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UW-River Falls women's basketball splits against two MIAC opponents.

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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## Culture Fest unifies UWRF students

Britany Bonney  
britany.bonney@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls students, staff and community members gathered in the William Abbott Concert Hall on Nov. 14 for “Culture Fest.”

Culture Fest is an annual event that is hosted by the UWRF Asian American Student Association (AASA). The event included performances by UWRF students, performance groups from the Twin Cities area, a cultural fashion show, Chinese and Ethiopian food and raffles.

AASA members have been planning this event since the start of the school year. Ka Zoua Vang is one of the co-presidents of AASA and she said the club reached out to other organizations on campus to team up with them to make this event happen. Black Student Union (BSU), Swing Dance Club, and the Japanese Animation and Film Club were just a few of the clubs and organizations that worked with AASA.

There were 18 different performances at the event. Most of the performances were done by members of AASA and the other clubs that helped out with Culture Fest. Samantha Herr is the AASA secretary and she said they even brought in performance groups from the Twin Cities. Herr said she also used Facebook to find people who would be interested in performing at the event. Hmong Heroes and the Ha Family Lion Dance Troupe were two of the groups that came from the Twin Cities to perform at the event.

Hmong Heroes is a dance group from the Iny Asian Dance Theater in the Twin Cities. According to the Iny Asian Dance Theater website, Hmong Heroes is a dance group made up of boys ages nine to 18 who perform in competitions and cultural festivals. Three members from the group traveled from the Twin Cities to perform at the event.

Another group that came from the cities



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**The musical group, Hmong Backstreet Boys, which consists of UW-River Falls students (left to right) Chris Vang, Hue Chang, Sor Her and Pheng Yang, singing an a cappella version of a Hmong folk song during Culture Fest on Nov. 14.**

was the Ha Family Lion Dance Troupe. The troupe performed a traditional lion dance to percussion. Dancers acted as the front and back legs of the lion as they were draped in a large Chinese lion costume during the performances.

Along with the two performance groups from the Twin Cities, UWRF students also performed at Culture Fest. The student performers did covers of different songs, performed choreographed dance routines and also put on a fashion show.

The Swing Dance Club was one of the UWRF clubs that performed at Culture Fest.

Andrew Leininger is a member of the Swing Dance Club and he said he started working on the routine about six months ago with another member of the club. Six members of the club performed to the song “A Little Party Never Killed Nobody.”

BSU was another club that participated in Culture Fest. Members of the club sang covers a few songs including a cover of “I Give Myself Away” by William McDowell and “Oceans” by Hillsong United.

There was also a cultural fashion show put on at the event. Members of the different clubs modeled clothing and styles from dif-

ferent Asian cultures. Halfway through the event, the guests were invited to eat some Chinese and Ethiopian food. The food was ordered from Peking Garden and India Palace.

Herr said there were about 200 people that attended the event. Boyd Stacken was one of the students that attended Culture Fest.

“I thought it was a really good experience,” Stacken said.

Members of AASA said making sure the event went smoothly was the most challenging part of putting it together.

“It was exhausting but really rewarding,” Vang said.

## UWRF named a 2014 Top American Sales School

Carmella Everhart  
carmella.everhart@my.uwrf.edu

The Sales Education Foundation (SEF) has named the UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) a “2014 Top North American Sales School.”

This is the first time CBE has been named a 2014 Top North American Sales School in the “Sales Education Annual,” a review of all the top sales schools each year, according to CBE Associate Professor Ozcan Kilic.

The success is due to a new professional sales program that launched this year. The program is offered as an emphasis within the business administration-marketing major in the marketing and management department, according to the UWRF website.

Kilic initiated and led the development of the program with help from businesses, SEF, sales professionals and top-ranking sales programs in the nation.

The program includes a new “Sales Lab,” located in South Hall, that allows students to record, watch and critique their work to help them improve their skills.

It also includes required courses such as relationship selling, sales analytics, advanced selling techniques, and negotiation techniques.

Other opportunities in the program include

**The program includes a new “Sales Lab,” located in South Hall, that allows students to record, watch and critique their work to help them improve their skills.**

hands-on activities, collegiate sales competitions, and sales internships, according to the UWRF website.

The new program helps students go directly from graduation to getting well-paid jobs in the field; sales graduates get three-times more job offers while they are a student in the program and have a higher starting salary, according to Kilic.

“I did some research and I went to differ-

ent conferences, to workshops, and I talked to our dean, the advisory board, businesses, and other sales programs about the idea of establishing a curriculum that would fit the needs for businesses and for students,” Kilic said.

Kilic said his research showed him that roughly 82 percent of marketing majors and 66 percent of business graduates are going to be working in jobs related to sales.

“Companies, what they report, is, those students who don’t take sales classes, it takes them longer to be ready to do some sales and usually during their first three months of employment they see or realize that sales is not for them and they quit their job,” Kilic said.

It costs companies roughly \$1,000 to recruit and train students for sales positions, only to learn that it isn’t worth it because they quit. For this reason, businesses are happy to support and invest in the new sales program at UWRF, according to Kilic.

The self-sufficient program officially starts this spring semester but it unofficially began this fall and students are beginning to see the benefits of it.

According to the UWRF website, Kayla Java, a senior in business administration-management, said that she is ecstatic to hear about the new sales courses being offered and loved the class she has already taken and would recommend that people who aren’t majoring in sales take the classes because they are relatable and help students develop useful skills that can be applied to any career choice.

The recognition will hopefully help grow the program and increase retention rates at UWRF, according to Kilic. He said he has plans to improve the program within the next two or more years as enrollment in the program increases.

“We are in the process of increasing our partners,” Kilic said.

For information about the program contact Kilic at 715-425-3335.

To learn more about the partnerships and support opportunities, or to learn more about the growing sales education space, contact the SEF at 800-776-4436 or visit [www.salesfoundation.org](http://www.salesfoundation.org).

## As jobs get scarce, alumni consider working abroad

Brooke Brokaw  
brooke.brokaw@my.uwrf.edu

Working abroad allows students to apply the skills that they have learned throughout their collegiate career to international work, and UW-River Falls students have the opportunity to study abroad while in school, but how many students consider working abroad after they graduate?

By working abroad, students can not only broaden and gain skills, but can also learn to be independent by navigating a new country and culture.

“I think by having those skills, students can become incredibly marketable upon return when applying for opportunities domestically,” said Assistant Director of Career Services McKenna Pfeiffer.

According to the UWRF Advancement Office, as of July, 359 alumni are living overseas. This number is self-reported.

While the job market continues to become

more competitive, students need to have relevant experience that can showcase their transferable skills to the job position they hold or are applying for.

“A great way to showcase resourcefulness, adaptability and independence would be working abroad and having to navigate a new position, a new country and potentially a new language,” Pfeiffer said. “Through that experience, there’s tremendous transferable skills that students can gain.”

Career Services offers students resources to help them with the process of thinking about or applying to working abroad after graduating. Students that are interested in working abroad can utilize career services with assistance with adjusting application materials based on the country to which they are applying.



