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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Event encourages students, community to connect with UWRF Chancellor Van Galen

Ashley Goettl
ashley.goettl@my.uwrf.edu

Chancellor Dean Van Galen knows what it is like to be a Wisconsin college student in the UW System. As a graduate of UW-Whitewater, and Wisconsin native, Van Galen can relate to the small-town backgrounds, first generation college students and Green Bay Packers fans which make up a large part of UW-River Falls.

With this upbringing, Van Galen has been able to connect to the campus community. But now he, along with Student Senate, want to take it one step further by hosting a meet and greet event that is open to the community. Van Galen will be available for the community to come ask questions and meet the man who has been in charge of the University since 2009 from 6-7:30 p.m. on March 11 in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center.

"This is an opportunity for students to have a conversation with me about our University," Van Galen said.

During Van Galen's tenure, many firsts have happened for UWRF. According to the University's webpage on Van Galen, "During his inauguration, Van Galen announced UW-River Falls would open a learning center in Hudson with the mission of meeting the undergraduate and graduate educational needs of adults."

The webpage also states that "Another first for UW-River Falls occurred in April 2012, when the

University's first ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, Rising to Distinction, was announced. The five-year goal of the campaign is \$20 million with an emphasis placed on raising dollars for student scholarships and the Falcon Center. As of November 2012, over \$9 million had been raised."

Those items, along with construction projects, current effects of state policies and anything students have a general curiosity about will be items that Van Galen touches on.

"I will provide a few brief updates about the Falcon Center, the impact of the proposed state budget and how our strategic plan will positively impact the student experience at UW-River Falls," Van Galen said.

"However, the event will primarily be an opportunity for students to ask questions and discuss their ideas and concerns with me in an informal setting."

This informal setting was an idea put forth by Student Affairs and Academic Services Director Hannah Klingfus, a Student Senator. Klingfus said it is important for students to get to know the Chancellor in order to better appreciate who he is and what he does.

"He does so much for us as stu-



Alicia Carlson/Student Voice
Chancellor Dean Van Galen, along with Student Senate, will be hosting the first ever meet and greet. The event will give students and community members a chance to ask questions and get to know UWRF's 18th Chancellor.

dents. It is important that students feel comfortable asking him questions and bringing their concerns to him," Klingfus said.

"I also think it is important to have an event like this in order to build upon our close-knit community. By knowing the Chancellor I feel that students will become more involved in the University, and that's the goal, to get more people involved to make this a better campus community."

Part of the event is also to expose students to some of the things the Chancellor does on a daily basis while garnering feedback from students.

"It is important that I hear directly from students. As chancellor, a significant part of my job is external to the campus - representing UWRF within the UW System and state, building relationships with legislators and community leaders and seeking support from our

alumni and friends. However, it is also important that, along with other campus administrators, I stay connected to students, faculty and staff. I am really looking forward to the event," Van Galen said.

Klingfus added that there will be free food and drinks at the event, including pizza, nachos and desserts. There will also be a bean bag tournament pitting the Chancellor against the students. The event is free and open to the public.

Senate approves nine fee increases for 2013-2014

Ashley Goettl
ashley.goettl@my.uwrf.edu

Student Senate has approved nine fee increases effective next semester. In all, each student will pay an additional \$308.69 per academic year if living in a double occupancy room and on a 14 meals per week plan.

If a student does not live on campus or is not on a meal plan, the student will pay an additional \$10.69 per academic year.

These fees were part of 15 budgets presented by facilities and fees organizations to the Senate on March 5. While nine requested increases, the other six requested the segregated fee paid by the student remain the same.

All budgets, regardless of if they were requesting an increase in fees or not, were required to go before Senate because they lay out the amount allocated to each respective group for the upcoming year. Items included program events, salaries for staff, travel, organization fees and other line-item costs needed to run the organization.

All 15 budgets were approved by Senate. The budgets will now be presented to Chancellor Dean Van Galen for final approval.

While every budget requesting an increase cited declining enrollment as a main reason

for the increase in student fees, Senator Hannah Carlson noted that the Senate should also take into account the economic impact on students before approving fee increases. However, all increases passed with no budgets receiving more than two dissenting votes.

While some budgets such as the CHILD Care Center and Student Life passed unanimously with little to no debate (since they requested no fee increase) others raided heated debates, only to be overwhelmingly passed.

For instance, the dining services committee recommended a \$55 per semester, or \$110 per academic year, increase to the 14 meals a week meal plan. Senators like Carlson raised questions as to what the money would go toward and questioned whether food quality would actually increase.

However, the representatives from dining services said they needed their budget passed in order to know how much money they had before they could determine what the food options would be.

At the Senate meeting, each of the 15 budgets was discussed and debated on by an in-

dividual basis. The budget that culminated the most discussion was the Athletic Department's request for a \$2.50 fee increase.

Senators such as Kayla Edstrom, felt that it was not fair to make non-athletes pay for athletic needs because not every student participates in athletic programs or attends athletic events. However, other Senators, such as

A.J. Hansen, said the athletic programs are a source for campus pride, recruitment, and retention and therefore should be supported.

After nearly an hour of debate the athletic fee increased by a vote of 21-2.

The largest fee increase was \$188 more for a double occupancy dorm room and \$238 for a single or suite room. Director of Residence Life Sandi Scott Duex said at her presentation to the Senate that this fee goes toward building upgrades such as keeping and upgrading Wi-Fi usage and for having free laundry available to the residents. A new program created with the Kinni Outdoor Adventures fee will be a proposal to create a bike rental program for campus. With the 25 cent increase,

students will now be able to rent a bike to use around campus. The details of the program have yet to be worked out according to Director of Recreation and Sports Facilities Steve Stocker.

Another change students can expect to see in the future is an upgrade to student ID cards. According to the Carding Office's proposal, the 15 cent increase will be used to upgrade the quality of the cards and to make them accessible on mobile devices and computers. This will allow students to be able to access account balances and add money to their Falcon Dollars account.

The organizations requesting to keep their fee the same include the CHILD Center at \$21, Student Life at \$85, Textbook Services at \$143.30, the intramural complex fee at \$8, the University Center at \$455 and Career Services at \$38. These are fees that students will continue to pay for the 2013-2014 academic year. Other fees that increased include 54 cents for intramural programs, \$1.25 for Hunt Arena, \$2 for municipal services and \$4 for health services. All 15 budgets will now be presented to the chancellor for his signature. Should he reject any of the budgets, it will be sent back to the facilities and fees committees for reconsideration.

The budget that culminated the most discussion was the Athletic Department's request for a \$2.50 fee increase.



Brianna Samson/Student Voice
Student Senators Tanner Johnson, Grady Nelson and A.J. Hansen listen to ideas about what fee increases should pass or not.

Segregated Fees	2012-2013 Fee	Increase	2013-2014 Fee
Student Life	\$85.00	\$-	\$85.00
Textbook Services	\$143.00	\$-	\$143.00
CHILD Center	\$21.00	\$-	\$21.00
Intramural Complex	\$8.00	\$-	\$8.00
Intramural Program	\$18.00	\$0.54	\$18.54
Hunt Arena	\$42.00	\$1.25	\$43.25
Kinni Outdoor Adventures	\$8.00	\$0.25	\$8.25
Dining Services			
14/week meal plan	\$1,104.50	\$110.00	\$1,214.50
19/week meal plan	\$1,127.50	\$112.00	\$1,239.50
Career Services	\$38.00	\$-	\$38.00
University Center	\$455.00	\$-	\$455.00
Municipal	\$200.00	\$2.00	\$202.00
Carding Office	\$5.00	\$0.15	\$5.15
Athletics	\$97.50	\$2.50	\$100.00
Health Services	\$134.00	\$4.00	\$138.00
Residence Life			
Single-room/Suite	\$4,748.00	\$238.00	\$4,986.00
Double-room	\$3,748.00	\$188.00	\$3,936.00
Total (14 meal/week & double-room)	\$6,106.00	\$308.69	\$6,414.69

At the March 5 Student Senate meeting all 15 Facilities and Fees budgets were passed. Above is a list of fees students will pay for the 2013-2014 academic year if the nine requested fee increases are also approved by the Chancellor.

