvement in all areas of advancement-from alumni relations and communications to marketing, fundraising and related areas, according to CASE’s mission statement.

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EDITORIALS

Staying on campus during weekends beneficial for many students, University

This year the enrollment at UW-River Falls is just under 6,500 students. Next year the projected enrollment total will fall below 6,000 students. Some of the reasons for such poor retention could simply be some of the perceptions that UWRF has. One of those is the fact that most people think there is nothing to do on campus when the week-end hits. If there is no reason to stay on campus over the weekend, students may transfer to another university where there is a perceived “weekend scene.” That could not be further from the truth. Every weekend is abound with activities for everyone. However, most students do not realize that there are so many activities because they seem to expect the activity to knock on their door and let them know something is happening. It doesn’t work that way. Students do actually need to find out when these things are happening. Some ways to do that include: reading the posters in the University Center, reading the Falcon 411 email and checking out the list of 101 things to do before you graduate. Another, perhaps larger, issue is the finances required to attend college. It’s no secret that college is expensive, and that students need money.

This factor leads to many students having jobs in their hometown. Jobs at which they work over the weekend. Obviously, this leads to less people being on campus during the weekends. This then leads in to the idea that no one is here and there is nothing to do on the weekends. The cost of college, in addition to the perception that UWRF is a suitcase campus, leads into the enrollment issues which the University is currently having. You will always remember the fun times you had with your friends in college. Don’t miss out on some of those fun times because you think there is nothing to do on the weekend. We challenge students to get out and check out some on campus events over the weekends. Go out, have fun, and meet new people. Get started by supporting the women’s hockey team in the playoffs this Friday and Saturday, or the Jazz Club Cabaret in the UC on Friday Don’t just give up on UWRF because you think there is nothing to do on the weekend. There is.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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David Recine/Student Voice

Letters to the editor

United Falcons thankful for pursuit of new pay plan

United Falcons AFT thanks the UW-River Falls Student Senate for its efforts to improve the working conditions and lives of faculty, academic staff and their families. We would like to provide additional information and thoughts in response to the comments in the debate in the Senate and the editorial in the Voice. The motion before the Senate did ask for a tuition increase in order to give the UWRF staff the first general raise in five years. The motion indicates the extremes that the University and system have been pushed to provide a competitive wage for its employees. Tuition has risen continually over the last decades, yet the staff has not benefited, let alone been the cause of those increases. The tuition increases come from a calculated strategy over the last two decades on the part of state governments and some pressure groups to put the costs of education into the hands of the persons who benefit, you the students. The argument is that the state should not provide cheap/free higher education. Rather the student who will benefit from the education in the form of presumed higher wages ought to pay for it. In the 1960s and 70s, the state of Wisconsin paid over 60 percent of the cost of higher education. Today that percentage is less than 20 percent. In the last biennium the legislature and the governor cut \$300 million from the University budget. Tuition went up to cover parts of those cuts so the level and quality of education could continue including paying for utilities and other aspects of keeping the University open. Somehow those costs continue to rise without comment from the persons who expect you to pay more. According to a study from the American Council for Education, public funding for higher education in Wisconsin could reach zero by 2040. Nationally, funding for higher education in 2011 was down by 40.2 percent since 1980. If you believe that the state benefits from your education, if you want tuition to stop rising and even go back down, then write your legislators and governor. The problem comes from their actions and the solution rests in their hands. At this time they still believe that you should pay the costs because evidently only you benefit. The faculty and staff know that Wisconsin does benefit from the education our students receive. We know from years of data and commentary that educated citizens sustain healthy democracies and healthy economies. The faculty and staff thank you again for your support and commendation of our efforts to help you meet your goals and our joint efforts to sustain Wisconsin as a vibrant and great place to live and raise families.

Kurt Leichtle, Kate Maude, John Heppen and Matt Renault
Executive Committee, United Falcons AFT

Patriot Act makes us the Paranoid States of America

Sept. 11, 2001, is the official date of the change from the United States of America to the Paranoid States of America, hereafter the PSOA. Not that there was not a certain amount of paranoia prior to 9-11 but it became a pastime after that date. We attacked Afghanistan. We were told Afghanistan was something to fear. Osama Bin Laden was there, maybe. Fear overtook the people and was fostered by government. The Patriot Act told people to spy on their neighbors and co-workers. Terrorists were everywhere and no one was safe anymore. The government even color coded the type of terrorist danger we were in. I thought chartreuse should have been used. Soon we were told to fear Iraq. They had many weapons of mass destruction. Yellowcake uranium was being produced to make atomic bombs. We invaded Iraq. The mantra of the day was, “we fight them over there so we do not have to fight them over here.” There has not been a significant terror strike in the PSOA since Sept. 11, 2001. Government likes to take credit for this. The truth is that the amount of terrorists is quite low. If there was a large amount of terrorists the world would be rocked with attacks on a weekly basis, including in the PSOA. The PSOA has spent over \$1 trillion to combat terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001. Every time an Al Qaeda member belches, the PSOA puts all airports and police on overtime. The 2008 election of Barack Obama unleashed a huge wave of paranoia in the PSOA. Even though the Supreme Court

ruled several years ago that the right to keep and bear arms was inviolate, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and right-wing talk hosts claim Obama wants to take all guns away, keeping paranoia at a high level. There are more than 300 million firearms in the PSOA and they are selling at a record pace. One gun manufacturer is now advertising an assault style rifle for the 8 to 17-year-old crowd. The killing of children and teachers in Newtown, Conn., was tragic. It increased the level of paranoia. Parents across the PSOA are scared stiff about sending their kids off to school. In reality, mass school shootings are extremely rare. Columbine, Colo., years ago, and now Newtown. To hear the hysteria and conjecture one would believe these events happen every day. Adding to the hype is the NRA and others advocating arming school teachers or placing an armed guard in every classroom. I have four firearms in my closet. I was a hunter years ago. I fully support the right to keep and bear arms. I also believe the only time my firearms will be brought out will be for cleaning and rust prevention. I expect to never have to defend myself from Iraqis, Afghanis, terrorists or criminals. By the way, the new state to be feared is Iran. Estimates are they will have an atomic bomb in two to five or 18 years. At this time, their delivery system is on the back of a camel.