*Jack Haren/Student Voice*  
**Regional recruiter for the Peace Corps Janice McInerney handed out brochures, booklets and maps of possible host countries. The Peace Corps table was located in the University Center on Nov. 13.**



# News briefs:

## Journalism professor appointed to council

Andris Straumanis, an associate professor in the department of journalism at UW-River Falls, has been appointed to the advisory council of the recently created Diaspora and Migration Research Center at the University of Latvia.

Straumanis, who joined the UWRF faculty in 2005, initiated the idea of a diaspora studies center in Latvia during the summer of 2012. The center was formally established at the Riga-based university at the start of this academic year. Straumanis pursues research in the history of the Latvian immigrant press and the nature of diasporic media.

The focus of the center is to examine various aspects of emigration from Latvia, both contemporary and historic. Migration-propelled by economic conditions, revolution and war—has been a constant theme for the Latvian people, with tens of thousands of persons having left since the country joined the European Union in 2004.

The center will be led by Aija Lulle, a professor of human geography at the University of Latvia.

## Experiential learning course seeks projects

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) at UW-River Falls is seeking businesses and organizations which have projects that they would like teams of university students to tackle, under the guidance of faculty mentors, as part of an experiential learning course.

Each semester, CAFES offers this course that requires teams of students to apply their academic skills to the completion of a project defined by a business or an organizational client. This course is typically taken in the student’s senior year and is the culmination of the student’s academic career. It is intended that the experience of completing this project will bridge the gap between the student’s academic and professional careers.

The benefits to the business/organizational client include having more than 600 student person hours devoted to a project with possible end products being feasibility studies, design analyses, financial analyses, business plans, marketing plans and prototypes. In the course of their work, project teams draw on the expertise of faculty mentors and other UWRF faculty and staff.

If you are interested in having your project considered for spring semester 2015, contact Adjunct Professor Juliet Tomkins at [ju-liet.tomkins@uwrf.edu](mailto:ju-liet.tomkins@uwrf.edu) or 715-425-3298 by Monday, Dec. 1.

## Wisconsin DNR deems deer hunting as safe

Wisconsin is one of the safest places in the world to hunt deer, and this is no accident,

said recreational safety officials with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

“Wisconsin has such a passion for deer hunting, and this passion extends from generation to generation,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “Through hunter education programs and important lessons being passed down to younger hunters, Wisconsin continues to stand out as a great example of safe and ethical hunting.”

In 1966 in Wisconsin, the hunting incident rate was 44 injuries for every 100,000 hunters. Now the rate, based on a 10-year-average, is 4.04 incidents per 100,000 hunters, a reduction of more than 90 percent. Wisconsin has experienced four gun-deer seasons free of fatalities, (1972, 2010, 2011 and 2013) with three of them occurring in the past four years.

Conservation Warden Jon King, who leads the Hunter Education Program, said hunting in Wisconsin is a safe, fun activity for the entire family.

King credits the expanded course and outstanding instructors as the main factors behind Wisconsin’s safety record, but there are others.

“Trends in hunting patterns have changed,” King said. “There are fewer deer drives. The tendency is for gun hunters to go out and sit.”

The department would like to thank Wisconsin hunters, who continue to serve as an example for ethical and safe hunting.

For more information regarding hunter education and tips for safe hunting, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keywords “safety tips.”

## Sen. Harsdorf receives 2014 Building Award

State Sen. Shelia Harsdorf of River Falls was presented with the 2014 “Building Wisconsin” Award by Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin (ABC-WI) at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

ABC-WI is a construction industry trade association which represents nearly 900 employers. Harsdorf was recognized for her hard work during the 2013-2014 legislative session on behalf of Wisconsin’s construction industry. Specifically, she supported the commercial building code legislation, which will simplify and streamline construction regulations for architects, builders and developers. This bill was signed into law on April 17.

In all, there were 21 state representatives who received the 2014 Building Wisconsin Award. ABC-WI President John Mielke noted that less than 16 percent of those in the state legislature were recognized for their efforts, specifically their sponsorship and support of the commercial building code legislation.

## Talent Development Initiative aids economy

As the state’s largest developer of human potential, the UW System is in a unique position to help grow a stronger Wisconsin economy, President Ray Cross told the UW Board

of Regents Thursday.

“We are part of the solution,” Cross said, adding that the UW System must “take the lead with our partners in the legislature and the private sector to do what is necessary to fully implement the Talent Development Initiative and address the challenges.”

The Talent Development Initiative, first introduced to the Board in August, is a vision for how the UW System can align its resources in three critical areas – the talent path, the talent infrastructure, and the talent-based economy – to better meet the current and future needs of the state’s employers.

Wisconsin is facing an unprecedented “flattening” of its workforce in coming years as the state’s population becomes increasingly older, according to Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance. Leading a presentation on demographic trends, Berry told Regents the result will be a smaller workforce that must increase its overall productivity for the state’s economy to grow.

“We Need alignment of workforce and economic development and education, pre- and post- secondary education, to the specific demands and needs of business and entrepreneurs in Wisconsin. We want to incentivize that behavior across the state,” Newton said.

Over the next decade, the projects with the highest-demand occupations for degree-holders will be in healthcare, education, computer analysis, accounting, marketing, and managerial professions.

## Health study assesses industrial sand mining

As industrial sand mining continues its rapid growth in western Wisconsin, communities face many questions about the potential health risks and benefits of mining operations.

Over the next 18 months, the Institute for Wisconsin’s Health will work with 14 health departments, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the University of Iowa’s Environmental Health Research Center, to gather and analyze information on the potential public health impacts of industrial sand mining in the region.

A health impact assessment (HIA) is unbiased, and factors in health data and the perspectives of people and organizations that may have very different opinions. This assessment will take into account a wide range of potential risks and benefits to the health of communities in western Wisconsin. It will combine health expertise, scientific data, and input from businesses, community members and other organizations in order to examine issues, which may include air and water quality, jobs, transportation, and other factors prioritized by community stakeholders.

The assessment process will culminate in a final report, which will provide practical recommendations communities can use to maximize potential health benefits and minimize potential health risks.

“Industrial sand mining is an issue that is important to leaders and community members in Western Wisconsin. This health impact assessment will allow us to examine the potential health impacts of industrial sand mining and help inform future decisions about this

complex issue,” said Nancy Young, Executive Director of the Institute for Wisconsin’s Health. “Health impact assessments examine social, economic and environmental factors, because all of these factors impact the health of populations. We are honored to have an opportunity to work together with these communities to learn more.”

More information and a searchable map of HIA activity in the U.S. are available at [www.healthimpactproject.org](http://www.healthimpactproject.org).

## Organization prompts lung cancer prevention

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month—an opportunity to reflect on the terrible toll that lung cancer takes on Wisconsin families every year.

To honor those taken by lung cancer and to prevent future deaths, the Western Wisconsin Working for Tobacco Free Living Coalition (W3TFL) is reminding tobacco users that free resources are available to help them quit.

Lung cancer is now the number-one cause of cancer death for both men and women, according to the 2014 Surgeon General’s Report on Smoking and Health. The report also shows that almost nine out of 10 lung cancers are caused by smoking. Another startling finding from the report is that smokers today are more likely to develop lung cancer than those of 50 years ago.