Annual Dance Theatre spring concert held March 13-16 at UWRF

The UW-River Falls Dance Theatre will present its Annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 13-16 in the Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, according to University Communications.

The concert will consist of a unique blend of faculty, guest and student choreography offering a wide array of styles ranging from traditional dance of West Africa to contemporary modern dances presented by student members of the University Dance Theatre.

Friday and Saturday’s performances will be accompanied by professional West African Drummer Fode Bangoura, former lead drummer with the acclaimed ensembles “Les Ballets Africains” and “Les Merveilles de Guinée” of Guinea, West Africa.

Guest choreographers and dance theatre alumni Ric Suarez, Brooke Gusa, Krya Scalan and Rana Kuebker, have created pieces that explore structures and family dynamics. Mari Kline-Kluck of the UWRF dance faculty has choreographed two dances.

One of her pieces, “That Which Is Unspoken,” incorporates projected animations that seek to connect the audience to the dancers’ movement and allows the audience to experience the internal struggle expressed in the piece.

The projections are in collaboration with student dancer and visual artist Samantha Anderson and UWRF alumnus Jeffrey Cady, master projection designer and technician. Cady is one of America’s leading experts on

digital projection programming.

The concert also includes the work of two professional guest artists from the Twin Cities: Christopher LaPlante and Whitney McClusky. “In the Hollow” choreographed by LaPlante, is a powerful piece utilizing explosive movement inspired by personal turmoil. McClusky has set two traditional dances from Guinea, West Africa, on members of Dance Theatre, “Kassa” a harvest dance of the Malinke people and “Sinta” a celebration dance of the Nalu people of Guinea.

“Raw and Unguarded,” the work of student choreographer Jordann Juris integrates dialogue with movement to explore and question social justice. In “Dream Dance,” created by student choreographer Emily Coulter, dancers escape reality and seek sanctuary in the joy of dreams.

The concert will include three solos, performed by student choreographers Marcus Dryer, Jacqueline Johnson and Emily Boettcher. The solos originated from individual studies in the dance composition class and have developed into completed dances.

Tickets are available through the University Box Office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday and will also be available each performance evening beginning at 6 p.m.

The Box Office can be reached at 715-425-3114. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, and \$5/students. For more information, call 715-425-3131 or email karla.k.zhe@uwrf.edu.



Photo from University Communications

Members of the 2013 Dance Theatre rehearse for the upcoming spring concert in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

Open forum held for Campus Mall Design

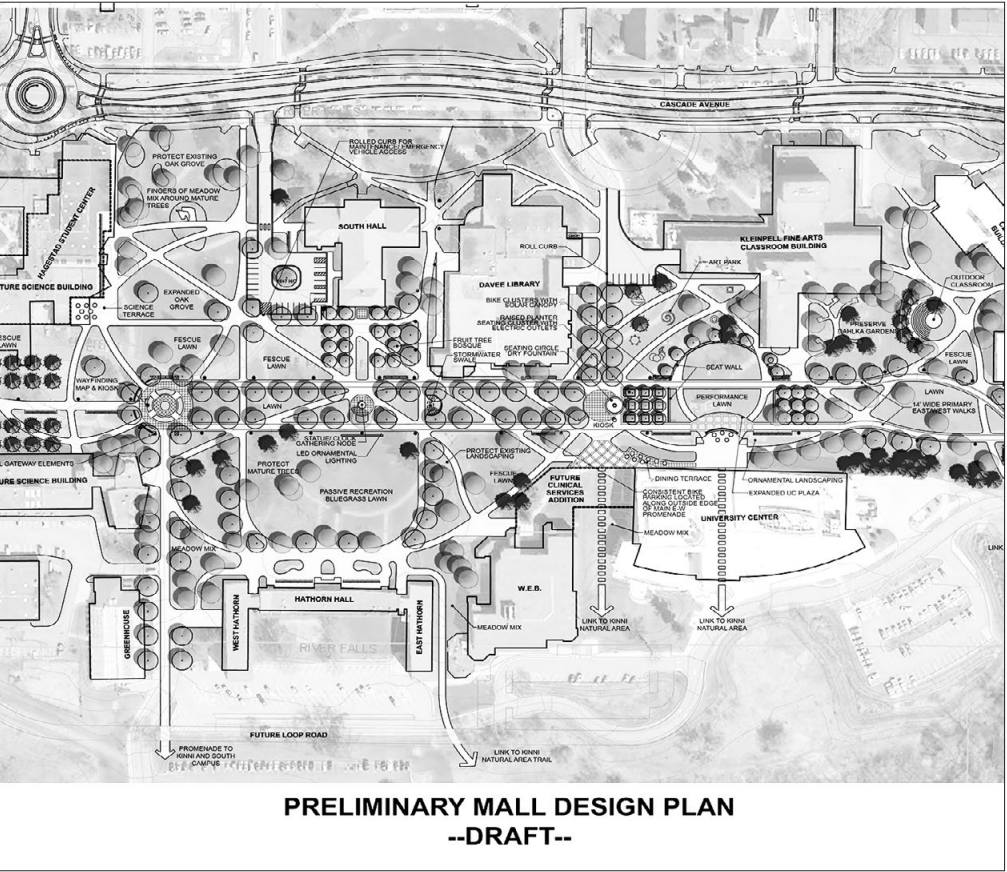


Photo from UWRF website

The University’s website shows a proposed design for the Campus Mall. An open forum for the presentation of feedback and ideas will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, in the Trimble River Room in the University Center.

News briefs

Gritpickers return to River Falls Saturday night in barn dance series

The Twin Cities acoustic string band, Gritpickers, returns to River Falls from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, for the Saturday Night Barn Dance series.

The location is the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) on West Maple Street.

The Gritpickers dynamic line-up includes two fiddle players.

The band will play an assortment of line and circle dances, reels, waltzes and square dances.

Saturday the group will be accompanied by Julie Young Walser, one of Minnesota’s most accomplished dance callers.

No experience is needed to participate. Walser will teach steps to new and more seasoned dancers.

All ages are welcome: singles, couples and groups.

The first half of the evening features family dances suitable for including children, with more advanced dances in the second half.

Twin Cities band Poor Benny will play the remaining dance in the 2012-13 season on Saturday, April 13.

The Saturday Night Barn Dance Series is a joint project of River Falls Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under.

Inexpensive refreshments are available.

UW-River Falls hosts public astronomy talk, observatory viewing

The UW-River Falls Physics Department is hosting a free, public observatory viewing and astronomy talk on Wednesday, March 13.

Physics Professor Eileen Korenic will present a talk, “Fastest, Coldest, Biggest: Cosmic Extremes,” at 8 p.m. in Room 271 of the Centennial Science Hall and then at 8:30 p.m. a telescope viewing (waxing crescent moon) is available on the third floor observatory deck.

All observatory viewings are dependent on a clear sky.

Call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm and click on “observatory” to verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing.

The talk will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

A physics department faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions at each open telescope session.

Observers are encouraged by the physics department to stay and look at as many elements as possible and feel free to request personal observing targets.

Objects seen in the telescopes may include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons and double stars.

Since the dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside open to the elements, visitors are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

For more information, contact the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Scoping Meeting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process Proposed Falcon Center University of Wisconsin – River Falls

A public scoping meeting to present the proposed UW-River Falls Falcon Center for Health, Education and Wellness project will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, in Trimble River Room (231) of the University Center at UWRF. Free parking will be available in Parking Lot F to the south of the UC. Known project components and identification of potential impacts that will be studied in the EIS will be presented at this early phase of project development. All persons in attendance will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to identify both orally and in writing any support, issues, or concerns they believe should be addressed during the EIS process for this proposed project. The EIS for the Falcon Center project will be prepared in accordance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), Wisconsin Statutes 1.11 and University of Wisconsin System (UW System) guidelines. The project manager is the state Department of Administration’s Division of State Facilities (DSF). Cornerstone Environmental Group has been retained to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on behalf of the UW System for this proposal.