Marvin L. Nelson
River Falls

Vote in our online poll:

Should UW-River Falls allow co-ed dorm rooms?

Visit uwrvoice.com to cast your vote!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!



The first person to report the find to editor@uwrvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins.

Going Greek opens doors for students

Morgan Stippel

Columnist

When people think about Greek Life, they typically associate this lifestyle with that of the one portrayed in the movie “Animal House.” Partying into the wee hours of the morning, drinking excessive amounts of alcohol, skipping class on a daily basis and

causing problems on campus are only a few of the negative stereotypes commonly held about Greek Life. However, these stereotypes are far from accurate. Going Greek not only allows students to become more involved both on campus and in the community, but it also provides them with valuable experiences that help them grow as individuals.

One of the goals of fraternities and sororities at UW-River Falls is to give members leadership experience. Within each organization, elections are held to appoint members to certain positions. These positions range from president to chairperson of a committee. Grady Nelson joined Theta Chi last spring and is now the president of the fraternity. He has attended numerous conferences put on by Theta Chi and said that leadership opportunities are one of the most valuable things he has gained from his involvement in Greek Life.

Similarly, Liz Byers has been a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha for four years and has held a variety of leadership positions within the organization. Byers has been the secretary, parliamentarian, standards chairwoman, public relations chairwoman, social chairwoman and president.

“I gained a lot of leadership on campus, especially when I was the president,” Byers said. “The president becomes the face of the sorority, particularly when interacting with administration.”

Members are also encouraged to pursue involvement and leadership opportunities outside of Greek Life. Members of the Greek community are very involved in other organizations on campus such as Student Senate, Dairy Club, Rock Climbing Club and a variety of others. Nearly every campus organization has a Greek member in it.

In addition to leadership on campus, Greek organizations strive to build connections in the community by doing different types of service work. Each fraternity or sorority has a primary philanthropy that they serve, and each one participates in community service activities throughout River Falls. Sigma Alpha has a program called Agriculture in the Classroom.

“We go into schools and teach elementary students about agriculture programs and where their food comes from,” said Sigma Alpha member Ashley Belongia of the program. In addition to Agriculture in the Classroom, Sigma Alpha walks dogs for the animal shelter, writes letters to soldiers and takes part in other service opportunities throughout the community. Belongia says that this involvement has greatly strengthened Sigma Alpha’s relationship with the community.

Greek Life also emphasizes academic achievement. Every fraternity or sorority on the UWRF campus has a minimum grade point average requirement, and this GPA differs from organization to organization. In order to be eligible to join a fraternity or sorority, one must meet the GPA requirement for the organization that he or she wants to join. Furthermore, members must continue to meet or exceed this GPA requirement from semester to semester.

Alpha Gamma Rho has an academic program that offers study groups broken down by major in order to enhance the classroom performance of its members. Tanner Johnson, a

member of Alpha Gamma Rho, said, “My overall classroom performance has improved since joining Alpha Gamma Rho. Having classes together and being able to study together has been a great resource to help with my classes.”

Finally, it should be noted that going Greek is a great way to meet new people. Alexa Rarick is a member of Phi Mu and she is a transfer student. It is her first year at UWRF.

“As a transfer student, going Greek was a great way to meet new people and get involved at the same time,” Rarick said.

Joining a fraternity or sorority in college is a great opportunity, and this positive experience is something that extends well beyond one’s college years. Each Greek organization has a variety of chapters at different colleges and universities, thus forming a larger community. Being connected to a fraternity or sorority allows one to build connections later in life because many times, people network based on the Greek organizations they were connected to in college.

Alexis De Caster, a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, said, “I like that I am part of a community and not just an isolated group.”

It is obvious that going Greek has innumerable advantages. Each sorority or fraternity has specific characteristics that make it unique from other Greek organizations on campus. To get more information about fraternities and sororities on our campus, please visit their page on the University website. The next time you think about Greek Life, instead of accepting the negative myths as facts, recognize the amazing opportunities that these organizations have to offer.

Morgan is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in professional writing. When she graduates from UW-River Falls, she wants to become a state prosecutor and specialize in domestic violence cases.

Recycle Mania Tournament currently underway

Molly Breitmün

Columnist

Although “Reduce” is the most critical of the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), it can be challenging to reduce paper use, especially on campus. Remarkably, as I look through binders, my Geography Map Design class simply has two pages of handwritten notes – no hard copy syllabus, draft maps or worksheets. Our professor designed the class around paper reduction. All assignments, quizzes and documents are made available or submitted via Desire to Learn (D2L). Not only does this alleviate campus waste, it is more economically sustainable by decreasing the amount of color print copies generated by the Geographic Information Science Lab (GIS) printers.

Are you in a class that could be reworked to reduce the consumption of paper or other resources? Is your class stellar in reducing consumption? Email me your ideas or let me know if you’ve got my Map Design class beat in sustainable practices.