While addiction can take a powerful hold on tobacco users, Hagen stressed that it can be beaten with the help of free resources. The Pierce County Health Department and the W3TFL encourages individuals who smoke or use other tobacco products to call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT NOW for free assistance. In addition to receiving personal coaching, Quit Line callers can also receive a starter pack of quit smoking medications.

“The Evidence is clear. The combination of quit smoking counseling and FDA-approved medications like; nicotine gum, patches, and lozenges is the most effective way to successfully quit! And both counseling and medications are available through Wisconsin’s Tobacco Quit Line,” Hagen said.

Another way to reduce lung cancer from smoking is to keep tobacco out of our youth’s hands so they do not start using. Pierce County participates in the WI WINS, a program is designed to give recognition to businesses that deny youth access to tobacco.

For more on local tobacco prevention control efforts, visit the W3TFL website: [www.W3TFL.org](http://www.W3TFL.org) and like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/W3TFL>.

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## River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

- Nov. 11**
- There were two medical reports filed between 8-10 a.m. One of these reports occurred in Grimm Hall and the other included a slip and fall on the corner of 6th Street and Cascade Avenue.
- Nov. 12**
- A controlled substance report was filed around 6:30 p.m. in Parker Hall. The report included the possession of paraphernalia and marijuana.
  - There was a report of a suspicious person lurking around Main Street near Pay Lot 1. The report remains open and under investigation.
- Nov. 14**
- There was a report filed for a minor accident near the University Center loading docks in the afternoon.
- Nov. 16**
- Someone was found in O Lot sleeping in their running vehicle around 9 a.m. Officers approached the vehicle to check the welfare of the occupant.
  - Fire alarms sounded in Davee Library at 9 p.m. There was no fire and the situation was resolved, yet the reason behind the alarm is still unknown.
- Nov. 18**
- An underaged alcohol violation and medical report was filed around 2 a.m. including a female in McMillan Hall.
  - Property was damaged at Hagestad Hall in the form of graffiti. This report was filed at 7 a.m.

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

Hi, I’m Shadoe, the voice of the 25-and-under crowd

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# Young veterans urged to take up farming

Maggie Christensen  
maggie.christensen-1@my.uwrf.edu

Veterans make great farmers, and with high rates of unemployment among veterans, Sergeant Andrew Rondeau urges young veterans to start farming.

Rondeau, a student and veteran at UW-River Falls, gave a lecture, “Getting Started in Farming: Veterans and a New Generation,” last Thursday encouraging soldiers and veterans to take up farming. He said veterans have the skill-set ideal for the business.

Veterans are able to think on their feet, make tough decisions, and have a sense of good time-management as well as working hard to produce a product.

“As veterans, I think we have certain qualities that can translate well to agricultural work, like helping others and providing for all,” Rondeau said. “We have the drive to do the hard work to get the job done. Farming also provides a flexible work schedule allowing for us to spend time with families at home and work which, as soldiers, we didn’t always have.”

Rondeau is a UWRF horticulture student who will graduate next month. He plans to apply for the UWRF Master of Science and Agriculture program. His goal is to work for the UW-Extension or start a program that allows veterans to start

a career in agriculture. He’s worked closely with St. Croix County Agent, Heidi Doering.

“Andrew was my intern this summer through University of Wisconsin-Extension,” Doering said. “This is a really great opportunity for vets because there’s so many aspects of farming that a veteran has skills in. Being in the military often

**“As veterans, I think we have certain qualities that can translate well to agricultural work, like helping others and providing for all. We have the drive to do the hard work to get the job done,” said Sgt. Andrew Rondeau.**

times they are working with mechanical systems and have a different way thinking about things.”

There are many opportunities for veterans to get a start in agriculture. The 2014 Farm Bill provides \$100 million for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Programs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). There is also the Military Veterans Agriculture Liaison, Outreach and Technical Assistance for Veteran Farmers, and Conservation

Program Opportunities for Veterans available for veterans. The USDA makes veterans a priority.

Plants can help human health and wellbeing. Being around plants helps people to concentrate and has a calming presence which helps with anxiety. UWRF has its very own green wall in the Ag Science building. A recent University of Michigan study showed the effect of nature in the home and in the work-place serves to stimulate both the senses and the mind, improving mental cognition and performance.

“Being around plants and animals is good and, with veterans and what we’ve been through, it’s a good place,” Rondeau said. “For right now if you look at unemployment rate, most of us are in rural communities and farming is what’s out there for us.”

Rondeau also encourages potential young farmers to get in contact with older established farmers to rent their land or equipment. The average age of the American farmer is 58 and rising.

“My biggest concern for the younger generation is not having capital to start a farm,” Doering said. “My parents stated in the 80s and there was a lot more capital investment opportunities.”

# UWRF Facilities Management hit the streets after snowfall

Sadie Horton  
sadie.horton@my.uwrf.edu

The average monthly temperature for the month of November in River Falls is 41 degrees for a high and 23 degrees for a low, according to The Weather Channel; instead this year has seen temperatures in the teens or the single digits with snow flurries.

In other words, winter is here early and there is nothing that we can do about it except bundle up and find a way to ride it out. Well, that is if you are not one of the people who loves winter. Last year the snow stuck around well into April, longer than it normally does, and this year the snow started early. The snow and the cold leaves students wondering whether their classes are canceled each morning as the snow falls or the temperature drops.

“The ability to cancel classes resides here on campus, the chancellor can make that decision,” said Director of Communications and External Relations Blake Fry. “The only person who

can close the campus is the Governor of the state of Wisconsin.”

Fry also said that it is up to the professors whether their classes are held or not during a snow-storm. Which means if the teachers chose, they can cancel their class for the day and that is where most of the class cancellations that students see will come from. Facilities Management is in charge of snow and ice removal in the winter at UW-River Falls.

“It’s certainly one of the hardest things for us also, and probably the hardest thing is when you have an ice situation and then its followed with snow because then you can’t see it and we have to clear the snow off before we can deal with the ice,” said Grounds Supervisor Joe McIntosh.

Facilities Management will clear emergency vehicle access (streets) as its first priority when snow and ice needs to be cleared. Facilities Management will then do the main east/west walks including from the residence halls to the University Center. Next will be the main

entries of academic buildings to main walks. After the entrances the parking lots are cleared, followed by secondary walks and connecting routes. The last thing it will clear is the university farms.

“Be prepared if you are going to live in this part of the country. We have a lot of people who are experienced to winter conditions up here, so that’s good. This doesn’t come to a surprise to a lot of the students,” Fry said. “But my recommendation would be to use your best judgment. You can always make up a test, you can always work with your faculty member but it varies by student. I know, I have lived on roads here in River Falls where it was the very last one to be plowed in the entire city. So 16 inches of snow fell, I wasn’t getting out of my driveway, so each case is different. Just use your best judgment, be wise. Your safety is the number one concern.”

Students need to make sure that they are safe walking across campus and dress for the weather. They also need to be careful if they are commuting.



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**Sophomore Dallas Nicolai warms up inside the University Center while waiting for dance theater practice to begin at the Karges Center.**

# Dairy Club visits Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario

Maggie Sanders  
margaret.sanders@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Dairy Club took a trip to Toronto, Ontario, for the “Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.”

