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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## ‘Better UW Initiative’ launches at UWRF

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The “Better UW Initiative” has been launched on campuses throughout the UW System, including UW-River Falls, by the UW System Representatives in reaction to Gov. Scott Walker’s \$300 million budget cut proposal.

The goal of the Better UW Initiative is to reduce the magnitude of proposed cuts to the UW System, implement a fixed undergraduate resident tuition cap in the State Statute, preserve efficiencies in the proposed UW System Authority, and maintain shared governance in State Statute, according to the UW System Representatives website.

The Better UW Initiative focuses on involving students, families and taxpayers in the advancement toward a more efficient UW System due to the lack of state support.

The UW System Representatives is a body made up of the presidents, vice presidents, and other campus members of all 26 schools in the UW System.

Brady Murphy, the campaign leader for the Better UW Initiative at UWRF, said that getting the word out about the initiative to a large number of students has been off to a difficult start but there are a lot of strategies currently in place to get people talking, including hosting tables in the University Center and creating pamphlets to hand out to students.

Murphy emphasized the importance of starting discussions about the initiative among students at UWRF, and said he plans to sched-

ule meetings for students to attend throughout the semester.

“I think it’s a very crucial step to allow students to come to these discussions, talk to myself, faculty members, or students who are very well-versed on what’s going on in Madison right now, and just ask questions because the best thing a student can do right now is to know what’s going on,” Murphy said.

Daniel Saunders, the student organizer for the Better UW Initiative, said in an email interview that he hopes to get as many students informed about the budget as possible.

“If a student will be affected by the cuts, they should know,” Saunders said. “Whether it be from adding a semester because of a dropped class or because their minor or major is dropped.”

Murphy said he believes there is a thought process that one vote won’t make a difference in the outcome, but he begs to differ.

“The UW System is made up of thousands upon thousands of students and we represent a very strong learning community and it’s only when everyone is well-versed enough to know what it is that they are trying to decide on, that those votes will really matter and Madison will have to react to what it is that students want in these learning communities,” Murphy said.

In order to have a greater impact on the way the proposal is voted on, Murphy said he encourages students to reach out to their government representatives and tell them how they feel.

“We have a very strong campus

with very passionate people here and I believe that with the empowering knowledge that can give, it’s going to be out of my hands pretty soon here and I am absolutely excited to see what students at this campus want to do with their future,”

Murphy said.

There will be a statewide day of action at UWRF on April 2, and Murphy encourages students to go into the Student Senate office in the University Center to lodge their own ideas about what they want to

see happen at the event.

For more information about the Better UW Initiative and updates about the budget cuts, visit [www.uwreps.com/better-uw.html](http://www.uwreps.com/better-uw.html) or visit the Better UW Initiative Facebook page.



Photo courtesy of UW Student Representatives.

## General education requirements to be amended

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Soon it will be time to sign up for fall classes and the Degree Audit Report (DAR) will look slightly different because of impending general education budget cuts.

Budget cuts to the UW System could be enacted in July, so UWRF is faced with the potential of a major cut from the state and must find ways to offset the loss of funds. One of the first financial figures students heard was a loss of \$4 million in funds. Now, it seems the figure is estimated to be well over that amount.

The cuts are a topic of conversation with students and faculty alike. No one knows quite what to expect. Every department will have to tighten its belt and make some sacrifices.

Professor Donovan Taylor, chair of the general education Univer-

sity Requirements Committee, explained how general education requirements for graduation will change.

“It’s going to be very hard, but we are trying to make it,” Taylor said. “Part of it was to make it more flexible for students so that they are not delayed in being able to finish their program. It’s going to hurt, we are losing some things for sure, but we are really trying to make it so that students still progress in a timely way.”

One major change will be in general education requirements for graduation. Certain areas in all but goal one on the DAR will change.

Goal one will remain a priority for the university, and goal two will require only one course in humanities and fine arts and one in social and behavioral sciences. Previously, students had to take two courses in

each.