Did you know we are almost three weeks into the Recycle Mania Tournament? Mark Klapatch, one of two custodial supervisors for our academic buildings, was one of the first people to contact me after my initial article, where I asked for your input on campus sustainability issues.

Recycle Mania is a competition engaging over 200 colleges and universities across the nation to increase awareness and efforts around recycling on campus. UW-River Falls has participated in Recycle Mania since 2007. Our waste and recycling service provider sends Klapatch weekly reports that he then submits for our ranking amongst other schools.

Our rankings are based on school population size, rate of recycling versus waste disposal, and total pounds of material recycled during the competition. In the ‘Grand Champion’ category, we are currently ranked 75 out of 208 schools based on a 37 percent recycling rate. We have a little over five weeks to improve on that, which is plenty of time.

Klapatch estimates that in 2012 we recycled roughly 210 tons of material. This is up from 2011’s count of 188.94 tons. Last year we ranked fourth out of the competing UW schools. UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh and UW-Platteville beat our recycling rate by no more than 6 percent. This year, I would like to be able to say UWRF ranked first amongst the UW schools. Visit recyclemaniacs.org to track our progress.

You might have noticed Klapatch’s staff tabling to promote Recycle Mania in the Univer-

sity Center this past Thursday, Feb. 21. To enter their raffle for ‘eco-swap’ they had students fill out a questionnaire about improving recycling on campus.

If you didn’t get a chance to air your voice, email me. How might recycling on campus be made more convenient? Have you noticed a certain building or room that is lacking adequate recycling containers or signage? Are you familiar with what we can recycle on campus? I will feature responses in my biweekly column.

Recycle Mania ends March 30, just as Spring Break comes to a close. I challenge you to familiarize yourself with the recycling containers in the campus buildings you use most.

When I asked Klapatch what recyclables he sees placed inappropriately in waste containers, his definitive response was paper and soft drink cans. Some recycling materials are ambiguous: Can we recycle food-soiled paper? Can we recycle plastics numbered one through seven? But it should be pretty evident most paper products and cans are recyclable. I think we are doing well on campus as a whole, especially thanks to initiatives by staff and faculty. But, as students, we have room to step it up and make a statement about our commitment to our campus pride as leaders in sustainability.

Here is a list of upcoming sustainability events:
MOSES Organic Farming Conference (Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service), Feb. 21 - 23 in La Crosse, Wis.

It may be too late to attend the conference, but they are a unique and excellent Midwest resource especially for young farmers looking for support, funding and education. Check them out at <http://www.mosesorganic.org>.

Third Annual Traditional and Green Skills Event from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 2, 2013, at Prairie Farm High School, \$10/adult. Workshops that caught my eye include: “Homemade Beer,” “Building an Electric Motorcycle,” and “Lip Balm and Salves.”

To feature your sustainability events (two weeks notice), ideas, successes stories, gripes, etc., email: molly.breitmun@my.uwrf.edu.

Molly is a non-traditional student majoring in conservation with a minor in GIS. Her interest in campus sustainability was fostered by becoming an undergraduate fellow for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainability Community Development as well as by her peers in the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture.

As students, we have room to step it up and make a statement about our commitment to our campus pride as leaders in sustainability.

STUDENT
Voices

Compiled by Sarah Plank

Where do you get most of your news from?

“UWRF website.”




John Schimenz
Senior



Mike Merritt
Senior

“Facebook, espn.com and nfl.com.”




Alexis Campbell
Senior



Jillian McNeely
Senior

“Facebook and Lacrossetribune.com”



Thomas Mathewson
Senior

“Facebook and Hometown Herald from Albany, Wis.”



Sarah Plank
Senior

“Minnesota Public Radio.”



Thomas Mathewson
Senior

Women’s hockey begins playoff push

Ashley Goettl
ashley.goettl@my.uwrf.edu

Amanda Ryder and the Falcon women’s hockey team are no strangers to success. But for Ryder, a senior captain, this year’s team is just getting started. That’s a terrifying thought for opposing teams as the Falcons have been ranked in the top 10 of the nation all year. But after consistently being ranked among the nation’s best, Ryder said the best is yet to come.

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team won their third-straight Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) regular season conference title after a 5-0 victory over Lake Forest at Hunt Arena on Feb. 17.

The Falcons clinched the conference title on the final day of the regular season in a game they needed to win or tie over second-place Lake Forest. With the victory, the Falcons will now host the conference playoffs, the NCHA O’Brien Cup, with the winner of the tournament receiving the league’s automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Joe Cranston, who is in his 14th year as head coach, has guided the Falcons to five NCHA regular season titles, five NCHA tournament O’Brien Cup championships and five NCAA tournament appearances, including a trip to the Frozen Four in 2009. Cranston has been with the women’s hockey team since its inception in 1999.

However, the only coach in UWRf’s women’s hockey history said this year’s team is

his best team yet. That is a true testament to the strength of this year’s squad, ranked No. 6 in the nation, as Cranston coached the 2010-2011 Falcons to an undefeated regular season and a No. 1 ranking for most of the season.

“We’re a better team this year,” Cranston said. “We struggled early, but that helped us come out strong in the second half of the season.”

Before the end of 2012, the Falcons were 7-4-2 to start the season. Since then the Falcons have been on a tear, winning 11 of their last 12 games. During that stretch the Falcons had a 10-game winning streak before a 2-1 loss to Lake Forest on the second-to-last day of the regular season. The team enters the first round of NCHA playoffs with an 18-5-2 record, including a 9-3-1 record at home, according to the UWRf Athletic website.