Forty-six Dairy Club members took the trip to Canada between Nov. 12-16, where they also viewed two different Canadian farms and Niagara Falls.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is where Canadians and international viewers can come and see horse and cow competition shows, learn about agriculture and animals.

The fair is every year, and this year the fair went from Nov. 7-16.

The Dairy Club members went to see the cow show competition.

According to Kiana Fornell, a member of the Dairy Club, some of the members are studying to be cattle judges or breed cattle.

They went to watch how the cows were being judged at the fair.

The members followed the cow show competition up to the end when one cow was crowned “Supreme Champion,” the best cow out of all the dairy cow breeds.

The Dairy Club went to see four different dairy cow shows; the black and white Holstein show, the red and white Holstein show, the Ayrshire show, and the Jersey show.

According to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair website, the dairy cows are judged in four different categories.

Judges are looking for the ideal qualities in each breed, as well as the cow’s frame, amount of milk produced, rear feet and legs, and the udders.

According to the fair website, “generally a dairy cow

must possess a straight back, flat ribs, strong legs, shaped pelvic bones and smooth udder attachment.”

The Dairy Club also visited two farms in Canada. One farm was a robot herd farm, where the cows prepped and milked by a robot. The second farm was a cow herd farm where the Canadians studied cow genetics.

The Dairy Club started planning for the trip at the beginning of September. The president and vice presidents of the club reminded the members to get their passports.

Each member paid \$300 which covered the bus, hotels, and the fair ticket. However, because the members are international students, they were given a pass for two free days.

According to Dairy Club first Vice President Tim Borgardt, going to the fair was to see how another country judges its cows, as well as a great way to network with other farmers from Canada, and the U.S.

Fornell says that it was great to see the Canadian farms, and that they are almost the same except for how much milk is produced.

In the U.S., farmers can milk as much as they want. However, in Canada, the farmers can only milk a certain amount of milk. If they go over that amount, then they have to dump the extra milk.

Some fun facts found on the fair website about dairy cows is that the average cow produces about 1,500 gallons every year.

Also, a cow can produce 25 gallons of saliva every day. Cows can also sleep standing up.

# As jobs get scarce, alumni consider working abroad

From page 1

According to Pfeiffer, the number one online resource for international job search through the university is “Going Global.”

Going Global is a database this is housed through Hire-a-Falcon, and is targeted for students that want to work abroad. The website offers supplemental information through a country guide.

“The country guides give students information targeted at their country of interest,” Pfeiffer said. “It provides insight on cultural standards when interviewing, how are resumes different and main employers.”

In addition to Career Services, Student Life also offers resources to students that are considering working abroad. Each semester

Peace Corps information sessions are held in which students can come and learn more about the organization.

Peace Corps was established in 1961 with the mission to promote world peace and friendship. According to peacecorps.gov, over 215,000 people have served since its inception.

Student Life Service Coordinator Amy Lloyd helps to organize the Peace Corps information sessions that are held each semester. The next information session will be February 19, 2015.

“We at UWRF do our best to continue an ongoing partnership with the Peace Corps,” Lloyd said.

Lloyd agrees that joining the Peace Corps is a big commitment that may not be the best fit

for all students, but there is a lot that students can gain that they might not realize.

“It’s important for students who are called to do international work to share their talents with people and places,” Lloyd said.

One UWRF student that is considering international work upon graduation is communication studies major Lindsay Pluger.

“I’ve heard about the Peace Corps my entire life, but never thought it would be my passion,” Pluger said. “But when I did more research about what Peace Corps does, I wanted to know more about it and applied.”

By working abroad through organization like Peace Corps, students will be able to help communities utilize resources to better themselves.

“What you’re doing by working abroad,

you’re potentially helping people who can’t help themselves, or don’t know how to help themselves,” Pluger said.

For students who are interested in working abroad, there are a few key aspects to keep in mind.

“Plan ahead and do your research,” Pfeiffer said. “Spending time planning ahead so that you can make your materials stand out in the process will help so you’re not up against a tight deadline.”

Working abroad is not the best fit for every student but students have the opportunity to new possibilities of not only bettering themselves, but others as well by working abroad. For students who have interest in working abroad, there are many resources available on campus to help with their decision.



EDITORIAL

# A tip of the cap to the university

In lieu of the UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) being named a “Top North American Sales School” by the Sales Education Foundation, it’s about time the university received a recognition from the Student Voice on its stellar work in the past several months.

UWRF being named among the top 83 sales universities in the country is quite an honor. CBE has also been actively adding new majors and minors as of late, not to mention the already implemented Center for Innovation and Business Development (CIBD) that was created in the newly renovated River Falls power plant.

The UWRF physics department was recently declared a Top 10 degree producer by the American Physical Society after producing the eighth most physics degrees in the nation between 2010-2012. This is a monumental achievement that physics students were crediting to the department’s professors, which includes physics Chair Jim Madsen, who has played a key role in the IceCube telescope project.

In early October, the university was named in the top 15 percent of U.S. colleges by College Ranking Index (CRI). This may seem like no big deal, but the CRI determines economic value, improvements in earnings and employability of persons who attend each college. The CRI does its homework—and despite being a small university just across of the border of Minnesota—UWRF has made quite a name for itself.

In the past couple of weeks, two UWRF professors have made campus news for notable special achievements: English Professor Steven Luebke published his first novel “Steps of the Sun” after nearly 25 years of hard work and dedication; and journalism Associate Professor Andris Straumanis was just appointed to the advisory council of the recently created Diaspora and Migration Research Center at the University of Latvia.

Straumanis also reminded the Student Voice staff that professors not only have to teach classes to the student body, but are also required to produce creative work or research outside the classroom in an effort to better the university and its colleges and departments. As students, we sometimes forget how dedicated and busy the folks who grade our class work really are. The Student Voice is thankful for all professors who value teaching. Some universities, like the University of Minnesota, value research more than teaching.

We tip our caps to the university for its constant pursuit of amelioration, and we are thankful to attend such a storied and always evolving university.

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

## STUDENT VOICE

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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](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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# Winter brings seasonal affective disorder, a preventable problem

Rachel Molitor

Columnist

As you all are aware, there is snow on the ground; we can no longer ignore the fact that the summer months have passed us by.

A common problem that people across the world face is winter depression, also known as “seasonal affective disorder” (SAD). The lack of sunlight during the winter months can lower one’s spirits and make the long, cold days of winter seem even longer. Snow has barely been around for a week and already I have heard some people complain that they are sick of winter.

How can you beat these winter blues? The first thing you can do to avoid feeling low is to make sure you get some good old vitamin D from sunlight.

Yes, we don’t have a ton of hours of daylight and yes, it is cold outside, but your body needs a bit of sunlight in order to keep your spirits up. This can help lessen the release of melatonin, which makes a person tired.

While this can go with the first suggestion, make sure you do not stay inside too much. Winter creates home-

bodies of us all, but if you stay inside, you are surely going to get depressed. Whether you live in the dorms or off-campus, make sure you leave the house at least once every few days. Going a single day without leaving is fine but after a while, this can get old fast. If you don’t stay in one place for too long, you are less likely to experience the winter blues.