The proposed new Falcon Center will provide additional space to create suitable indoor and outdoor facilities for the UWRF Health and Human Performance Academic program, Falcon Athletics program and Recreation program. A new 111,164 ASF/162,300 GSF facility will be constructed as an integrated and unified addition to the Hunt Arena and Knowles Physical Education Recreation Center. The project also provides for the remodel of 14,700 GSF of space in the Hunt Arena and Knowles Physical Education Recreation Center and provides a centralized heating/ventilation plant and ground source heat pump to serve the new spaces. A new 720 space new parking lot will be added along with secondary access road linking the site to Cemetery Road via South Sixth Street. A phased relocation of the existing athletic fields as necessary during construction will result in turf reestablishment. Demolition of the Karges Center and the Nelson Building is also included in the project.

An initial requirement of the EIS is the scoping process, with the intent of presenting the proposal and identifying at an early stage any potential impacts of the project on the physical, biological, social, cultural, and economic environments. Impacts that are identified during this process are incorporated into a Draft EIS which will be made available to the public for a 45-day review period and is circulated to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. A public meeting is held on the Draft EIS at a future date. Comments and inquiries raised on the Draft EIS are used to develop the final EIS, which is circulated to the public and commenting agencies for a subsequent 30-day review period, during which a public hearing is held for additional clarification and comment. Following the public hearing, a conclusion on the findings of the EIS is developed for release by the UW System. This Record of Decision is circulated to key individuals and agencies involved in the EIS process.

If you are interested in this project or have any information relevant to it, we welcome your comments, suggestions, or other input. Please submit your comments in writing by Aug. 16, 2013, for incorporation into the Draft EIS to: Ben Peotter, Cornerstone Environmental Group, 8413 Excelsior Drive, Suite 160, Madison, WI 53717 or email ben.peotter@cornerstoneeg.com. Comments received after Aug. 16, 2013, will be considered in preparation of the final EIS. Related information and comment forms can be obtained via the project website at <http://www.cornerstoneeg.com/uwrf-falcon-center>.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Feb. 1

- Thomas A. Amundsen was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Katherine A. Newman was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Alexander S. Giebler was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Daniel R. Buchner was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Edward F. Davis was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

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

STUDENT HOUSING

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Pulitzer Prize winner to speak about immigration

Samantha Mayberry
samantha.mayberry@my.uwrf.edu

The Helen Wyman Performing Arts and Speaker Series at UW-River Falls will be hosting a free event with speaker Jose Vargas presenting “How Do We Define American?”

The Wyman Series event will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, in the Riverview Ballroom at the University Center. Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, will share his personal story dealing with immigration in America along with his non-profit organization, Define American.

“I’m really excited about this because in the past, people like him would never have been heard in the media,” said Patricia Berg, a professor of journalism. “Yet his life story is the future of America.”

The journalism department is also using this event as the Working Journalist Seminar which they encourage students to attend every semester.

“We strive to get a variety of people working in journalism with different life experiences,” Berg said. “[Vargas] has a unique experience.”

According to the Wyman Series website, Vargas was born in the Philippines and sent by his mother to live with his grandparents in Silicon Valley. It wasn’t until Vargas was 16-years-old while applying for his learner’s permit, that he realized his green card was no longer valid.

In order to avoid being deported and to follow his dreams of achieving a career in journalism, Vargas knew he needed to hide his identity. He exposed his true identity and experience in an essay for the New York Times Magazine titled, “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” which attracted the attention of not just nation-wide media and politics, but world-wide as well.

“In some ways, we can say that the United States is a country made of immigrants,” said history professor, Betty Bergland. “We didn’t have restrictions on immigration until the late 18th or early 19th centuries.”

Bergland teaches a course in the history of immigration and history of U.S. policies and she thinks it’s important when we think of immigration today, to think about it in a historical context as well.

Immigrants from all over the world have made America

their home, but not all immigrants have been accepted. As early as 1882 with the start of the Chinese Exclusion Act it has been a challenge for immigrants.

Since then, different regulations, laws and acts have been set in place and removed to help regulate immigration. From 1924 to the mid 1960s the Johnson-Reed Act had been in place to cap the number of immigrants allowed into the U.S. and it completely excluded those immigrants from Asia.

After the 1960s, there have been regulations and laws put in place to try and correct the past restrictions, and reunite families that may have been separated through previous regulations.

“There have been efforts made to make it a more just system,” Bergland said. “Unfortunately the racial attitudes toward immigration have still persisted.”

According to Vargas’ non-profit organization, America’s immigration system is broken and, in order to fix it, a bigger and more effective conversation needs to be brought forth.

His organization states that it “brings new voices into the immigration conversation, shining a light on a growing 21st Century Underground Railroad. These voices that it talks about are “American citizens who are forced to fill in where our broken immigration system fails. From principals to pastors, these everyday immigrant allies are simply trying to do the right thing. Some are driven by a biblical call to social justice, while others believe this is a moral imperative. They, like Harriet Tubman and countless brave Americans before them, are willing to take personal risks in order to do what is right. These heroes need to be the center of this national conversation. Together, we are going to fix a broken system.”

Bergland said there is an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States and they, like Vargas, are initially fearful to identify themselves as undocumented due to the consequences. Bergland also explained that some of the biggest misconceptions of undocumented citizens are that they don’t pay taxes, use American services, take jobs and drain local economies.

“They do pay taxes through sales tax and employment tax,” Bergland said. “They often take the jobs most Americans don’t want, such as working in the fields, and they help the economy, too.”

Both Berg and Bergland are looking forward to this event



Photo from UWRF website

Jose Vargas will be speaking on March 13 in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center as part of the Wyman Series. Vargas will share his personal story about immigration in America.

and how Vargas’ presentation not only introduces the topic of immigration but they also hope it peaks the curiosity of students to learn more about this topic.

“The make-up of what it means to be American is changing very, very rapidly,” Berg said. “He (Vargas) has a powerful story of being an outsider who won a Pulitzer Prize.”

For more information on Vargas and his non-profit organization, Define American, visit www.defineamerican.com.

Career Services offers events to help prepare graduating seniors

Samantha Harkness
samantha.harkness@my.uwrf.edu

Career Services is planning events to better prepare seniors for graduation this upcoming spring.

Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson said that there are more events planned in the spring than there is in the fall, however there is no spring career fair.

The upcoming events include the Etiquette Dinner on April 2, Runway to Success on April 3, a Networking Social on April 4 and a Mock Interview Day on April 10.

These four events are being called Falcon Finishing School. The past events that have been planned by Career Services occurred in February. They are: Fair for On-Campus Jobs, My First Resume Workshop, and the Minnesota Job & Internship Fair.

The Mock Interview Day, according to the Career Services’ website, is planned in order to enhance interviewing and communication skills that are “necessary to make you competitive in today’s job market.”

It is an event to polish professional skills, as Wilson put it. She said that so far, about 100 students have already signed up for the event.

Career Services will then bring in professionals from fields of the students who sign up to attend. The deadline to sign up is March 29.

The Etiquette Dinner is an event that is sponsored by Target and costs \$12

per person to attend. It will consist of a five-course meal and it is an event that will instruct students on how to act in a professional meal setting.

Runway to Success is an event that is designed to teach students how to dress professionally in the workplace.

It is a student-run fashion show that will highlight retailers from around the community, as well as from the Woodbury Lakes shopping mall.

Students who attend will learn how to dress in a business casual way, what not to wear and how to “design on a dime,” which is how students can dress well on a budget. Wilson said that a lot of prizes will be given out as well.

The final event that is being planned is a Networking Social. This is an event that is also sponsored by Target. Target sends people to the campus in order for students to have practice and gain experience on how to navigate a room.

As to how often these events are put on, Wilson said that the Mock Interview Day and My First Resume occur every semester.

Senior Eli Sanchez did not find one specific event very helpful, though. Sanchez attended the Mock Interview Day last semester as a requirement for his capstone class.

He said the mock interview went fine, but he was paired up with an employer from a company that had no relevance to what he actually wanted to pursue as

a career after he graduated. He said that the physical set up of the interviews in the Ballroom in the University Center was not good.

It was not an intimate setting because everything was all out in the open and he added that there were different set ups that could have been done.