Ryder was a freshman when the 2009 team made



Freshman Leah Gefroh celebrates after scoring a power-play goal against Lake Forest on Sunday, Feb. 17, at Hunt Arena. The Falcons won the game 5-0 and clinched the NCHA conference championship.

it to the national semifinals. “We got the taste of playing on the national level, and now it’s time to get back,” Ryder said.

The experience of playing on the national level and the urge to get back to the Frozen Four and even further, has the senior All-NCHA defenseman playing her best hockey of her career, according to Cranston.

“She’s been unbelievable,” Cranston said. “We don’t have a

lot of depth on this year’s team, and the girls know that, but they also know they need to step it up every game and they have.”

Another player who is having a banner year is All-American Katie Batters. Batters, a junior, leads the Falcons with 17 goals on the season. Chloe Kinsel and Kait Mason lead the Falcons with 28 total points on the season with each scoring 16 goals and 12 assists. Mason came up in the clutch for the Falcons in the conference clinching game, scoring two goals in UWRf’s 5-0 victory.

Alyssa Jackson is a tri-captain alongside Ryder and Judy Daleiden. And like Ryder, Jackson knows that with the playoffs, also comes the perspective that their hockey days are coming to a close. But all three tri-captains agree that knowing each game could be their last, gives them extra incentive.

“Knowing that it (her hockey career) is coming to an end, it is more important, every shift and every practice to work harder,”

Jackson said.

Daleiden concurs, and she added that knowing what the playoff atmosphere will be like will give this senior class and the entire Falcon roster an edge.

But the real secret to the team’s success can be summed up in wisdom one can only learn from experience.

“I’m a firm believer that if you work hard good things will happen to you,”

Jackson said.

A true sentiment and legacy for a senior class that has seen that hard work come to fruition and that will leave the team positioned to replicate that success for years to come.

The first game of the NCHA O’Brien Cup tournament will be held at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, at Hunt Arena as the Falcons take on UW-Eau Claire. The two teams will meet in a series with the first team to three points advancing. A win earns two points, while a tie earns one. The Falcons tied the Blugolds in their two regular season meetings.



Sophomore Kendal Evenson takes a shot against Lake Forest on Sunday, Feb. 17, at Hunt Arena. The Falcons won the game 5-0.

Peterson continues stellar play

Zach Peterson: Senior on the men’s basketball team

Peterson has played all four years with the Falcons’ basketball team. He had his best season this year, leading the team in rebounding with 6.7 rebounds per game and was second in scoring with 12.8 points per game. He had a career high 26 points in a win against UW-Superior this season.

High school: Centennial High School

Major: Business - Marketing

Nicknames: Petey

Favorite sport other than basketball: Golf

Favorite Athlete: LeBron James

Favorite Musician: Zac Brown Band

Favorite Movie: “Shawshank Redemption”

Why did you choose UW-River Falls: It is close to home and in a very competitive basketball conference.

Something funny about a teammate: Ollie White has 11 toes.



Wiseman finishes great career

Hannah Wiseman: Senior on the women’s swim team

Hannah Wiseman is a senior swimmer for the Falcon women’s swimming and diving team. She had a great career for the Falcons as she finished with several all-time top 10 times and was the Falcon’s best finisher at the WIAC championships.

High school: CHI-HI (Chippewa Falls High School)

Favorite Actor/Actress: Kristen Wiig. She is so funny.

Least Favorite Food: Mushrooms

Favorite Song: “Drop it Low” by Ester Dean and Chris Brown.

Favorite Thing About River Falls: I love how compact the town is. There is a lot to do in such a little space and its not hard to get places.

Interesting Fact About Yourself: I have literally been swimming for a majority of my life. For 15 years I’ve been swimming, my whole family swims, and it kind of runs in the family.

Favorite River Falls Swimming Memory: There are a lot of swimming memories that I have so it is really hard to pick just one. But I would have to say that we have the best times when we go on our winter training trips. We work hard and really get to bond with each other as swimmers and as friends.



Track to compete at WIAC championships

The men’s and women’s track and field teams will be heading to UW-Stevens Point on Friday, Feb. 22, and Saturday, Feb. 23, for the WIAC championships.

James Butler is one of the Falcon athletes to watch at the meet. Butler is ranked in the top eight in the WIAC in both the 200 meter dash and the 60 meter hurdles. Matt Shutey is also ranked in the top five in the hurdles. Jessop Keene is ranked in the top eight in the 5,000 meter run.

On the women’s side, Alyssa Rasmussen has the top time in the conference in both the 200 and 400 meter dash. Katie Rydeen is ranked in the conference top 10 in both the 3,000 and 5,000 meter runs. Brittany Nordland is also ranked in the top five in the one mile run.

Free popcorn for students at hockey game

Since students are required to purchase tickets for the hockey playoff games Feb. 22 and 23 (\$4 with student ID), the Athletic Department will be providing students with a free box of popcorn.

All students need to do is show their ID upon purchasing a game ticket and they will receive a ticket for a free box of popcorn, which can be redeemed at the concession stand.

The Falcon hockey games are at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, and 2:05 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23. The Falcons will take the ice against UW-Eau Claire in the first round of the NCHA O’Brien Cup playoffs. The Falcons are currently ranked No. 6 in the nation.

www.pureradio887.com

LIVE FALCON BROADCASTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND WOMEN'S HOCKEY HOME VS UW-EAU CLAIRE 7:05 PM NCHA O'BRIEN CUP 1ST ROUND	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD WOMEN'S HOCKEY AWAY AT UW-STOUT 2:05 PM NCHA O'BRIEN CUP 1ST ROUND
MEN'S HOCKEY AWAY VS UW-EAU CLAIRE 7:05 PM NCHA PETERS CUP SEMI-FINALS	

‘Die Hard’ falls short of hype



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

Bruce Willis returns for the newest “Die Hard” installment, but unfortunately his return is all there really is to get hyped up for about this movie.