Another thing you probably hear of to help lift moods is exercising. We all know it is good for you. If high school health class didn’t install that knowledge within you, PE 108 must have. Exercise helps to raise serotonin levels, which makes you feel better. Plus, getting your blood pumping can help you feel warmer. Have you ever gotten really warm and then gone outside to roll in the snow? I don’t recommend this when you are sweating. Try a sauna sometime instead; it’s kind of interesting.

Like exercising, something you need to make sure to do to keep yourself going is eating well. While junk food is delicious, it doesn’t help your mood. I, for example, like to eat more in the winter. I call it gaining weight in order to hibernate and to just keep warm. Unfortunately, I am unsure of how true these statements are, so I would not recommend them as a lifestyle choice

for anyone else.

Another thing you should do in order to keep your spirits up is to find something to look forward to. If you have something on the calendar that you can’t wait for, it can help you trudge through the snow with greater optimism. You can tell yourself that you only have ‘x’ number of days until the event. If nothing comes to mind right away, I would recommend Thanksgiving break. Not only is it relatively close so the countdown seems better, but it is several days off from school. You can use this time to simply relax, or, you can get ahead on all those final projects that will be stressing you out the final weeks of the semester. Winter can have a lot to offer. However, the cold, dark months of the season often seem to drag us down.

A few simple adjustments in your daily lifestyle can keep you going even when the snow reaches your knees. Plus, these tips aren’t just for the winter months: they are helpful all year long. So, start those New Year’s resolutions early and go think about the snow with a little less dread.

*Rachel Molitor is a senior English major who loves reading, watching movies, and learning new things. She hopes to eventually go to law school.*

# Life is absurd, revolt against suicide

Billy Thao

Columnist

On Aug. 11, I was following my daily exercise routine at my home when I took a break for five minutes before continuing my intense workout.

I had my phone with me, and I check it very often. Unsurprisingly, I received a text message from a great friend of mine. I opened the text and it wasn’t the usual common courtesy. It was an instant message that surprised me and left me unconscious of my intense workout: “Billy. Robin Williams passed away.”

Obviously, I felt lost, confused and I couldn’t decide if I wanted to cry. Honestly, I didn’t know if I was filled with sorrow. It would soon consciously punch me in the face that the actor who brought monumental characters and laughter left the world due to suicide.

As a philosophy minor, I was introduced to a French writer, Albert Camus, who introduced to existential philosophy a new thought: absurdism.

According to Camus, life is meaningless and suicide is a “confession” that life is not worth living. It is a choice that implicitly declares life as “too much.” Thus, suicide offers the most basic way out of absurdity. This

philosophy is a pessimistic approach to viewing life. However, it offers a solution: you are free to give life a meaning by recognizing the absurdity.

Again, according to Camus, you can “revolt” against suicide and search for meaning to life; and you have the “freedom” in which you lack imprisonment by religious devotion or other’s moral codes; and you have the “passion” in which you can live life to the fullest.

We all have seen the darkness when the light was absent, which led us to find our results as meaningless, and our sole escape to end our lives.

Fortunately, the light can be found if we reach out to turn on the light switch. I believe our lives are absurd, but we can always give our lives the greatest meaning. That is our greatest living.

Comedians such as Louis C.K., Jim Carey, Drew Carey and Williams have seen the gloom in the world, but the greatest meaning they have provided for the world was laughter. A laugh in the absurd world we live in and that we shouldn’t be afraid.

We may discover a blank white canvas, but the greatest approach to providing light to our lives is to paint our meanings on the canvas. There may be no meaning to our lives, and it can be a depressing truth. However, you must revolt against the idea of the easy escape. You have the freedom to choose

what values you want to live by, and passionately live your life to the fullest.

I promise you I’m not pretentiously acting as a counselor, but I have met friends who either considered suicide or have left the world peacefully and I’m willing to be part of the awareness and voice to support those in need. I too have considered suicide, for I once believed the world had left me empty handed with no meanings. Many people have struggled with losing a loved one, caught a dreadful disease, lost their life trajectory or have been released from a long-relationship, only to discover that time is painful and every destination you arrived has no signs of improvement. We must give ourselves time to grow; and to use an analogy, a student needs time to learn Algebra before they can move on to calculus.

In the words of Dan’s Bandana Project: “I will listen if you need to talk to someone, I will talk to someone if I need to be listened to. I will help you find a counselor when you need more than listening. I will find a counselor when I need more than to be listened to.” And remember: when there is a sunset, there is also a sunrise.

*Billy Thao is a senior sociology student with a philosophy minor. Billy’s hobbies include drawing, watching films, exercising, contemplating life, traveling, producing and listening to music, and socializing with new people.*

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Applications are located outside 304 North Hall.

Please return by Monday, Nov. 24.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Ides of October' investigation requires transparency

Like every student and staff member at UW-River Falls, I received an email over a month ago stating that someone had threatened to shoot up our school.

We do not know who the letter was from or their actual intentions, only that they had threatened to commit the crime on Oct. 15. The issue of guns at schools has been a topic of debate since the mid-1800s. Year after year, students and faculty die at the hands of a shooter in a place that is supposed to be safe. In the past two years alone, seventy-four innocent lives were lost. Usually these events are surprising and devastating.

"We never would have guessed this would happen," people say. As the day drew near, there was an obvious increase of law enforcement on our campus, especially on Oct. 15. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) took over the investigation so that our campus could

focus on security. The day came and went, with law enforcement leaving our campus rather swiftly. By the following Monday, it was like nothing had ever happened. It has been almost one month now and as a community we still have no idea where the investigation stands.

There has been no follow up by the university to students and faculty, other than two follow-up stories reported by the Student Voice. I write this letter as a call to the university and law enforcement to continue the conversation between investigators and the campus population. We need information, even if it is just an update about where the investigation stands.

**-Danielle Brintz**  
**UWRF student**

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com)

Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com) AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner is announced on the Voice’s Twitter account: [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice)






NOW PLAYING:

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1

STUDENT *voices*

What Thanksgiving day traditions does your family have?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders

 <p><b>Jonathon Xiong</b> Senior Marketing Communications</p> <p>“We do the usual: turkey and a potluck with 15 to 20 members of the family.”</p>	 <p><b>Maddie Erb</b> Senior Psychology</p> <p>“My family gets together, hangs out, eats a lot of food, and then goes bowling. I have 25 family members.”</p>	 <p><b>Sera Korogou</b> Sophomore Psychology</p> <p>“When I’m in Turkey, my family doesn’t celebrate Thanksgiving. However, if I’m in the United States then I celebrate with my half-brother and half-sister.”</p>	 <p><b>Emmanuel Walyaula</b> Sophomore Business and Marketing</p> <p>“Eating turkey, jello dessert, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes and gravy, and other food.”</p>	 <p><b>Brittany Grandaw</b> Junior Animal Science</p> <p>“We get together at my mom’s families’ house and we eat a big meal together.”</p>
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Check out the Student Voice online at [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com).



# Chins held high after loss to top-ranked Whitewater

Bryan Tester  
bryan.test@my.uwrf.edu

On Saturday the UW-River Falls football team played in its final game of the 2014 season against the number one team in the nation, UW-Whitewater.

The Falcons would give the Warhawks its biggest test of the season, but it wasn't enough as the Falcons fell 28-25 in the final seconds of the fourth quarter.