Goal three has the same math requirements as before but the science requirement has changed. Previously, a student must take one science class and take one science lab. There will be no lab requirement in the future but two science classes will be necessary. Science classes will incorporate enhanced scientific inquiry into the classes to make up for the lab. In the fall of 2016, in goal four, the multidisciplinary requirement and the ethical citizenship requirement will be eliminated.

Finally, goal five will no longer require two credits of physical education. One credit of health and wellness will now be the only physical education credit needed for graduation. Students will no longer need to enroll in physical education classes with activities.

The most glaring change is

that starting next fall students can double-count courses for multiple requirements. So a class could, in theory, count in a major, minor, and a general education requirement. Students will still need to take 120 credits to graduate, however.

Taylor said students may notice the course catalog offers fewer classes and sections.

“This means some sacrifice for all,” Taylor said.

Not all students agree with the changes in physical education.

“How is it really physical education? Obesity is already a problem in our society,” said Taylor Polka, sophomore animal science student. “I feel like that’s going to get worse, especially in the college setting. We aren’t as active as we probably should be.”

“It’s definitely not a good thing that they are cutting down on the

requirements,” said Sam Kirmis, junior geology student.

Polka does believe UWRF is struggling with the budget shortfall.

“I think it’s okay,” Polka said. “I think they just need to look at it and make sure they think they are doing the best for everyone in the long run.”

Taylor said none of the changes were made lightly. All departments were able to be represented in the negotiation process of these changes. He went on to say it was a difficult process and UWRF is still committed to providing the best education possible.

There will be ongoing developments of the changes as soon as the university works out the details. In the meantime, look over your DAR carefully and note the changes that affect you.

## UWRF biology department tests new beekeeping model

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The UWRF biology department recently received funding to test a honey bee management strategy for non-migratory beekeepers in hopes to maintain and increase regional beekeeping.

For the next two years, UWRF biology professor Brad Mogen and his wife, Kim, will lead researchers and students in the project. The project will evaluate the overwintering capabilities of small beehives called nucleus colonies or “nucs.”

The “nucs” can be used to replenish winter losses of bees or hives. The “nucs” can also be produced over the summer by splitting existing hives and keeping them over the winter where the bees can replenish the following year’s hives.

“I actually tested it a little bit at my own apiary after doing a fair amount of research on it and it looked promising,” Mogen said.

“Nucs” will be created over the summer and headed by five queens from different genetic lines.

The research will be done to see which genetic line can best survive the winter. According to Mogen, the project is meant to test the regional adaptation of the bees. The hives that are a part of the research project are small and meant for research, they are not expected to produce much honey.

The majority of Wisconsin’s honey producers run small, non-migratory beekeeping operations. With annual mortality losses between 30-50 percent of bees over the winter, most beekeeping operations have trouble replenishing their hives af-

ter a few years.

Diseases and pesticides also contribute to the troubles that beekeepers are having, as it is expensive to replace hives.

Annual replacement costs are expensive and are making beekeeping unprofitable for many non-migratory operations. According to Mogen, a single package of bees which comes with three pounds of bees and a queen can cost around \$120. Even if operations sell the produced honey it still would be tough to make a profit.

With the nucleus colonies, many of those costs are eliminated, since you no longer have to purchase bee packages anymore.

Beekeepers are able to select desirable traits such as enhanced winter hardiness, to make it easier for bees to survive the Wisconsin win-

ters.

The research project was funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection for a total of \$30,438, with the source of the funding coming from the United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant.

The research project will also let a select few UWRF students participate in the research and gain experience with collecting data and learning bee management procedures. Charles Hayes is one of the students who is going to be involved with the program.

“I thought it sounded like a really interesting way to get involved in the research community,” Hayes said. “I hope to get valuable research experience from the program, and now that I have started

working with bees I really do enjoy it and it is incredibly satisfying.”

For Mogen, the involvement of students is one of the best parts of the project.

“The funnest part of this whole project quite bluntly is seeing the students get excited about it,” Mogen said.