New York police officer John McLane (Willis) has been many places. From Nakatomi Plaza, to Washington Dulles International Airport, to New York again and back to Washington D.C, he has always brought pure bravery and action as his luggage. But that alone will not be enough as he is sent to Russia to help out his estranged son Jack (Jai Courtney) in saving a Russian scientist from a conspiracy that means to use the doctor’s findings for evil deeds. Now not only will John need to stop these Russian terrorists, but he will also need to fix his relationship with his son and save the day if he ever wants to see another day to die hard.

I admit to having never seen any of the other “Die Hard” movies before this installment. Regular readers will shrug to this; UW-River Falls movie buffs will instantly start booing me for this sin against movie kind. But, rest

assured, I had read about what makes a “Die Hard” movie good: smart villains, good locations, great action, and an all-around clever and entertaining plot. Despite what I sound like I’m leading to, “A Good Day to Die Hard” has very little in all of these departments.

The main problem I had with this movie can be summed up in four words: run of the mill. So much of this movie feels unoriginal and treaded before. It’s your standard father and son team up against some bad guys who want to steal plans that involve something nuclear powered. It’s this kind of plain, uninspired writing that made me barely care about the plot throughout the movie and got stuck through the whole way.

The movie fails in other areas that make a “Die Hard” movie great as well. Where I was expecting smart villains, I got your average bad guys whose only ends are money and more money. Instead of good locations, I got unmemorable and underutilized areas of Russia. And, instead of a clever and entertaining plot, well, you get the picture.

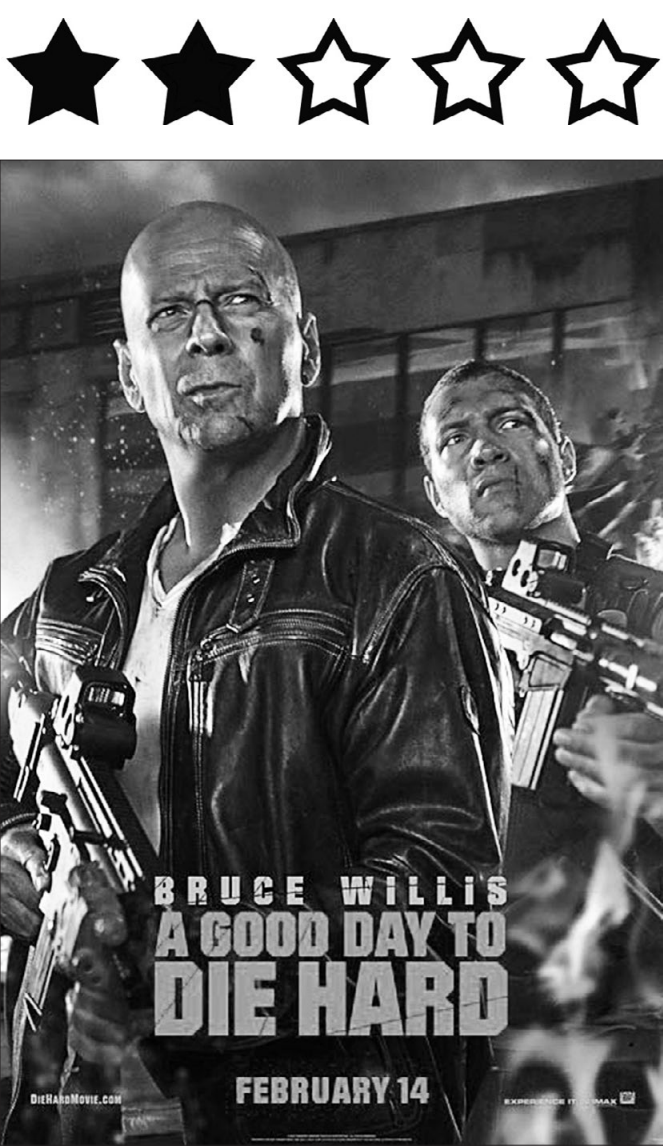
But that’s not to say that the movie is unentertaining. The action parts of the movie are okay, even though I would’ve

The movie fails in other areas that make a “Die Hard” movie great as well.

expected more than just guns-blazing around the place and big explosions; if these are your things, then you might be satiated. And McLane injects an easy dosage of wit, cursing, and quips that becomes one of the saving graces of the movie, if only because it got me laughing. But when the bullet shells have stopped rolling on the floor and the explosions have subsided, you’re just left with the blasted residue and hole ridden mass that is this film.

By the end, I was honestly disappointed. If put into the hands of another director or even writer, this movie could have been smart, clever and something entertaining in more ways than one. What I got though was just another action film, and I just don’t think that’s something more that we as the audience deserve. The movie offers a lot explosive action barks, but no real bites. For the future of McLane, I can only hope that the next “Yippie-Ki-Yay” will be much more deserving and satisfying than what is in theaters now.

Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds.



Handicapped defined by more than physical abilities

Tyler Smith

Columnist

I am the white elephant so to speak.

Even though I weigh almost as much as a fully grown bull-elephant, it is not the weight that makes individuals uneasy about approaching: it is my disability.

The sensation occurs to me that the disability is the only aspect that people truly see when they look at me. Not that I give a diddly-poo, but, as an individual, I am defined by more than just the physical capabilities of my body.