With game-time temperatures in the 20s with light snow flurries, weather was sure to be an issue for both teams. The Warhawks started the game without its top wide receiver due to concussion like symptoms, but that didn't seem to stop Whitewater.

The first quarter was all Warhawks, scoring on both of the team's first two possessions. In the first drive by the Warhawks, the team used its hurry-up offence and went 76 yards down field on eight plays, which included a 24-yard touchdown reception on a play-action pass.

On the Falcon's second possession, junior quarterback Ryan Kusilek would fumble on the Falcon's own 35-yard line during a handoff to sophomore running back Rance Ashley, giving the Warhawks great field position. Whitewater would take advantage, scoring on a one-yard rush by Dennis Moore after driving 35 yards on six plays and taking an early 14-0 lead.

The Falcons would have the ball for the remaining four minutes of the first quarter and into the start of the second quarter. During the drive, the Falcons were able to come up with huge third-down conversions, which included a 25-yard reception by senior wide receiver Jordan Christianson on a crucial third-and-eight.

The offense made major adjustments on its third offensive drive as the Falcons ran the field 82 yards ending in a 12-yard touchdown scamper by Kusilek to bring the Falcons within one touchdown. Kusilek would miss the extra point as the team cut the deficit to eight.

It wasn't only the offense that made adjustments, as the defense left it all out on the field on the Warhawks' third drive of the game.

Whitewater would start its drive on its own 25-yard line after a touch-back on the ensuing kick-off. The Warhawks would get the ball in the Falcons red-zone for a third straight possession.

The Falcon defense would come up huge after making four big stops and none bigger than the fourth and one stop on a dive play up the middle. UWRF would start with the ball on its own one-yard line after the turnover on downs.

The Falcons got the ball out to midfield, but would turn the ball over after an interception. Whitewater missed a field goal wide-left and the half would end 14-6.

Whitewater would start with the ball on the second half and on its first possession would go three-and-out, having to punt to the Falcons. UWRF would have great field position starting with the ball at the center of the field. Kusilek would lead the offense on an eight play 52-yard drive which included a four-yard touchdown run by Kusilek, his second of the day. The Falcons two-point conversion would fail and the score would be 14-12. Whitewater came back with the hurry up offense and was able to go 62 yards down field on 19 plays to score a touchdown and extend the lead to 21-12.

After the Warhawk touchdown, both teams would fail to score again in the remaining time of the third quarter but the Falcons would start with the ball in the fourth quarter.

The Falcons would lose one yard on a rush attempt to start the fourth quarter. On the next play, Kusilek would connect with Christianson for a 56-yard touchdown reception to get the Falcons within three.

"That was a big play and a needed play," Kusilek said. "That's why you go to Jordan in that situation. He's a big time player."

Kusilek would miss the extra point and the score would stand at 21-18. After 10 minutes of play, both teams would be unable to score. Whitewater looked to change that after moving the ball to the Falcons five-yard line. The hard-nosed Falcon defense seemed unfazed shutting the Warhawks down and forcing a turnover on downs.

UWRF had a big test ahead of



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications  
Junior quarterback Ryan Kusilek scores a rushing touchdown in Saturday's 28-25 loss to Whitewater.

them needing to go 95 yards in five minutes. The Falcons were able to make an impressive drive and get all the way to the Warhawks red-zone that included a huge 34-yard reception by senior wide receiver Charlie Dixon to get the Falcons on the Warhawks four-yard line. On a third-and-goal attempt Kusliek connected with Christianson for a second time and the Falcons would have its first lead of the game making the score 25-21. With 1:20 remaining. Whitewater had to cover a lot of ground and fast.

Whitewater would start out with

great field position returning the Falcon kick-off to its 39-yard line. Five plays later, the Warhawks would score the go-ahead touchdown and take a 28-25 lead. The Falcons would be unable to score in the 26 seconds that remained and would fall 28-25 in a heartbreaker.

In an interview with Sports Information, coach Matt Walker said: "This was a great game, one of the best I've been around. I can't be more proud of our guys. To take Whitewater to the limit with the great streak they are on says a lot about our team. If you watched us

play today you saw what we are all about."

The Falcons shouldn't walk off the field with its heads down. The team won three games this season after finishing last season without a win, as well as scoring the most point on Whitewater all season.

Kusilek finished with an impressive game with four touchdowns that included two throwing and two rushing. Christianson finished his collegiate career with a bang with five receptions, 111 yards and two touchdowns.

# Women's basketball splits opening weekend tournament

Collin Kottke  
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women's basketball opened its season with a tournament at the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville, Minnesota, this past weekend; the Falcons split the two games it played in the tournament.

The Falcons drew St. Mary's University (Winona, Minnesota) as its first opponent of the tournament. The Falcons put up a heck of a fight against the 23rd nationally ranked St. Mary's.

The first half didn't start off well for the Falcons. At the half the Falcons trailed St. Mary's by 19 points. The Falcons battled in the second half to out-score St. Mary's by nine in the half. The Falcons trimmed the final margin to only ten points with St. Mary's winning 72-62.

"If we would have played two good halves, we probably would've stole one from them," said Head Coach Cindy Holbrook. "We only played a good second half and we got beat."

Three Falcons went into double-digits in the game with sophomore forward Kate Theisen leading the way with 14 points. Sophomore guard Katie Messman and junior captain guard Richell Mehus put in 13 and 10 points, respectively. Freshman forward Taylor Karge and sophomore guard Hannah Pignato contributed seven points each in the Falcon's defeat.

The Falcons as a team cleaned the glass, out-rebounding victorious St. Mary's by a 39-33 margin. Seven was the lucky number for the rebound leaders for the Falcons: Theisen, Mehus and Karge were the game's leading rebounders, each grabbing seven.

Shelby Auseth led the scoring charge with 18 for St. Mary's. Emma Schafer came off the bench to contribute 13 points for the victors. Molly O'Toole and Bridgett Pethke both put in 10.

The Falcons faced off against St. Benedict in day two of the tournament on Sunday. The Falcons came out on top in its



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications  
Sophomore Kate Theisen reacting after a whistle against UW-Superior on Feb. 18 at the Karges Center.

matchup against the tournament hosts.

It was a three-point ball game at the half and ended up being a 10-point victory for the Falcons. UWRF defeated St. Benedict by a score of 49-39. Mehus led the Falcons throughout the tournament and was named to the all-tournament team. Mehus scored eight points and grabbed 10 rebounds on Sunday. Karge led the Falcons in scoring on day two with 15 points. Karge also grabbed six boards in the contest. Sophomore center Taylor Augustine came off the bench and was a rebounding machine for the Falcons. Augustine grabbed nine rebounds in eighteen minutes of play.

"It went really well. It gives us a good starting point for where to build off of for the rest of the season," Karge said about the opening tournament. "It was really nice to get that win under our belt and hopefully we can build off of it."

Before the tournament and the regular season tipped off, the women traveled to Madison to take on the UW-Madison Badgers on Nov. 9. The Badgers won 94-55, but the Falcons came away with many positives from the exhibition.

"We really went to Madison wanting to see if we could run our stuff and see if we could focus on our piece and keep our composure," Holbrook said. "That was a great experience for us, really, really fun. But we really try to focus on us."