The “nucs” will be located at Mogen’s home in his apiary during the two years of the project, where he is getting ready to begin the research. When the project is done, Mogen hopes to be able to write a recommendation for this model for beekeepers.

Project results will be presented to regional honeybee clubs and to the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association when research is finished.



# News briefs:

## Student Voice, WRFW win awards in contests

Two UW-River Falls campus media organizations—the Student Voice and WRFW—have won awards in statewide competitions for newspaper journalism and broadcasting.

The Voice earned third place for best editorial in its publication category from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) Foundation. The campus newspaper won for its staff-written editorial, “Senate elections struggle with numerous issues,” published in October 2013.

The foundation announced winners of the 2014 Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest during the annual WNA convention held Feb. 26-27 in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Students Bryan Tester and Drew Moldenhauer from campus radio station WRFW won third place for sports play-by-play announcing from the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA).

“Hockey is probably the toughest sport to call,” a judge of the WBA’s annual Student Awards for Excellence said. “The coverage of the action was great, as was the overall sound quality, which often isn’t the case for college hockey games.”

The award was announced during the WBA’s annual Student Seminar held March 7 in Middleton, Wisconsin.

## UWRF asks students to vote for best faculty

UW-River Falls is inviting the classes of 2010, 2012 and 2015 to assist the university in honoring faculty who make a difference in the lives of students.

UWRF, again this year, will recognize an exceptional teacher and a dedicated adviser from the faculty by naming the 2015 Distinguished Teacher and the 2015 Academic Adviser of the Year.

Please visit [www.uwrf.edu/awards/](http://www.uwrf.edu/awards/) for complete instructions and the online nomination form. UWRF thanks those who take the time to help the university with these important selections. Nominations must be made by Friday, March 27.

## ‘Risking Everything’ on exhibit in library

“Risking Everything: A Freedom Summer Exhibit for Students” documents the 1964 Freedom Summer project, when Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers and volunteers went to Mississippi to challenge segregation.

They attempted to register voters, teach in “freedom schools,” and establish a new political party. More than 60,000 black Mississippians risked everything to join them.

View the 16-panel exhibit on the main floor of the UW-River Falls Davee Library until April 8 and at the River Falls Public Library over UWRF’s spring break.

While you are over in the Davee Library, stop down on the lower level and view two additional window displays on the Freedom Summer and some of the things that were happening in Wisconsin at that time.

## Beef management team sells fresh ground beef

The UW-River Falls beef management team has ground beef for sale. The beef is high-quality, locally-grown and farm-raised beef. The beef management team has changed from years past and is now selling ground beef at \$5.50 per pound.

All the ground beef is in one pound pack-

ages, and you may choose as many pounds as you would like. For more information or to place an order, visit [uwrfbeef.wordpress.com/blog/](http://uwrfbeef.wordpress.com/blog/) and fill out a contact sheet on the beef sale page.

At the UWRF Mann Valley Farm, the beef management team is fortunate to have a beef cattle herd, which currently consists of a 50-head of cows, who are primarily Angus, Hereford and Simmental breeds.

Due to management of the beef cattle, the UWRF Mann Valley Farm has consistently produced high quality beef products. The student-based staff and beef management team are able to have valuable hands-on experience with the beef herd on a daily basis, providing them with education beyond the classroom. As a result, both cattle and students benefit.

## Student Life office looking for interns

The UW-River Falls Student Life office is looking for outstanding students to work as interns for the 2015-16 academic year.

For more information about the eight available positions and to hear success stories from alumni who have worked in the Student Life office, visit [www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/EmploymentOpportunities.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/EmploymentOpportunities.cfm). For more information, email [karyn.wells@uwrf.edu](mailto:karyn.wells@uwrf.edu).

## Rush River Ramblers to play at barn dance

The popular local string band, the Rush River Ramblers, will return for another River Falls barn dance from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, in the River Falls Academy gymnasium.

This regional old-time favorite features musicians from Spring Valley and Martell. Sue West, a nationally recognized recording artist, plays guitar for the Rush River Ramblers. No prior dancing experience is required. A skilled caller teaches steps to newcomers and more seasoned dancers, both young and old. All dances are social and singles are welcome. Children are especially encouraged to participate in the opening family dance segment from 7-8:30 p.m. The second half of the evening may feature somewhat more advanced dances.