Sanchez also said that although the event was well organized, “it was overwhelming, but in a way that could have been prevented.”

Senior Amy Johnson had a different take. Johnson said after she graduates, she plans to find a job through the YMCA working with children. She said that Career Services has been very helpful with this process.

Over J Term she got help with things such as her resume, interviewing, cover letters and how to write a professional thank you.

She said that she feels ready to graduate, and is ready to go and get a job. Johnson also added that she has attended the Mock Interview Day and the Career Fair in the past as requirements for a class, but she said she would go even if the events were not required.

Career Services also offers on campus interviews in the offices along with resume and cover letter help.

Hire-A-Falcon is another resource for both students and alumni to utilize. Wilson added, “We don’t keep any secrets. If we know something, we’re going to share it.”



Brianna Samson/Student Voice

Sophomore marketing communications major Amy Narusiewicz receives resume help from Peer Advisor Laura Kropp.

UWRF expands Masters program

Jordan Grabow
jordan.grabow@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics will roll out a new full-time Masters of Business Administration program next fall.

The college has seen rising interest in its evening program taught at the UWRF Hudson Center and the full-time program will offer an 18-month plan on the UWRF campus.

“The evening program has been around for over 10 years, it’s extremely successful,” said George Dierberger, Director of the MBA program. “We have around 128 active students and we are getting at capacity.”

Dierberger also said that the evening MBA program is aimed towards working individuals

“It is extremely helpful for students who are worried about the job market at graduation and looking to take another step,” said MBA Program Director George Dierberger.

who have been working for at least two years, while the new full-time program is targeted toward recent college graduates.

“The full-time program is targeted at accounting majors, finance majors and Agriculture majors that want to gain a competitive advantage in the workforce,” Dierberger said.

While the program is aimed at some particular majors, Glenn Potts, dean of the College of Business and Economics, said that it is open to more than just a few.

“Students from any major will be eligible to apply for this,” Potts said. “It is extremely helpful for students who are worried about the job market at graduation and looking to take another step.”

The program, which Dierberger expects to have a lot of interest, will be limited to just 25 students. This gives the department flexibility to focus on the classes in the program and keeps the class size down.

“There will be several hundred that are inter-

ested, but we have to limit that number to a size that we feel comfortable with,” Dierberger said.

Potts said the program is a tremendous value for students looking for an MBA in the Twin Cities area.

“It is a high quality academic program that is [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)] accredited and that accreditation exists for just 5 percent of business programs worldwide,” Potts said.

According to the AACSB website, the association has been around since 1916 and was first established as a membership organization for business schools. Today its accreditation provides benefits to its accredited schools by attracting high quality students, providing research, and allowing for global recognition.

The full-time program in the College of Business and Economics is something both Dierberger and Potts hope prospective MBA students look at before its other competitors.

“Our MBA for the 18 months will probably cost around \$23,000, while the similar program at St. Thomas is over \$55,000 and at the University of Minnesota its close to \$70,000,” Dierberger said.

The College of Business and Economics is also hoping to bring in international students with this full-time option as well because of the global recognition of the AACSB accreditation and the value of UWRF.

Applications are now being accepted for the full-time program and Dierberger hopes to have all 25 spots filled by the end of March.

More information of the College of Business and Economics Master of Business Administration program can be found at uwrf.edu/CBE/.

Applications to run for Student Senate now available.

Petition forms and applications can be picked up at the Involvement Center desk in the University Center.

Petitions and applications are due 4 p.m. Friday, March 22.

Do you have a favorite professor?

Nominate him/her for a professor profile in which they will be featured in an issue of the Student Voice!

Send your nomination to editor@uwrfvoice.com

EDITORIALS

Student Senate disappoints by increasing fees with large margin

Students living on campus with a meal plan next year at UW-River Falls will have to pay more money to do so.

Student Senate unanimously approved fee increases for all nine budgets which were requesting a fee increase for the next academic year. This increase means that students will pay \$308.69 more next year than this year. This is not including any other tuition increases which could happen as well.

Our issue is not with the fact that all of these budgets passed Senate. The issue is with the ease in which the budgets passed. Only three of the budgets received any dispute, and yet the closest vote saw the budget pass by a margin of 21-2.

Given the current state of the economy, passing some of these fees so easily does not make much sense. While the increases for some budgets would be nice, some were unnecessary, such as the Kinni Outdoor Adventures, Dining Services and the Carding Office increases (to name a few).

Some of the fees may only have increased as little at 15 cents, but when added together, the amounts become much larger.

Some of these increases are meant to counter-act the lower enrollment rate for the University. However, we argue that enrolment would continue to go down if the prices to attend the University continue to increase.

It's not that we are against all of the fee increases. We feel that some should have gotten more discussion about how the increases would affect the University in both the short and long term while also discussing how important some of the increases truly are for students on campus.

Students encouraged to attend Bowls for Hope

Bowls for Hope is a great event which is happening from on March 12 in the University Center. We encourage students to attend the event and help support the River Falls community.

All proceeds go to the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix counties. The free clinic helps many people in the community which all students at the University call home. We encourage students to participate and help give back to the River Falls community.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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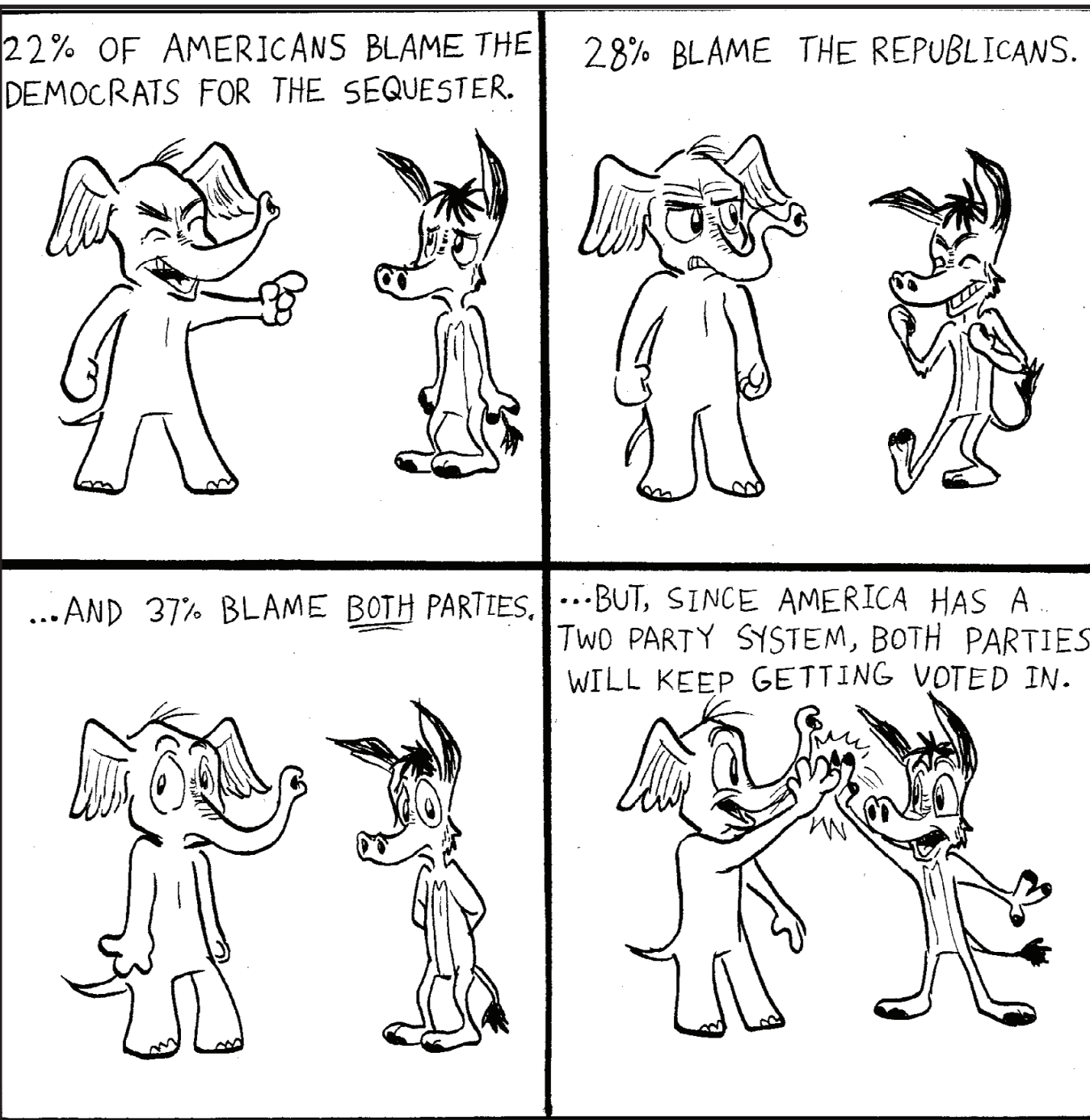
The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



David Recine/Student Voice

Letter to the editor

Dress code column inaccurate, incomplete

After reading the column by the fashionista who advised me to wear "cute leggings" to the library, I would like to mention a few things (Student Voice, March 1, "College events call for dressing part, stepping up").