In classroom situations, the hesitation of other individuals can be seen in the way they interact with persons of disability. It feels like they are afraid to socialize with us because of some misguided, preconceived, ludicrous notion that they, too, will become

handicaps by mere association or offend us by saying the wrong thing.

They simply do not know how to say, “hello.” There exists some concept that says, handicaps must be inhuman.

People automatically assume since I possess a disability, that they must suddenly speak at a slower rate so that I can understand them. They interact differently than they ordinarily would with “normal” folk. They assume that I possess a pathetic nature.

Sometimes I go along with their misconceived notions of how a disabled person should act. I pretend I cannot speak so I do not have to talk with them, or I blurt out odd bits of one-liners from “Doctor Who.”

However, I find myself putting up a false-front in the faces of many people, and perhaps other persons with disabilities feel much the same way.

I try to compensate the “normal” person’s ineptitude about approaching with a barrage of humor and charisma to keep them entertained and comfortable.

Basically, people are getting the long-shot

when I act funny; I do so because there exists a primal need to fit in, to find that social niche in life and cling to it with every last muster of strength.

Simply put, I have grown tired. I need to create some small social awareness.

People (some people) do not have a barrier, or fear, about addressing a person with a disability, but they frequently associate weaknesses with the disability; handicaps can’t do this and so on.

They assume we need help and are incapable of completing minor tasks by ourselves: help getting in or out of car, picking up after ourselves, finding a bottle of Palmolive, getting a plate of food at a family get-together, cleaning the dishes, closing the fridge, wiping our noses, blinking and so many other things that are downright maddening.

There are other people who are haphazardly ignorant of the boundaries that should exist, like jumping on a complete strangers lap (who is in a wheelchair) or petting a working service-dog that is guiding an individual through their daily life.

Usually, I try to be funny and make a point, but this topic needs to be injected with sincerity and tastefulness, things that I usually ignore in my articles.

Simply put, do not assume that an individual with a disability is weak, odds are our disability has made us unbelievably strong.

Do not initially assume we need help with every blasted thing under the sun - we got this.

Do not jump in our laps on random occasions because you feel compelled to do so.

Finally, do not pet our service dogs while they are on duty (no matter how adorable you may think them). They are with us for a reason.

We are worthwhile human beings capable of doing so much more than is ever expected of us.

While people with disabilities appreciate independence, we do not mind the occasional helping hand. Just avoid assuming that we need help through every motion of our lives. We got this.

Steps, strategies to prevent suicide on college campuses

Miranda Hammel

Columnist

This is a very serious, but necessary topic: suicide prevention.

Sadly, many college students do attempt suicide each year. I myself have gone through long talks with friends and acquaintances about their own thoughts of the idea, and tried to convince them it’s not worth it. I’ve even been through the painful funerals of some really close friends. Lots of people have, and it’s sad situation no one should have to go through.

Helping to make students more aware of people around them, or just their friends can help make so much more of a difference in that persons life. According to save.org, a suicide awareness site, there are nearly 30,000 suicide related deaths each year in America. Sadly for young people between the ages of 15-24, suicide is the leading cause of death. The one fact I want to get across to everyone reading is that many who attempt suicide never seek professional care.

There are things that we as friends, co-workers or teachers can do to help though. There are symptoms and signs we can look for or notice in their day-to-day activity. Obviously a major one to

look out for is talking about wanting to die or take their own life. Second, if they talk about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live, feeling trapped or burdened. Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs, and sleeping too much or too little.

Lastly I will say one that even I was surprised to find out. It’s that if their behavior is new or they seem suddenly happier or calm, those are other things that we as friends can be aware of and do our best to take action upon.

UW-River Falls has a great counseling program, having experienced it myself and from the feedbacks I hear from friends, I would recommend them for any issues you might be going through. From stress, to relationships, to deaths and so much more the Student Health and Counseling Services is great. They are located in 211 Hagestad Hall and they are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. You can even make an appointment to schedule brief meetings by calling 715-425-3884. The best thing about this amazing resource provided to students is that it’s free.

The only way to make suicide prevention work is by educating the public to make everyone more aware. If you know someone who is suicidal, just begin by asking them basic questions

like, “Do you ever feel so badly that you think about suicide?” and go from there. Ask if they have a plan or if they’ve thought about how they would go about it. I know it can be scary to talk about, let alone bringing it up, but by asking these questions you can determine if the person you know needs immediate help or if you should have them reach out to a professional. Two basic rules to follow:

1. Never keep a plan for suicide a secret, meaning don’t worry about risking a friendship if you truly feel a life is in danger.
2. Don’t try to minimize problems, or in simpler terms your opinion of a persons suicide is irrelevant. Trying to convince someone suffering with a mental illness that it’s not that bad, or they have everything to live for may only make feeling of guilt or hopelessness worse.

Just reassure them that help is available and that these feelings are only temporary. I know life can be hard, and stress from school, work, friends and relationships can be hard, but if you have suicidal thoughts or you are depressed I encourage you to seek help from a professional. We all have our rough days, but remember mama said there would be days like this.

Miranda is a junior majoring in journalism. She enjoys reading, writing, listening to music and being active outdoors.

Wedding trip to Jamaica turns into unforgettable vacation

Adam Tilson

Columnist

Less than a month ago, I came back to school to embrace homework, studying and tests. All of a sudden I was away from it all.

Last week I spent my time down at a hotel resort in Jamaica. My whole family and I were there to watch my aunt get married. Other than that, it was pretty much a vacation, and a great one, too.