The remaining date in the 2014-2015 season will feature Poor Benny on Saturday, April 18. The barn dance series is volunteer-operated and jointly sponsored by 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. Information can be found at <http://www.riverfallscab.org>.

## Midwest Dental hosts ‘Give Kids a Smile’ day

More than 400 under-served children received over \$150,000 in free dental care at the Wisconsin Midwest Dental offices on Friday, Feb. 6, as part of the annual ‘Give Kids a Smile’ day sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA).

In total, 56 dentists and 220 team members at Midwest Dental gave their time to this important cause. ‘Give Kids a Smile’ is the centerpiece of February’s National Children’s Dental Health Month, when the dental health community focuses on children whose families may not have direct access to regular dental care.

The Midwest Dental offices worked closely with local public health agencies, area schools, Head Start programs, nonprofit agencies and youth and community organizations to identify children in need.

“It is truly remarkable to witness the num-

ber of Midwest Dental dentists and team members happily lending their time and skills on behalf of Give Kids a Smile,” said Dr. Elizabeth Rydell, chief dental officer, Midwest Dental. “We are appreciative to have had the opportunity to be a part of Give Kids a Smile since it first started more than 10 years ago and we look forward to continuing the tradition for years to come in our office communities.”

Midwest Dental provides complete family dentistry for patients of all ages and has locations throughout Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.midwest-dental.com](http://www.midwest-dental.com).

## Eau Claire to host ‘Blue Ox Music Festival’

Adding great excitement to Wisconsin’s growing music scene, the founders and organizers of Country Jam USA in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, have launched the Blue Ox Music Festival, a premiere three-day outdoor music festival celebrating the best in bluegrass, roots and Americana.

Blue Ox will take place at Whispering Pines Campground in Eau Claire from June 11-13. Featuring some of the country’s leading and emerging artists, Blue Ox is co-curated by the Twin Cities’ own award-winning modern American string band, Pert Near Sandstone, which will perform twice throughout the weekend.

Blue Ox’s lineup is anchored by touring heavyweights Yonder Mountain String Band, Grammy award winning DelMcCoury Band, and mandolin master and the “Father of Newgrass” himself, Sam Bush.

Tickets are \$100 for two days or \$125 for three days, which includes camping. Visit [www.blueoxmusicfestival.com](http://www.blueoxmusicfestival.com) for more information.

## Pierce County health awarded accreditation

The Pierce County Health Department announced that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation’s tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments. The Pierce County Health Department is one of hundreds of health departments across the country that are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB, the non-profit organization that administers the national public health accreditation program.

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation’s more than 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

The Pierce County Health Department provides a myriad of services for individuals and families such as the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Home Care, Reproductive Health and Prenatal Care Coordination.

In recent years, however, a noticeable shift toward collaboration with community partners to improve health outcomes for the population has been occurring. The department is proud of the results of many successful partnerships aimed at implementing proven, community-based prevention strategies. A variety of reports and studies have shown that preventing disease and injury is the most cost-effective way to improve health.

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program’s launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

“Achieving accreditation indicates that Pierce County Health Department is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said Leslie M. Beitsch, chair of PHAB’s Board of Directors and chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine at Florida State University. “Accreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the U.S.”

The Pierce County Health Department, established in 1943, strives to assure the health of the public, prevent disease and injury, promote healthy behaviors and protect against environmental hazards. The department has offices in Ellsworth and River Falls. For more information, call 715-273-6755 or visit our website at [www.co.pierce.wi.us](http://www.co.pierce.wi.us).

## Wisconsin secures land for public recreation

The second phase of an easement that permanently secures public recreation on 65,867 forest acres in the Wisconsin counties of Douglas, Bayfield, Burnett and Washburn has been approved by the State Natural Resources Board at its February meeting in Madison.