Leggings are not pants. It is simply illogical that anyone would want to wear them as pants. For instance, one problem with them is that I think every male on campus knows that if you take a picture (with a flash) of a girl with leggings on that the leggings become see through. That means, dear, I know exactly what you are wearing under them, which is typically not much. Also, in the Midwest, the land of boobs, butts and guts, there are only a select few that can pull them off. Yoga pants could serve as an alternative to leggings.

In terms of professional dress, I would like to add a few things. She suggested a nice cardigan and a light colored

pencil skirt, and all that jazz, for internship dress. This would depend on the internship that you are working for first of all. I do not know any farmers who would take someone who looked like that seriously if they were in the field for a crop scouting internship.

My second point would be in an internship interview, you are going to want to ramp up the professionalism. For interviews, correctly fitting dress pants, a button down shirt and close-toed shoes for the ladies would be perfect. If there is a matching blazer hanging in your closet as well, that is a beautiful addition. For more professional advice, Career Services will be hosting its annual Runway to Success event at 8 p.m. on April 3, in the Falcon's Nest at the University Center.

Rebecca Rudolph
Student



USBICEF College Cartoons

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Two controversial topics spark discussion

Molly
Breitmün
Columnist

In my two years at UW-River Falls, I have met people that I respect and like on campus that have a completely different view on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and immigration. I come from an organic farming background, where GMOs are, by definition, prohibited. And yet, I undoubtedly come in contact with, and eat, GMOs daily, even when giving priority to organically grown and local foods in my diet. Some of my friends and peers grew up on farms where all or most crops were genetically modified. While at the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) Organic Farming Conference, I learned that there are more people incarcerated in the U.S. than there are full-time farmers.

Farmers are becoming an endangered species in the U.S. and this disturbing statistic makes me want to form closer relationships with farmers of all kinds, instead of condemning those of a certain persuasion. We share values of loving working on the land, feeling good about feeding people and wanting to provide for our own families.

Sponsored by The Awareness Project (TAP), “Genetic Roulette,” a movie conveying strong apprehension toward GMOs, is playing at the River Falls Public Library at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 10. The showing and the discussion planned afterward could be a priceless opportunity.

The science of genetically modifying life is considerably young, so it is my belief that the ‘cold hard facts’ are in fact speculative both for and against GMOs. My wariness of GMOs comes primarily from a respect for time. Plants and animals developed in such a way over millennia due to environmental conditions on earth.

How can we cope with the changes that condense the evolution over millennia into procedures in a laboratory? On the other hand, GMOs might be uniquely equipped to address current (acutely human exacerbated) problems of pests, decreased soil fertility, and human hunger: where time is decidedly not on our side.

The issue is not this simple or well evidenced. And my aim is not to come to a persuasive conclusion about GMOs. I would like to see my classmates engage in peaceful, open-minded dialogue about the future of farming.

Similarly, what I have to impart about undocumented immigrants is fairly open ended as well.

Sponsored by the Wyman series, Jose Vargas is coming to campus on Wednesday, March 13. Vargas, born in the Philippines, is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who wrote “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” in the New York Times Magazine in June 2011.

Vargas discovered at 16, while applying for his learner’s permit at the Department of Motor Vehicles, that his green card was a fake. As a young boy, he came to America through the hopes of his family (some naturalized American citizens) to provide himself with a chance at a better life and pursuit of his dreams. Through hard work and the help of a network of people that believed in him, he became the accomplished journalist, filmmaker and activist he is today.

As an aspiring writer myself, his accomplishments are heroic. As an American-born citizen, I look forward to someone of that talent, stamina and intelligence also enjoying citizenship, making our country greater.

But even Vargas admits feeling guilty about misleading people about his status to pursue his dreams. Vargas had to provide false documents to continue to pursue his career.

I can only imagine the courage it must have taken to “out” himself to his community and the wider public. I appreciate that he had so much to lose and I am thankful he’s coming to our campus to stir up the discussion of how we define American.

Even if you struggle with Vargas’ status as an undocumented worker, there is so much to be learned by allowing a voice amongst the relatively voiceless undocumented workers in the U.S. be heard.

These two highly controversial issues concern our social and environmental sustainability as a nation. It’s my belief that lasting solutions come from inclusive dialogue, where people from all parts of the spectrum should meet and come with the intention to identify shared values and attempt to come to a understanding.

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 on campus sustainability was focused by becoming an undergraduate fellow for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainability Community Development as well as by her peers in Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture.

STUDENT VOICES

Compiled by Sarah Plank


What is your favorite thing to do at UWRF on the weekend?

“Checking out the movie at the Falls Theatre.”




Blake Herbison
Sophomore

“Go home and play with my son, Dymion.”




Krysta Hasbrook
Junior

“Hanging out with friends.”



Sarah Pilato
Junior

“Bars.”



Jacob Kluza
Senior

“Hang out with friends and go on nature walks.”



Maurisha Meyer
Junior

Vote in our online poll:

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

Visit uwrfvoice.com to cast your vote!

Find Freddy’s Feather!

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!

Congratulations to last week’s winner, Brianna Hansen.



Report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday.



Hockey receives all-around contributions

The women’s hockey team has had strong contributions from players at every grade level this season. After receiving an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament they will travel to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. This will be the fourth straight year the team has played GAC in the tournament, the fifth straight year the team will play in the tournament and the sixth time in the team’s history. The team finished first in the NCHA for the regular season this year and made it to the NCHA O’Brien Cup Final before falling to St. Norbert College 3-2. The team is 21-6-2 overall on the season and ranked No. 7 according to the United States College Hockey Online (USCHO) rankings.

Judy Daleiden: Senior

Judy Daleiden is a senior defenseman for the team. She is one of the captains of the team and has played in 113 games for the Falcons. She finished this season with one goal and four assists.

High School: I went to Blaine High School in Minnesota.

Major: I am a marketing major.

Interesting fact about yourself: I have three older sisters that all played hockey.

Favorite food: Anything with chicken

Favorite thing about River Falls: Being so close to my hometown and having so many bars.

Least favorite thing about River Falls: A lot of people know your business since it is such a small school.

Funniest Coach Cranston memory: Well it wasn’t funny at the time, but looking back, the funniest Coach Cranston memory was when we lost to a team and we just got back to the Hunt Arena. We knew coach was mad and we knew that we were going to get skated on Monday morning. Coach then said, “If you want to have fun you go to Valleyfair or The Mall of America.”

Kait Mason: Junior

Kait Mason is a junior forward on the team this season. She scored 20 goals and leads the team with 36 points. She has scored 102 points in her career, so far, becoming the first Falcon to ever go over the 100 point mark. She was also named to the NCHA All-First team this season.

Hometown: I am from Eagan, Minn.

Major: I am a marketing communications major

Favorite sport other then hockey: Baseball

Favorite food: Sushi

Favorite holiday: Christmas

Celebrity crush: Paul Walker

Funniest memory with the team: Doing the Harlem Shake

Favorite Falcon hockey memory: “Wagon Wheel” dances



Trevor Semann/Student Voice
Alice Cranston (left), Gillian McDonald (center) and Kait Mason (right) have helped lead the Falcons to their fifth straight NCAA tournament appearance.