"It was an amazing experience just to play in the facilities that they have. It was honestly such an honor to play against such great athletes," Karge said. "The game was very different, they are a lot stronger and a lot faster, but I thought we played pretty well against them."

The Falcons play its first home game on Saturday. The game tips off at 3 p.m. against the St. Olaf Oles.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

HOME VS. EAU CLAIRE

PUCK DROPS- 2:05 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

HOME VS. ST. OLAF

TIP-OFF- 3:00 P.M.

MEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

HOME VS. LAWRENCE

PUCK DROPS- 7:05 P.M.

MEN'S HOCKEY

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

HOME VS. NORTHLAND

PUCK DROPS- 7:05 P.M.



# Women’s hockey splits with fifth ranked Stevens Point

Cooper Nelson  
cooper.nelson@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team faced off against the UW-Stevens Point Pointers last weekend and came out of the two-game series with a win and a loss.

The Falcons switched spots with the Pointers in the Div. III USCHO.com rankings. As of Nov. 17, the Falcons are ranked sixth and the pointers are ranked fifth.

The Falcons defeated the Pointers in its first matchup on Nov. 14 by the score of 3-2. The game started out rough, and the Falcons found themselves losing 2-0 in the second period, but the Falcons would respond with three unanswered goals to get the victory in its first WIAC game of the season.

Sophomore forward Karleigh Wolkerstorfer and freshman forward Dani Kocina both scored in the second period for the Falcons to tie up the game at two. Nine minutes into the third period, freshman forward Amy Auran put the game-winning-goal into the back of the net and the Falcons won the game 3-2.

Falcons Head Coach Joe Cranston was pleased with the Falcons first conference game.

“It’s great to get a win against Stevens Point, they’re obviously a really good team and they’re really physical,” Cranston said. “We outplayed them, we out skated them all three periods.”

The second game of the series came the next day, Nov. 15. The Pointers capitalized on a Falcon penalty late in the first period and scored the first goal of the game with 16 seconds left in the first. The next goal came five minutes in the second and the Pointers took a 2-0 lead.

Junior forward Chloe Kinsel responded for

the Falcons with two goals of her own and the game was tied up at two. The Pointers then scored the game-winning goal with two minutes left in the game.

Cranston said that he thought the Falcons outplayed the Pointers despite the loss.

“I think we’re the better team, but we missed a couple open nets,” Cranston said. “We had five or six really good scoring chances in the third to win the game, but we couldn’t bury the puck.”

The Falcons out-shot the Pointers in both games and in the end goalkeeping is what decided the last game. Cranston said that Stevens Point has one of the best goalies in the country.

He also said that Falcons freshman goaltender Angie Hall is getting better every game she plays.

Five games into the season the Falcons have a 3-2 record, which is a better start to the season than last year, a season where the Falcons finished third in the country.

The season is young and for some teams it takes a while for them to get into a groove, but Kinsel thinks the team will all be on the same page soon.

“It’s still early, we’re still trying to figure out what’s going to work best, but I think we’re definitely improving,” Kinsel said.

UW-Eau Claire is next on the Falcons’ schedule and Cranston expects the Falcons to get two victories from the Blugolds.

“The only way an Eau Claire team can beat us is if they out-work us,” Cranston said.

The Falcons take on the Blugolds in Hunt Arena on Friday, Nov. 21, with drop of the puck at 2:05 p.m. The series will finish in Eau Claire at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22.



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications  
**Freshman forward Dani Kocina slipping past a Pointers defender. The Falcons defeated UW-Stevens Point 3-2 on Nov. 14.**



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications  
**Sophomore center Karleigh Wolkerstorfer wins a face-off against a Pointers forward in the Falcons’ 3-2 victory over UW-Stevens Point on Nov. 14.**

# UWRF athletics contests aimed at getting students into the bleachers

Ryan Tibbitts  
ryan.tibbitts@my.uwrf.edu

In an effort to get students more excited about UW-River Falls athletics there are a number of fun contests going on this coming weekend at home sporting events.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, the Falcons men’s hockey team is hosting its first ever “Movember (mustache November) Game” at Hunt Arena when the Falcons play Lawrence University.

“Each team typically does a cancer awareness game,” said Assistant Athletic Director Crystal Lanning. “The men’s hockey team has done Movember and thought that

this game would be a fun way to tie that in with their cancer awareness game.”

The goal of Movember, according to the Movember Foundation found on Movember.com, is to “change the face of men’s health.”

This is done by men growing out their mustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men’s health issues such as prostate cancer. According to the website, over \$559 million has been raised through the Movember campaign.

At the men’s hockey game on Friday, there will be two parts to the mustache contest. The first part is a player mustache contest where pictures of the players fake or real

mustaches will be on jars and fans will have the opportunity to donate money by giving to the jar they think has the best mustache.

The second part is a fan mustache contest where three fans with the best real or fake mustaches will be brought down to the ice. Fans will cheer for their favorite mustache and that person will be given a prize. All money made at the game will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

The men’s hockey team is off to a hot 4-0 start this season.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, there will be a “Falcon Pride Super Fan Contest” for the women’s and men’s basketball home opener. The women’s team will host St. Olaf College at 3 p.m. and the men’s team will host Concordia University at 5 p.m.

Prizes will be given during each game for the best super fan. The super fan winner will be determined by who is the loudest, and who can get the most fans involved.

Earlier this year when talking about the Falcon Cup Contest, junior basketball captain Richell Mehus said a lot of times people will come to the start of the game but then leave.

“It is great to see so many people at the game but is kind of a letdown when they leave,” Mehus said.

The idea of the Falcon Pride Super Fan Contest is to get people to

the games and excited about Falcon basketball so they will want to keep coming back all season long. The men’s team already hosted a red vs. white team scrimmage with a dunk contest and a youth basketball player’s lighting contest earlier this year to get people excited about the season. The event had a good turnout for being the first one the team has tried and both teams are hoping for a strong turnout Saturday.

Both basketball teams have just started their seasons with men at 0-2 and the women at 2-1.

For more information on the Movember game or on the Falcon Pride Super Fan Contest go to uwrf-sports.com.



# ‘Interstellar’ features space travel in a rich, mind-bending sci-fi adventure



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

Be ready to take an amazing and mind-bending ride when you go to see “Interstellar,” as accurate science and excellent acting guide this trip through space to save the human race.

The Earth is dying. Dust storms wreak the land as humanity has resorted to farming as its last bastion of survival and no solution is in sight. But hope exists, and Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) is one such farmer/ former NASA pilot who believes that humanity can exist far away.

He shares this dream with his optimistic yet headstrong daughter Murphy who claims there are ghosts in the house. Cooper remains skeptical, but after finding that some force is trying to communicate with his family through a room in their house, he tracks a message from beings that could have the answer to Earth’s problems.