In the second phase, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will acquire an easement from the Lyme St. Croix Forest Company on 21,189 acres at the price of \$5.6 million. The board approved the first phase of the transaction, consisting of 44,678 acres at a cost of \$11.3 million, in June of 2012. The DNR applied for and received \$3.8 million in federal Forest Legacy Program funding for the second phase of the purchase. The remainder of the funding will come from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Together the properties will be known as the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest, because the property is located at the headwaters of the St. Croix and Bois-Brule rivers in the state’s northwest sands area. The entire project contains 80 small lakes and ponds, 14 miles of streams, and a globally significant Pine Barrens habitat.

“This purchase assures that all future generations can enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, skiing, bird-watching, snowmobile trails, portions of the North Country Trail,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “At the same time, the land remains in private ownership, on the tax rolls and will be managed sustainably for forestry purposes. It’s a win-win for everybody that will help maintain the celebrated forested character of the north.”

The second phase of the purchase contains seven named lakes and 32 unnamed lakes and ponds and 4.3 miles of Mud Creek, a class two trout stream. The North Country National Scenic Trails bisects this section of the property. It also includes eight miles of public snowmobile trails. The purchase protects extensive habitat for deer, bear, wolves, woodcock, migratory songbirds and grouse.

More than 17,000 acres of the second purchase are located within the Brule River State Forest acquisition boundary.

The Lyme Timber Company has a long history of owning and managing large forestland properties under conservation easements that provide a steady flow of wood to local mills, regular employment for forest managers and logging contractors, while allowing public recreational access.

This acquisition provides wood products to 12 pulp, saw timber and telephone pole processing mills and other supporting industries in the region. The forest products industry employs nearly 60,000 workers and provides \$22 billion in economic value in wood and paper products. Wisconsin leads the nation in employment and the value of shipments in the forest products industry.

Working forest easements ensure permanent public access for recreational enjoyment while the property itself remains in private ownership. With the completion of the Lyme St. Croix easement, almost 200,000 acres of working forest lands have been protected through conservation easements.

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



# TEDx event to make splash at UW-River Falls

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The worldwide Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) Talks are coming to UW-River Falls this spring for the first time ever. This particular event will be a “TEDx” event. TED Talks have been known to be used in classrooms everywhere, including some classrooms here at UWRF. A TEDx event is a smaller TED event for small venues such as the city of River Falls. TEDx will be held on Saturday, April 11. Each speaker will be given 18 minutes to speak on their

subjects and will be filmed to be uploaded to the TED website. Student Senate President Anthony Sumnicht spoke on how UWRF started pursuing the event and how the TEDx event came to be. “Student Senate has been involved with setting up a TED event for a while now, we actually allocated some funding to get some start-up funds for the TEDx conference, so that is how I am seeing this project through,” Sumnicht said. “To run a TEDx event, a member of the university must attend a TED conference, and there are only a few in the world each year so we flew a representative from Student Life to

get the licensing.” Sumnicht also spoke of how this event, which is \$5 to register for, is perfect for a university looking to keep costs down, “The great thing about TED is that you are not allowed to give your speakers any money to speak.” Said Sumnicht. “We can pay them for their lodging or their travel cost, but you cannot pay them in any way other than accommodate them while they are here.” The TEDx event will host some members of the university community, alumni, speakers from all over the country and even some speakers from outside the country, and well

as musical performances. The list of speakers will be gradually announced by Student Life, according to director of Student Life Paul Shepherd. As of March 11, seven speakers are listed on the UWRF TEDx website. “We would like to stick with this format, theoretically if we want to make this an annual thing, we would have to reapply for the license every year, but there would be less requirements because we would have already of put on a TED event here once,” Shepherd said. “Another piece that interests us in Student Life is the fact that these talks will be filmed and can be viewed at a lat-

er time, so if you are busy and cannot attend you can view these talks at a later time.” This TEDx event can hold up to 300 people. Registration has already begun, and Student Life expects that the event will fill up quicker as the speakers and musical performers are announced. The event will be held in the University Center Riverview Ballroom, as well as a TEDx lounge which will be in the Involvement Center. A TEDx performance area will be in the Falcons Nest where any musical guest will be performing. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and will run throughout the day.