Alice Cranston: Sophomore

Alice Cranston is a sophomore forward on the team this season. She finished the season with 15 assists and had 24 total points. In the first round of the O’Brien Cup playoffs she had three goals and an assist in two games against UW-Eau Claire.

High School: River Falls High School

Major: Elementary Education

Favorite athlete: Zach Parise

Favorite childhood TV show: “Boy Meets World”

Funny/interesting fact about a teammate: Someone on our team is claustrophobic, because she was locked in a dog kennel as a child for a long period of time.

How is it having your uncle as your coach: Not really that weird, pretty used to it now.

Favorite Falcon hockey memory: Doing the Harlem Shake before a playoff game.

Gillian McDonald: Freshman

Gillian McDonald is a freshman goalie on the team this season. She has a record of 11-2-1 and has only allowed an average of 1.62 goals a game. She recorded four shutouts this season including a shutout in the semi-final game against UW-Stevens Point.

Hometown: I am from New Brighton, Minn.

Major: Physics and Engineering

How has your first year at River Falls been: I’ve appreciated having independence and being able to meet so many people. Spending time with my hockey and golf teammates is always enjoyable too!

Favorite song: “Can’t Hold Us” by Macklemore

Worst movie you ever watched: “Napoleon Dynamite”

Interesting fact about yourself: I drive a 1998 Ford Explorer

Funniest teammate memory: Quizzing Amanda Ryder on square roots before every face-off.

Favorite Falcon hockey memory: Dancing to “Wagon Wheel” between periods.

Two heading to nationals for women’s indoor track

Rebecca Rudolph
rebecca.rudolph@my.uwrf.edu

Ten years ago, a girl was resistant to the idea of joining track and field with her friends. “I [did not] want to run every day - it’s not fun,” she now laughs.

Two years later, she joined track and field as a freshman in high school.

Eight years later, Alyssa Rasmussen is making her third trip to nationals representing UW-River Falls.

Rasmussen said she now loves running and that “it’s rewarding and awesome.”

The indoor season for track and field ends with the National Div. III meet on Saturday.

This year, Rasmussen will be joined by Brittany Nordland in the trip to Naperville, Ill. where the meet will be held for indoor track and field.

Nordland said that since it is her first time going to nationals, she does not really know what to expect, other than to be prepared.

She said that she feels very ready to go, especially as a senior.

The top 15 in each event compete at the national meet.

“You have to go out there thinking I’m here for a reason, I got here - I’m as good as everyone else,” Rasmussen said.

Coach Aaron Decker said these two girls have worked hard to gain the confidence which Rasmussen spoke of.

The two girls are seniors, have been part of track and field throughout their college careers and are team captains.

Decker said they also do the little things that make a difference in the sport, like consistently working hard in the weight room,

paying attention to their personal nutrition and knowing the limits of their body.

“They have really embodied taking care of themselves to be one of the best in the nation,” Decker said.

For Nordland, this means getting regular amounts of sleep, drinking lots of water, and eating red meat for the iron, as suggested by her coaches.

Rasmussen said taking care of her body is a part of the doing well in the sport.

“It’s just your body verses somebody else. Who has the better training, who has the better body,” she said.

During the indoor season, Rasmussen broke the 200 and 400 meter dash school records while Nordland broke the 800 meter and mile run school records.

Rasmussen, Nordland, Amanda Rothbauer and Katie Rydeen broke the distance medley relay school record.

“If we just keep the pace going, keep the rhythm going, we should be able to bring a good dozen kids to the national meet. We should be able to set another 10 plus school records in the outdoor season alone,” Decker said.

With the season ending, changes in training and schedules are right around the corner.

The track and field athletes are still training, but they are training less intensely so they do not have to try to maintain their peak performance for months at a time, Decker said. He calls this a “base building cycle.”

The differences between the indoor and outdoor seasons include wind resistance or assistance, temperature and weather changes, and the physical structure of the track, like the curves and length of the track.

These result in “significant increases in performances,” Decker said.

Nordland said that outdoor meets are normally “nice and big” in comparison to indoor meets, which she likes.

What does not change is the team dynamic.

“A lot of people look at track and field as an individual sport. I view track and field more as a team sport- working together, supporting each other,” Decker said.

“It starts with them understanding that they train each other in practice, they push each other in practice daily, they work hard together.” Rasmussen agreed, saying that what gets her through the hard workouts, and the tough races, is her team.

“You need your team there supporting you,” she said. “Doing anything together is easier than doing it by yourself.”

Track meets are scored by individual events to reflect on individual participation, but the scores are combined to reflect on the team as well.

This can create pressure for athletes be-



Rebecca Rudolph/Student Voice
Alyssa Rasmussen gets set up in the starting blocks at practice. Rasmussen broke the school records in both the 200 and 400 meter dash during the indoor track season.

cause of the potential to let down the team, but Rasmussen said, “If you do the best you can, no one can ask you to do anything else. That’s all anybody can ask for really.”

Even though Rasmussen and Nordland may be going to nationals this weekend, Decker said there is more to it.

“The success of this weekend is not only those two girls, but of the whole program,” said Decker.

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2:00 PM

UW-RIVER FALLS
VS
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

‘Identity Thief’ leaves viewers wanting more



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

With plenty of slapstick and some hit and miss jokes, “Identity Thief” comes to town and steals a few laughs, but leaves potential that could have been found.

Nab someone’s identity and credit card info, buy a waffle maker and a new car, and party your butt off at the nearby bar; that is a normal day in the life of identity thief Diana (Melissa McCarthy). Play with the kids, go to work and try your hardest to get the bonus on your paycheck that you have been waiting three years for; that is a normal day for business man Sandy Paterson (Jason Bateman).

The everyday lives of this con-woman and working man are about to change. After a case of stolen identity sends Sandy going across the land to hunt down Diana and clear his name of all the infidelities and the overcharged credit card Diana has incurred.

But getting Diana back to Denver will prove challenging as Diana’s past actions are catching up. Now Sandy and Diana will need to work together and learn together if they are going to get

back to Denver to clear Sandy’s name, but not unless Diana’s greed and personal problems get in the way first.

Reviewing comedies poses a challenge in my case. Since humor is such a subjective thing, it can seem shallow and pretentious to say that something is not funny. After all, everybody has their own different tastes when it comes to comedy: some people like constant slapstick, some get a kick out of characters’ banter, and some enjoy the sweet sounds of farts and yelling loudly.

Now, I do not find any of these tastes wrong; they can all shine brightly and make you roll on the floor with laughter, but certain aspects of the humor I think make it either artful or low brow like wit, cleverness, and even inserting well done satire and parody can be good. It is those aspects, that can be done well and badly, that go into critiquing humor and comedies. “Identity Thief” treads that line between funny and not funny that leans more toward the unfunny, but by the end I still feel that it can be enjoyed by some.