I found the plane rides to be quite enjoyable. It was

We also had a chance to kiss a dolphin. It was probably one of the best kisses I’ve had in a long time.

on the other side of the road, which was weird enough, I felt I was going to get hit.

I stayed at the Grand Bahia Principe and I felt like royalty for a whole week. Before I got there, I was under the impression that it would be some average hotel. I was so wrong. Everything was exceptional: the 24 hour room service, my own butler, and a fridge filled with champagne, soda, and beer. And it got re-stocked every day.

During my stay, I stayed away from alcoholic beverages most of the time. A couple of drinks around the pool and some champagne

at the wedding, that’s how much alcohol I consumed. I felt that it didn’t make much sense to pay over \$1,000 for a trip to stand around a pool with my family and get hammered. I didn’t want to spend my time like that when this could be my one and only trip to Jamaica.

I was able to experience a ton in Jamaica. Since I have lived in Wisconsin all my life, it was nice to see tropical trees, plants and sandy beaches. And it couldn’t be a vacation if I didn’t mention the number of gift shops I encountered. People in Ja-

maica hustled the tourists to buy gifts, and unfortunately I was one of their victims. I spent over \$200 on souvenirs, but I have no regrets buying anything on the trip.

To make my vacation even better, it ended with a trip to the Dolphin Cove. Sort of like a tropical park, it featured a jungle trail where I encountered tropical birds. I also saw sharks and held a sting ray and Jamaican boa. However, that was nothing compared to swimming with the dolphins.

Encountering the dolphins by far was the best experience on the trip. They put on a fantastic show for me and my family. Watching them dance and sing to us was incredible. The best part was when each of us held their flippers and took us on a short ride in the water. We also had a chance to kiss a dolphin. It was probably one of the best kisses I’ve had in a long time.

I think I had the best time of my life in Jamaica. Everything was great there, from the hotel to the Dolphin Cove, but my lasting impression of Jamaica was the hospitality shown by the people. I’ve never encountered so many friendly people in my life in such a short period of time. It truly was an experience of a lifetime.

Adam is originally from Neillsville, Wis. This is his second semester at UW-River Falls and he is a part of Student Support Services. He loves to play video games, watch movies, especially classics, fishing in the summer and trying new activities.

New friends bring new adventures



Amanda White
Columnist

“The Breakfast Club.” “The Perks of Being a Wallflower.” “Harry Potter.” These classic films all have one thing in common: a ragtag bunch of misfits who somehow come together and form a bond like none other.

I never knew I would find my misfit crew worthy of a John Hughes movie or popular sitcom the week I moved to New York. I was actually terrified I wouldn’t make any friends once I got here, so I was prepared to read a lot and watch entire series of TV shows. I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Disclaimer: I run the risk of my new friends actually reading this column, so I preface this most likely sappy piece of my feelings with an apology to Kaylie, Dan, Isabel and Sam. I’ll try not to embarrass you.

There are five of us in our aptly named misfit crew, two guys and three girls. We are all part of the National Student Exchange program, so we all hail from states strewn across the country, and we all live in the same apartment building. We met each other online and made plans to hang out without ever knowing if we would even get along. It turns out we get along famously.

I knew Kaylie before anyone else. We were randomly assigned to be roommates in our on-campus apartment and we hit it off immediately, even though we are different. She is the biggest sweetheart I have ever been a friend with, while

I am guilty of being sassy and bossy. We are quite a team and are together almost 24 hours a day.

We watch hours of “Glee” and “Community,” dance around to all kinds of music and trip over each other in our tiny bathroom. Kaylie is from Wyoming, dresses like Serena from “Gossip Girl” and acts like Reese Witherspoon (a comparison she is not fond of).

Kaylie met Dan through email, even though they actually go to the same school in Wyoming. Dan is a total bro. I can say this fact so bluntly because he knows he is one. I was sure we wouldn’t get along because he freaks out over electronic music, while I listen to the original cast recording of “Les Misérables” daily. But like Kaylie, Dan is a sweetheart. I’ve never had a guy friend like him before. He says “bro” a lot, not ironically, and calls us his “crew.”

Isabel is from Arizona and we truly couldn’t be any different. She is short, Latina and she always looks put together, and I am tall, not Latina and a hot mess most of the time. Yet somehow we are together a lot.

She taught me how to wear lipstick and buy clothes for the club, which is totally not my scene, and I introduced her to “Girls.”

I have more traits in common with Sam than anyone else I have ever met. We could talk for hours about any given subject, we are both in love with Jay Z and Beyonce’ and

I never, ever expected to find these people in New York. I am already sad about leaving them after the semester is over.

we even have the same style of glasses. We also understand each other’s ambitions and goals, which may be unusual but important to us. He usually knows what I’m talking about which is a big step for me.

On paper, the five of us shouldn’t work. But we do. I have never really had my group of weirdoes that I hang out with every single day; I think this is because I work a lot while in Minnesota and Wisconsin and so do my friends, but in New York we don’t have that type of responsibility. We just spend a lot of time exploring. Just last week we went to the New York Public Library, Grand Central Terminal, Bryant Park and Lincoln Center to see the New York City Ballet.

I even met the actors who played the Weasley twins in the “Harry Potter” movies.

These people accepted me right away just the way I am. I have never felt like I have to try to fit in with them. They think I am hilarious and they compliment my clothes. They all even watch “Glee” with me even though they’re not fans. That’s love. I honestly feel like I’m on a TV show with these people. I’ll write that show someday.