Photo courtesy of Student Life

## Year of 2017-2018 country to be announced in April

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The 2014-2015 academic year is two months away from concluding, meaning the Year of China is also winding down, but that doesn't mean students, faculty and staff cannot play an important role in the Year Of program's longevity. A survey was sent by email to all UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff on Feb. 20, calling for Year of 2017-2018 nominations. Everyone on campus could potentially have a say on which country the Year of 2017-2018 will be focused on. Kayla Java, a UWRF senior business administration student, said an African country would be her choice.

"I think we should do an African one," Java said. "I think that would be really cool because there's a bunch of different cultures all within Africa, but there's a lot of music and good vibes from Africa, I think, so yeah, that would be an interesting one to do." The next academic year will be the Year of Mexico, and the Year of 2016-2017 will be Brazil. After carefully considering nominations and tallying votes, the Faculty Senate International Programs Committee chooses the country. The nomination process starts three years in advance, so the committee and members of the UWRF community can reach out to experts in the surrounding area for participation in the Year Of program. The country chosen must have cultural ties to the region, while also being a country that can be easily focused on academically. "The culture of the region suggests resources for helping us to teach about that country," said International Programs Committee Chair Marshall Toman. "As a professor, for me, the fundamental reason for having these Year Of is to teach the com-

munity about the country, and we need resources to do it." According to UWRF DoTS web services expert Michael Woolsey, the survey will close on Friday, March 13, but could not disclose nomination results just yet. "The results will be delivered to Marshall Toman," Woolsey said. "I'm not in a capacity to make comments about this project." The final decision will be made in late March at a Year Of implementation meeting. All responses to the survey will not be anonymous, and those who submit nominations could be contacted by

**The final decision will be made in late March at a Year Of implementation meeting. All responses to the survey will not be anonymous, and those who submit nominations could be contacted by the committee.**

the committee. Qualtrics, an online survey software, was used in the creation of the survey. Woolsey and Toman cooperated together to build the online survey. Toman said that the committee received a total of 131 nominations last year, in which the International Programs Committee nominated Brazil as the Year of 2016-2017. Forty-seven different countries were nominated last year, but only eight had a legitimate shot, according to Toman, after the nomination process was finished. Brazil had 21 more votes than any other country, 16 of which were from students, a number the committee couldn't ignore. "We would not choose the top country if there were overriding reasons to choose another country, but last year it was kind of hard to ignore the numbers, even

though most of those numbers, a little over half, were composed of students," Toman said. "The irony is, by the time we have the Year of Brazil, we won't have so many Brazilians." Based on trends from previous years, Toman believes the three countries with the best shot at being named the Year of 2017-2018 are India, Japan and South Korea, who combined for a total of 18 nominations from faculty and staff last year. "I have no reason to think that the faculty, the four who nominated India, are going to change their minds, or the four who recommended South Korea or Japan," Toman said.

A specific rubric is used by the committee before the final decision is made, which includes four elements: 1) What strategic importance can be attributed to increasing students' awareness of this particular country and would it be easily achievable? 2) What resources exist to support this particular country (faculty expertise, courses on campus, education abroad opportunities, and expert contacts abroad and local)? 3) What additional resources would likely be accessible to support Year Of activities for this country? 4) What important outcomes are likely to be achieved as a result of focusing on this particular country? "Nominating a country three years down the line hasn't worked out exactly as we'd hoped," Toman said. "I think it's a little bit too far. I think nominating two years ahead instead of three would probably serve the campus just as well, if not better." Toman said that students can expect an announcement to be made on the final decision for the Year of 2017-2018 in the first week of April.