The main characters of Sandy and Diana have an OK on-screen relationship, thankfully not taking the relationship anywhere romantic, but to some comedic and awkward moments that make it feel like you’re watching your aunt Shari go on a wild, half-drunk binge. But, they get by well enough (with some of the best moments involving them making lies about each other), and so does the plot, which is easy enough

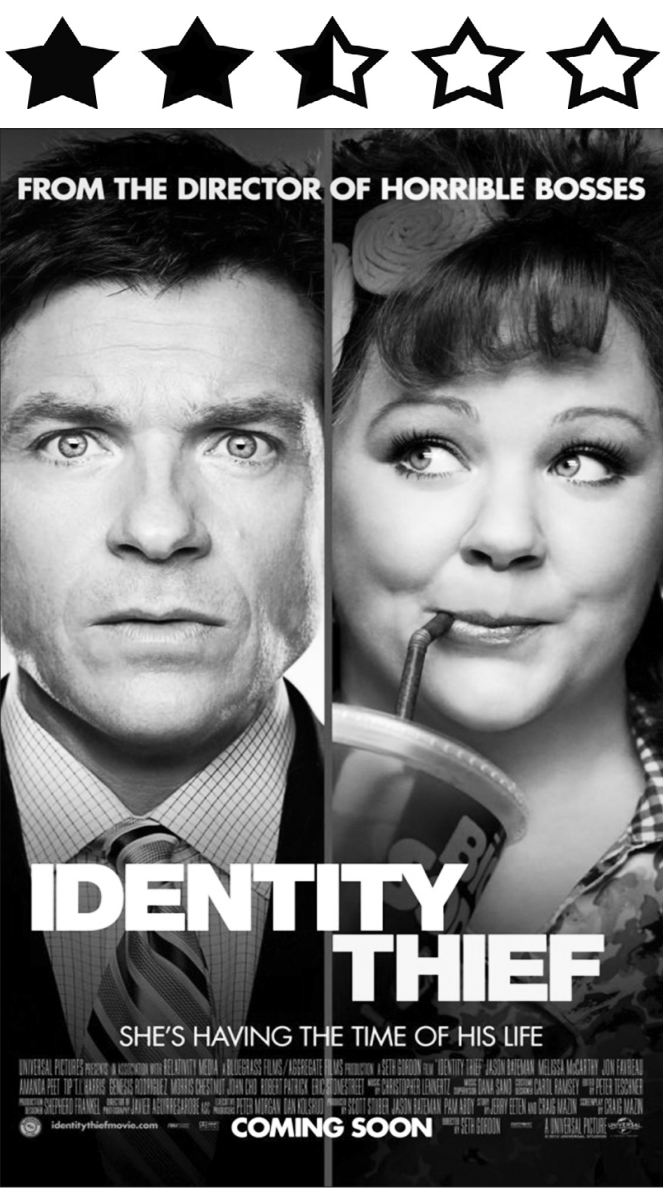
to follow from Florida, to Georgia and to Colorado.

But as I was to make a case of before, the humor makes the movie a bitter-sweet experience. While I can appreciate the bouncing fun and charm of McCarthy, the movie could have used more jokes and more creative writing. Sure, there is plenty of slapstick and a good amount of interaction between characters, but there were places where it felt slow and uninspired, like anyone could have just written the jokes and thrown them in this movie based on what people usually like.


Do not get me wrong, there were a few funny bits, but none that really told me that this was a special comedy. It all gave off the stank of lost potential. Potential is not lost on the humor’s side, though. The movies so called “villains” are so small time and unmemorable that it really makes you realize that the producers added them for conflict and not much else.

A lot was lost in this movie that cannot be reclaimed, and it makes me think that there could have been more to it than just slapstick and talking with a few funny jokes. If you are into this kind of stuff, then I would say “Identity Thief” is good enough for a laugh. But, if you’re looking for non-stop comedy, you’re looking at the wrong movie.

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.



‘Snitch’ brings intensity, lacks in full potential



Adam Tilson

Reviewer

Over the years, I have come to like Johnson in movies. Ever since his old days in wrestling, the man has a personality for both the ring and the big screen. Though he is not one of the best actors by any means, he’s probably the best actor to come out of the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) in forever, which is saying a lot since most wrestlers who try acting are terrible.

Although Johnson has not had a ton of memorable performances in his career, his acting in his new movie “Snitch” stands out in his resume unlike his past films, which is mainly being a tough wise guy and in children’s movies. This time, he actually gives a thoughtful performance, probably one of the best in his career.

In the movie, Johnson plays John Matthews, a construction company owner whose son Jason (Rafi Gavron) gets busted by the Drug Enforcement Admin-

istration for accepting a shipment of drugs who gets set up by his own friend to save his own life.

Jason could face up to 10 years in prison. However the prosecutor (Susan Sarandon) will reduce the sentence if the teenager snitches. Jason refuses, and John decides to volunteer and infiltrate a drug cartel.

John then gets himself in a situation to protect his son. Here Johnson is not playing as a macho man or Navy SEAL like in past movies, and using his athletic moves and bulgy biceps to get out of a situation. Instead, Johnson acts like an ordinary Joe trying to save his son’s life.

Although not to give away too much of the plot, one of the best moments is where John encounters a mid-level dealer (Michael Kenneth Williams). John gets a pistol shoved in his face and raises his hands in fear. In a rare instance, Johnson shows vulnerability, something moviegoers are not used to seeing in the famous pro wrestler.

What is more interesting is that the main action doesn’t start until about an hour into the movie. However, we do not see John running in killing bad guys or anything like that. Instead, we see John in

sheer panic, causing collateral damage.

Throughout the movie, I witnessed moments where John seemed helpless and was not sure what he was going to do. I thought it was nice to see more emotional depth in Johnson’s character, showing off his acting skills, rather than just fighting all the time.

There was a lot of good in this movie. With performances from Sarandon as a prosecutor, and Benjamin Bratt’s performance as a cartel kingpin, both were nice, but not as effective as Johnson’s presence in the movie.

I thought Johnson put on a good show, probably one of his finest performances. He showed true color and didn’t provide the persona that of some tough guy juiced on steroids.

Personally I admire Johnson’s work, even in his bad movies. He certainly is a rising star in the industry. Although he’s not one of the best actors to come around in a long time, he definitely played a convincing role, and hopefully Johnson shows more acting potential in future films.

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.



First time at Broadway musical, Central Park draws shock, awe



Amanda White

Columnist

grail of musicals. Broadway is where a musical begins and, if it’s good, flourishes.

But my parents don’t particularly like musicals. Innumerable times I have excitedly ran to my parents to deliver news of a favorite actor joining a show or a national tour coming to Minnesota, and all they do is visibly shudder and say, “that’s nice, dear,” before returning to their hockey games and snow-mobiles.

Now, I like hockey just as much as the next Minnesotan, but musicals are glamorous, dramatic and they set my soul on fire. Ever since I finally made it to New York City, a dream I once thought impossible not too long ago, I have been itching to see a show.

Shows are expensive, though, and the cheap student tickets require planning and a very free day, which is rare in the city that never sleeps. So, when my exchange coordinator announced we were attending “Wicked,” I thought I was going to have a heart attack.

I mean, come on, “Wicked” is the quintessential new musical. I’m well on my way to listening to “Defying Gravity”

One of the main reasons why I wanted to move to New York City was Broadway. I have been a fan of musicals since I first saw “Annie” and “The Sound of Music” more than a decade ago, and Broadway is the holy

100 times, and I can barely contain my adulation of Idina Menzel and Kristen Chenoweth, the original Elphaba and Glinda, respectively. Also, seeing “Wicked” as my first show in New York City is a ridiculously amazing opportunity, and I won’t forget it.

We went to the show on a Thursday night and we decided to spend the whole day in Manhattan in preparation. The weather was particularly beautiful (sorry, Midwesterners) so we trooped our way to Central Park. It was my first time in Central Park and it was definitely more “Lord of the Rings” than I thought it would be.

There were giant slabs of rock that appeared to have deep ridges, perhaps as a result from ancient glaciers. We climbed around these rocks in our fancy theater clothes, because who can resist a giant slab of rock? No one.

There were obviously no leaves on the trees, so we could see the looming skyscrapers of midtown Manhattan through the branches. The park was fairly empty on a Thursday afternoon, with the exception of ice skaters, caricature artists and a talkative fiddler. Also, I found all of the dogs in New York City. I am in serious dog withdrawal right now and long to snuggle with my Critter and Belle again, so I made do with petting every dog being walked past me.

My friends led us to Strawberry Fields, a memorial to John Lennon near his Upper West Side apartment that Yoko Ono still lives in. There is an “Imagine” stone mosaic in the sidewalk, and a man wearing a vest covered in “Grateful

Dead” and “Protest War” patches was laying down flowers and mementos.

There wasn’t any special event going on, but everyone at the memorial was very somber. I had the crazy urge to just start singing “Imagine,” but I held it in for the sake of my friends’ dignities. After Central Park we walked (and walked and walked) to a bookstore to kill time before our dinner reservation.

This bookstore was my heaven. It was three stories high and insisted, through use of posted placards, that cell phones were to be put away. There were books stacked everywhere and the largest fashion book collection I have ever seen was organized by designer, era or clothing item. All four of us split up to our respective interests and reemerged an hour later, dazed but refreshed and calm.