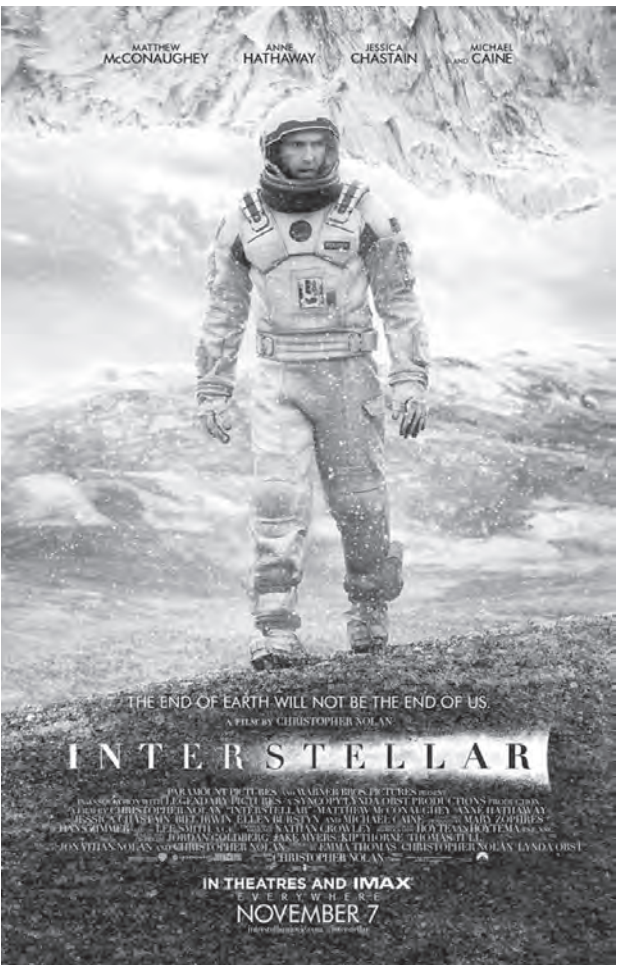
Interactions between characters in “Interstellar” are a major highlight, with most of the films weight carried by the excellent performances from the actors. The surprise and hope felt through McConaughey as his character finds that NASA is attempting to find a way off of Earth for humanity helps instill in the audience the notion that humanity is bound for so much with the science and technology it has obtained over time,

even when our hero volunteers to take on this search.

As technology goes for “Interstellar,” it is beautifully shot down to a T. Our hero Cooper’s first steps into space in order to find a way off the planet are some of the most awe-inspiring shots of space I have seen in any film in so long.

The grandeur, beauty, and existential horror that entails looking into the abyss is perfectly captured through the cinematography (thanks to Hoyte van Hoytema) and music by Hans Zimmer, who strikes it out again in “Interstellar” with a hauntingly epic score that reverberates into your heart with each sway of the orchestra.

Science is also a large note for “Inter-



stellar.” For many movies, especially in the science fiction genre, the science of a film’s universe can only go so far into the realms of possibility before it has to drop its goods and resort to fiction.

Most sci-fi films are okay with getting by with just enough real science and possibility before having to just do what it wants for the sake of plot and fantasy. “Interstellar” though, takes it extremely far with its science, even taking on theoretical physicist Kip Thorne as the science consul-

tant for the movie.

Much of the science that went into the story of the film is incredibly accurate, from what a worm hole would actually look like to

how time works when passing through to another side of the universe. For the feat alone of having incredible scientific credibility, the film should be remembered for that.

And much of that science figures into the plot, for the whole movie is about science, survival and the unknown. As our intrepid hero Cooper ventures into space to find humanity’s salvation, it becomes increasingly clear that his mission may lead to his and his crew’s destruction.

Even his partner Amelia Brand (Anne Hathaway) begins to have less faith in the mission over time as people are lost, secrets are revealed, and the people back home change for better and for worse.

The odyssey of our heroes takes them further and further into space and onwards into the unknown and almost the impossible. In some way though the film becomes improbable in a pretty sentimental and heart-heavy way throughout, which brought some of it down a bit for me; let’s just say love is not as quantifiable as director/writer Christopher Nolan may let on.

But maybe that’s a bit understandable, for the major message of “Interstellar” is about how science and our love for our fellow man will be what guides and saves us in this uncertain and unpredictable universe; how when these two elements combine they create a force that allows us to go on where we were never meant to tread. Into the black, and into eternity.

*Ryan Funes is a junior journalism student. Ryan enjoys all facets of popular culture and would love to report on any and all of it one day. Ryan's main interests lie in animation, film, and anything written by Neil Gaiman.*

# Thanksgiving brings thoughts on overlooked details

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Finally, after two long months of classes, exams and papers, we will be allowed a break.

Thanksgiving is coming fast and is already next week. While it is important to realize that the holiday is to commemorate pilgrims coming to the U.S. to escape religious persecution, it is also one to realize that things and people you have in your life.

There are many things that each of us can be thankful for, and some things we may not even realize or think about often. That is one major challenge that we should all tackle this year: to look at the things in our lives that we

often overlook.

One thing we overlook often is a working thermostat. Winter has gotten started early here in River Falls, a little too early if you ask me. Once that wind starts blowing, the walk to class or work can become brutal.

The waterfall of pain that trickles down your face is so sudden and piercing that all you want to do is get inside as soon as possible.

However, the experience is only improved if one has a working thermostat to crank up that heat. Many people do not have an adequate heating system in their place of residence, so they should never be taken for granted. And I hate to be a pessimist, but it is only going to get worse out there, folks.

There are many things that each of us can be thankful for, and some things we may not even realize or think about often.

We should also be thankful for our roommates. Love them or hate them, they are experiencing a lot of the same triumphs and failures you are. They are there to let you in when you accidentally lock yourself out picking up your pizza delivery. They are there to rant to when a professor gives a little too much homework or when you are frustrated with classmates.

Every roommate relationship is different and unique, and that is what makes them interesting. Whether they are horrible at dishes or leave you little pick-me-ups while you are at class, you learn to live with them and appreciate who they are. And you never know; they could end up being a friend for life.

Other things to be thankful for are ideas I gathered from a class recently. We should be thankful for the wonders of the world. It could be anything from an insect to a color’s appealing pigmentation to an ocean or a su-

pergiant star millions of light years away.

There is still so much we do not know about the world around us; and if we just paid attention a little more, we would learn more than we could ever imagine. How deep does the ocean really go? What is happening on other planets and stars at this very second? We have a long way to go with our knowledge; but first, we must appreciate it.

This Thanksgiving, make sure to be thankful for the obvious things, such as friends, family and good food. But also don’t forget to notice the seemingly trivial things, such as roommates, classmates, heaters and the world around you.

It’s so easy to get caught up in family celebrations and traditions and forget these, but you will learn quite a lot from it and look at your life with a whole new perspective.

*Cristin Dempsey is a senior from Eagan, Minnesota, majoring in English liberal arts with a professional writing emphasis and minoring in music. In her spare time, Cristin likes to write, play music and work out.*

# UWRF Culture Fest celebrates diversity throughout campus



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
The Ha Family Lion Dancers dance a traditional Chinese lion dance as traditional Chinese music is played on a drum with cymbals. The lion dance was one of the acts that performed at Culture Fest on Nov. 14.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
UWRF junior Oboi Jones (left) plays piano while freshman Alleluia Musabyimana (middle) and freshman Mallory Tshiok (right) sing a cover of “Oceans” by Hillsong United. They performed at Culture Fest on Nov. 14.

Check out the Student Voice on Twitter @uwrvoice.

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