## UWRF biology professor works with 'living biopsy'

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A biology research project at UW-River Falls was awarded "Regents Scholar" by the UW Board of Regents to launch a prototype tool that will enhance cancer research. Professor Timothy Lyden is working with students in the biology department at UWRF to create a new way of examining how cancer spreads through the body using artificial tissue, called the "living biopsy." Working along with Microscopy Innovations in Marshfield, Wisconsin, Lyden is developing a better way to mimic the culture inside the body instead of in an artificial culture dish. The goal is to map out more clearly which types of cancer will spread and to where.

"There's a big economic push for a better way to look at the use of cells, by using natural matrix materials, not synthetically generated," Lyden said. The living biopsy is a piece of cancer taken from a cancer patient with the initial biopsy and put inside the artificial human environment to replicate the patient's body. From there, Lyden and his student interns can see how the can-

cer progresses and if the cancer will spread. With this information they can take it to a physician who can decide which treatment will be the best approach for the individual's cancer. This type of culture won't replace artificial cultures or animal testing for pharmaceutical companies but it does give scientists a more accurate environment to test drugs and treatments on humans. "The therapy strategy is very heavily dependent on a good analysis of what the tumor is going to do and that comes from the biopsy," Lyden said. The UWRF Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC) has extensive experience with studying cancer using a variety of 3D artificial tissue engineering approaches working with doctors and physicians at the Marshfield Clinic. These techniques have already made other approaches to personalized cancer treatments available, according to a TCIC press release. "This new collaboration with Microscopy Innovations allows for greater standardization of the already successful TCIC technology, and so opens the door to cancer analysis and treatment as-

sistance," Lyden said. With the award for the research, Lyden can continue to work on a prototype design of a miniature bioreactor system. At the same time, the studies conducted in this project with standard breast cancer cell lines will also help standardize the living biopsy tool-set in preparation for testing with clinical samples next year. "Once fully tested and validated, the laboratory tool-set is expected to provide clinicians with a unique new insight into each individual patient's case and so help them to develop the most effective individual therapeutic designs," Lyden said. Once finished, Lyden says the end goal is to have a library of responses to the spread of cancer and where in the body the different types of cancer will spread to. Lyden will be working alongside 12 student interns throughout the year. "By the time we test this, we will have created a library of responses we could see in patient tumors. The hope then is that by having that library of information, the living biopsy approach actually can work with patient tumors," Lyden said.

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# EDITORIAL

## General education changes could have positive impact on UWRF students

The general education requirements at UW-River Falls will be drastically different starting in the fall, because of motions passed by the General Education and University Requirements Committee on Feb. 23. Gov. Scott Walker’s UW System budget cut proposal is slowly becoming a reality on the UWRF campus and general education is taking one of the first hits. Beginning in the fall, students will be allowed to count courses as having met requirements wherever they meet educational outcomes. That’s right, double counting credits will possible next year and beyond. UWRF students will no longer need to take two social and behavioral sciences and two humanities and fine arts courses, only one each. Personal health and wellness will no longer require a physical activities course.

Also, starting in the fall of 2016, students will no longer be required to meet ethical citizenship or multidisciplinary requirements, and the committee will be piecing together a “First Year Seminar Requirement” where new students will learn individual, social, and environmental responsibility. Students will still be required to take 120 credits before graduating. So, what this means is that students can still explore different areas of study while cutting back on classes in the general education program that may not necessarily matter to each specific student. The goal of general education, and a liberal arts degree, is to become a more well-rounded individual going out into the workforce. We at the Student Voice believe that the changes in the general education program still allows students to learn in a variety of ways in multiple disciplines, while gaining a tad more freedom to seek out classes in other, non-general fields of study.

The biggest drawback from these changes is the instructor job cuts that are certainly going to happen as a result. Walker’s budget proposal left the General Education and University Requirements Committee no choice but to cut courses and staff.

The Voice recognizes that these changes were unavoidable, and we believe the committee did its best with a rotten situation that the university has been shoved into. Students can still spend the first two years at UWRF exploring different programs and taking courses they feel will be beneficial to their eventual career decisions.

We expect more developments in not only the general education program, but in all colleges throughout the next few months leading up to July 1, so keep your ear to the ground and check out the Better UW Initiative at <http://www.uwreps.com/better-uw.html> for ways to be better prepared for the impending changes.