After gorging ourselves with pasta and sangria at dinner, we waddled our way to the Gershwins Theatre to see “Wicked.” It was an experience I am still processing, but all I can say is I sat on the edge of my seat the whole time, with a few breaks for tears and clutching the knees of Kaylie and Isabel at important times. “Defying Gravity” was incredible. No adjective seems enough to describe that moment.

That Thursday will forever live in my memory as a perfect New York City day and night. I spent it with my favorite people in my favorite city in the world, doing some of my favorite things. It doesn’t get better than this.

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

Check out the Student Voice online at www.uwrfvoice.com

Turning 21 leads to wild night downtown

Miranda Hammel

Columnist

Being 21-years-old is fun and pretty great I must say, but it also comes with so much more responsibility.

Last Thursday night I went out for my first “thirsty Thursday” with a friend. We had a great time with the free drinks, good music and friends all around us. The adventures you have in your life, even the struggles help make your story. Well I feel inclined to tell one of mine, for it was a roller-coaster of fun.

We started out at my place getting ready, having a couple drinks before actually going out, laughing about old memories and sharing stories, swapping out different music on our iPods. We had food in our bellies and our designated driver for the night.

The journey began at Junior’s Bar, where the ladies drink free from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. We met new people, old friends from freshman year and people not even from the Midwest area. Each of us had our drink of choice for the night and things were going smoothly.

The party then moved to Ground Zero around 11:30 p.m. or midnight. We didn’t stay there long, but the music was old school and fun to reminisce about. My roommate and I split, somewhat, a raspberry long island ice tea, which was delicious by the way, I can say that the drink put her in a happy place for the rest of the night.

As the bar started to empty out and people move on to the

next bar, me and some new friends I met moved with everyone else as my roommate decided to stay put with some of her friends. We had been texting the whole night so I figured it would be fine, and she would make her way over anyways. Little did I know, I would be going back to her.

While at Boomers, it didn’t start to fill up until a good 10 minutes passed while my group and I were there. There was a cute guy I met at Ground that I even saw there, to which one of my group members dared me to go over and ask him to dance, thinking I was the shy type I’m guessing?

Obviously he didn’t know me well. I went over and danced with him, and in turn I walked away that night with \$20. I had a fun night with everyone and this new guy, until I got a call from my roommate.

On the other line, instead of hearing my roommate’s voice there was a friend of hers telling me I needed to come back and get her, and take her home. Now I have always been there for all of my friends, especially her, and haven’t had to take care of someone in a while, but I don’t mind at all. Rather be safe than sorry, right? So naturally one of the new friends I made went back over to the bar with me to help, thus beginning the adventure walk home with me.

She was aggressive and pushy. She even ran, almost all the way home, me having to run after her to keep up. I made new friends on the walk home while in turn apologizing for her.

She even “slid into home plate” in front of Pizza Hut, cutting her hand up pretty bad, I knew that was going to hurt in the morning.

When I finally had a good grip on her to walk with her, friend on the other side, she began the many questions sounding like a broken record, “do you have my phone,” which of course I did.

When finally home and up the stairs, my other roommate became immediately worried and started helping. After reassuring her everything was fine and would be OK, my drunken roommate tried to take her car keys and run down the stairs. Running after her we got her to stop and back up the stairs, only after she threw her phone at the wall.

It was a challenge, but at least there was nothing to clean up and no hair to hold back.

Just washing her hand off and tucking her in bed a few times was it. Except where I had to wake up after an hour to pick the lock on my bathroom door to get her out and back to her bed. I know a lot of people find babysitting annoying, and parents worry, but it was all worth it because I know she’d do the same for me. In any case, mama did say there would be days like this.

Miranda is a junior majoring in journalism. She enjoys reading, writing, listening to music, and being active outdoors. You can find Miranda working in Hagestad Hall for the Division of Technology Services or Knowles Athletic Building as an athletic trainer. On the weekends, Miranda can be found hanging around coffee shops in Hudson, or with her friends in the River Falls area.

Music department hosts prestigious musician Jason Ham

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Last week was a special week for the UWRF Music Department. The Symphony Band, University Band and the Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble welcomed prestigious musician Jason Ham, a solo euphonium player for the United States Military Academy at West Point. The three ensembles spent countless hours in the week rehearsing with Ham, who was in-residence, leading up to the concert last Thursday, Feb. 28. The concert showcased the U.S. premiere of Johan de Meij’s “UFO Concerto.” Musicians in all the ensembles have commented on what an incredible experience it was to work with a musician that has such a prestigious title and so much musical talent. I know that for me, it was a week that I will remember for a very long time.

Ham is in his seventh year with the West Point band, and he has built a reputation as one of the country’s most active and talented euphonium soloists. A native of Columbia, S.C., Ham began studying euphonium in high school where he earned several state and local awards for his playing.

Later on, Ham studied with the late David Randolph and David Zerkel when he started college at University of Georgia. While studying at UGA, Ham earned honors such as winning the Atlanta Brass Society Collegiate Soloist Competition (1998) and as a finalist in the Music Teacher’s National

Association Competition (2000). Just before graduating in June of 2001, Ham was accepted for a position with the United States Military Academy Band.

One very large part of his euphonium career was in 2004 when the performed with the People’s Liberation Army Band in Beijing. This was an important experience, because it was the first time anyone in that country had ever seen the euphonium perform as a solo. Ham had also made a similar impact on Macedonia, Bulgaria and Argentina. He appeared in euphonium solos on the radio, on public television and at national tuba and euphonium conferences.

Ham made his solo Carnegie Hall debut in April of 2009 in the concerto “Cantiphonia.” He continues now to commission new works with composers such as David Gillingham and de Meij. He is also a Yamaha performing artist, and he plays a Yamaha euphonium.

Spending a week with a guest soloist or a guest composer is always exciting for the Music Department, and hosting Ham was no exception.

I got the opportunity to perform with Ham with both the Symphony Band and the University Band. He had an immense musical talent, he could play any note in the euphonium range and play runs cleanly. He showed how working hard at something can really pay off in the end.

At the same time, we all agreed that he was a comfortable person to work with. He never came off with a pompous attitude. He was able to simply talk with us like old friends, and it made the concert nerves disappear. He reached out to everyone, whether he got to know them or simply thanked them for being a part of such a great concert. By the end of

the week, the way we familiarized ourselves with him made it seem as if he was a part of our ensemble for a long time. His solo parts blended well with the ensemble, making it a concert to remember.

The week was full of different events to showcase Ham’s talent. He started with a recital, also featuring Min Jung Kim on piano and Gary Bird on tuba. Ham played a variety of challenging pieces, whether they were fast or high in his range. He would pause and talk with the audience between pieces, and it was like he was simply having a conversation with us. It was a very loose and comfortable environment.

He continued the week by offering private lessons to students and presenting a clinic where he discussed the military. Ham’s in-residence week concluded with the concert on Thursday evening. The piece of the evening was no doubt the “UFO Concerto” by de Meij. Split into five movements, the 25-minute piece not only showcased what the soloist could do, but it also showcased what the ensemble could do with several challenging parts. “UFO Concerto” is sure to give anyone goose bumps with its beauty, excitement, and suspense. It kept the audience and musicians alike on their toes, anxiously anticipating what was to come.

Spending a week with a guest soloist or a guest composer is always exciting for the Music Department, and hosting Ham was no exception. Everyone enjoyed the experience immensely, and at the same time, there was a lot to learn from him. It is something that will be talked about for years to come.

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.

Student Voice staff attend Wisconsin Newspaper Association conference



Alicia Carlson/Student Voice
Alicia Carlson, Megan Rodriguez, Benjamin Lamers, Rebecca Rudolph and Ryan Tibbitts attended the WNA conference in Middleton, Wis., on Thursday, Feb. 28. The Student Voice received honorable mention for General Excellence and Tibbitts received a second place award for sports column writing.



Alicia Carlson/Student Voice
Benjamin Lamers accepts the honorable mention award for general excellence on behalf of the Student Voice staff.

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