I never, ever expected to find these people in New York. I am already sad about leaving them after the semester is over. Kaylie, Dan, Isabel and Sam have taught me how to have fun like a college student should and my semester in New York will always be remembered as a new adventure with my “crew” every day. I can’t wait for tomorrow.

Amanda is a junior, majoring in Journalism. She is currently studying in New York City. She enjoys entertainment, fashion and public transportation.

‘Lincoln,’ ‘Les Mes’ highlight Academy Awards



Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

Mid-February means it is the midst of yet another awards season in Hollywood. While several awards shows have already taken place this year, one of the biggest and most popular of the award shows has yet to get underway: the Academy Awards, which will be hosted by Seth MacFarlane.

The Academy Awards is a special night on the last Sunday evening in February where stars of recent movies get together and celebrate their achievements. This year marks the 85th Academy Awards show, and the awards honor many valuable stars such as Daniel Day-Lewis and Anne Hathaway, and it celebrates movies that touch our hearts such as “Lincoln” and “Les Misérables.” It is truly a night that nobody will want to miss.

The Academy Awards, also informally known as the Oscars, were first presented on May 16, 1929. However, the crowd at this awards show was much smaller than it typically is now. It took place at a private bunch at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and there were only about 270 people in attendance.

Contrasting from today’s expensive ticket prices to attend the special night, tickets back then were only \$5. Only 15 statuettes were handed out that night, honoring the many personalities in Hollywood over 1927 and 1928. The winners that year had been announced three months earlier, though that changed quickly the next year, for that was when they

began to send the results to the newspapers at 11 on the night of the awards. They did this until 1941 when they began to use the sealed envelope that revealed the name of each winner.

The first six award shows celebrated the achievements of the film industry from the previous two years, for example, the second award show in 1930 recognized films from August 1928 to July 1929. That has changed now, and they only recognize films from the previous full calendar year.

This year marks the 85th awards show, and it honors several popular films from the past year. Nine films are up for Best Picture this year, including “Amour,” “Argo,” “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” “Django Unchained,” “Les Misérables,” “Life of Pi,” “Lincoln,” “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Zero Dark Thirty.” Of those movies, I have personally only seen “Lincoln,” but even just seeing that one film has convinced me enough that it deserves to win for Best Picture.

Focusing on President Abraham Lincoln’s goal to abolish slavery during the Civil War, it takes the viewer back to the time, walking in their shoes and experiencing what a huge decision this really was. The history depicted is quite accurate and the acting was outstanding.

Sophomore Katie Wilson, a frequent movie-goer, agreed, “Daniel Day-Lewis as Lincoln was probably the best [acting in this film]. President Lincoln is one of the most popular presidents we’ve had, some even argue the best, and so for Day-Lewis to do such a good job on such a well-known per-

It gives us a glimpse into a world or lifestyle other than our own, and we are able to put ourselves into their shoes and experience something different.

son earns him props,” she added. “For a historical and political film to be so emotional and well put-together, it deserves some kind of Academy Award credit.” Day-Lewis is one of five nominees for best actor in a leading role.

Another popular film to appear this past holiday season was taken off the Broadway stage a made for film, “Les Misérables,” starring Hugh Jackman and Hathaway. The film focuses on the story of Jean Valjean, a French peasant who seeks redemption after serving 19 years in prison for stealing bread for his sister. Despite the lengthy story and the sad scenes, viewers remember “Les Misérables” most for the thick plotline, the heavy emotion, and of course, the great music heard throughout the film.

Wilson particularly enjoyed the music, commenting that, “the music was extremely fitting. It was somber, upbeat and explained the plot well despite there being no spoken dialogue.” She also added that, though Hathaway did not frequently appear in the film, her acting “brought me to tears.”

The Academy Awards is a great night to celebrate our favorite films from the past year and relive the moments that stole our heart away and really made us think. It gives us a glimpse into a world or lifestyle other than our own, and we are able to put ourselves into their shoes and experience something different. The 2013 Academy Awards airs on ABC at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24, from the Dolby Theatre.

Cristin is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

UWRF student donates 60 inches of hair to charity

Ponytails made into wigs for ill children

Ashley Goettl
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UW-River Falls student Carrie Powell can’t run marathons or donate blood, but that hasn’t stopped her from giving back to those in need.

Powell is anemic, but for the fourth time in her 22-year-old life, Powell has given back by donating her hair to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis, according to their mission statement.

Powell donated her first ponytail when she was 12.

She cut off 15 inches at that time. Her most recent donation came on Feb. 19 when she cut 13 more inches off, bringing her total to 60 inches in all. Powell said she wanted to hit 60 inches because that is the amount needed to make a wig for a child.

According to the Locks of Love website, the hair prosthetics Locks of Love provides are custom-made from donated ponytails for each child’s head. They retail between \$3,500 to \$6,000. The hairpiece forms a vacuum seal, like a suction cup, and does not require the use of tape or glue. Locks of Love has provided wigs for over 2,000 children since its inception in 1989.

Powell added that it takes a minimum of 10 inches to

be donated and that all one has to do is walk into a salon and make a ponytail to be later sent to Locks of Love. Some salons, like Fantastic Sam’s, (where Powell went) even offer a free haircut to those who donate.

While the children who receive these wigs are given higher self-esteem, Powell said she has benefitted from donating her hair, too.

“My mom said I was a different person. After I donated in the freshman year of college I came out of my shell and have been energized,” Powell said.

Powell said she wasn’t scared to donate her hair. “It’s just hair,” Powell said. “It will grow back.”

And her simple message to the campus community: “Just do it, why not?”



Photos from Carrie Powell
Top: Carrie Powell is halfway through her fourth time donating to hair to Locks of Love.

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