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

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Professors can work to eliminate student rudeness in their classrooms over time

Christine Marriott’s letter last week describing the rudeness she witnesses and discomfort she feels each day in class is disturbing; such problems could readily be eliminated by professors over time. During the 1960s at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wisconsin, these were rules imposed by various professors:

- 1) Closed-door policy: At the exact time class was scheduled to begin, the door was closed; no one was allowed to enter thereafter, no exceptions. Generally, the chronically late students complained and missed a few classes. However, the professor’s constancy prevailed and the class benefited. The closed-door policy put responsibility on the professor to be on time as well and to mind the clock.
- 2) Professional dress and conduct were required. Education was about preparing students for the professional world. T-shirts and jeans were not allowed. No food, pop, or water was allowed in the classroom. The rules applied to the professor as well. While professors

might have been your “buddy,” they were first and foremost your example. 3) Cellphones and other electronic devices were non-existent. Had they been, and if they were not necessary for the particular class, I imagine they would have been either collected, no excuses: “Use of cell phones is prohibited during my class.” Marriott wants her professors to step up, take control of their classrooms, and set boundaries conducive to learning. Her message is clear, and she is very likely not alone. Teaching is not easy, particularly with students who have been raised in what I call the “Good Job!” generation. And, we live in a lenient society. The rare possibility of having rules challenged exists, but let’s toss the excuses out the window. To professors who contend college students shouldn’t be disciplined, re-read Marriott’s letter. If not you, then who?

-Roseanne Olsen

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## Please return by Friday, April 17

Be the first person to 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 will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter account: [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice). Now Playing: “Cinderella”



# Student organizations face large funding gap

Hayden Bosch  
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Student organizations on the UWRF campus will find themselves with roughly one-fifth the amount of requested budget funds next year due to a lack of allocated money, according to a student budgeting official.

In an email interview with Allocable Fees Appropriation Board (AFAB) Chair Dylan Asp, he stated that the total amount of money requested by student organizations for next year’s budget totaled \$506,710.82. This is compared to the total available money for next year’s organizations: \$114,695.64.

With such a big gap between these two numbers, many, if not all, student organizations should expect to see requested budgets fall very short. Between the 51 allocations that were requested for next year out of the 75 organizations that attended annual budget training, according to Asp, a total of roughly \$2,250 would be available per organization if it were evenly split. If the money were available, the average amount given to each organization would be about \$9,950.

It is not uncommon, however, for an organization to submit a budget request which vastly exceeds the amount actually required to run a organization. While this could be a contributing factor to this discrepancy, it is certainly not the only cause.

According to the UWRF website’s information on allocated segregated fees, students taking eight or more credits are paying a total of \$40.40 per year, not including students who take classes over J-term or summer, to fund student organizations on campus.

This budget difference is one of many budgeting issues to be facing UWRF lately. With Gov. Scott Walker’s budget cut proposal and Student Senate’s cuts to student media funding, many students are feeling disheartened by these changes.

“It’s an unfortunate situation that there are so many organizations hoping for so much money and it will be difficult for AFAB to allocate it out,” said Emily Johnson, editor-in-chief of Prologue, a creative arts publication and organization on campus. “However, some organizations deserve, not more money, but their budget needs more money to function.”

UWRF is neither the best- nor the worst-funded regard-

ing its money set aside for student organizations. UW-Eau Claire’s student organizations fund was a total of \$32,000 for the 2014-15 academic year, according to its university website, roughly one-third of UWRF’s funding. Meanwhile, UW-La Crosse had a total organized activities fee of \$60.59 for the 2014-15 academic year, \$20.19 more than UWRF.

Student Senate has already finalized budgets for all student organizations, according to Sen. Brady Murphy, besides those residing within the Student Media Committee (Student Voice, WRFW, Focus on U and Prologue), which are slated to be deliberated on by Senate during its next meeting on March 24. The budgets are set to be approved and finalized by Chancellor Dean Van Galen sometime in early April.

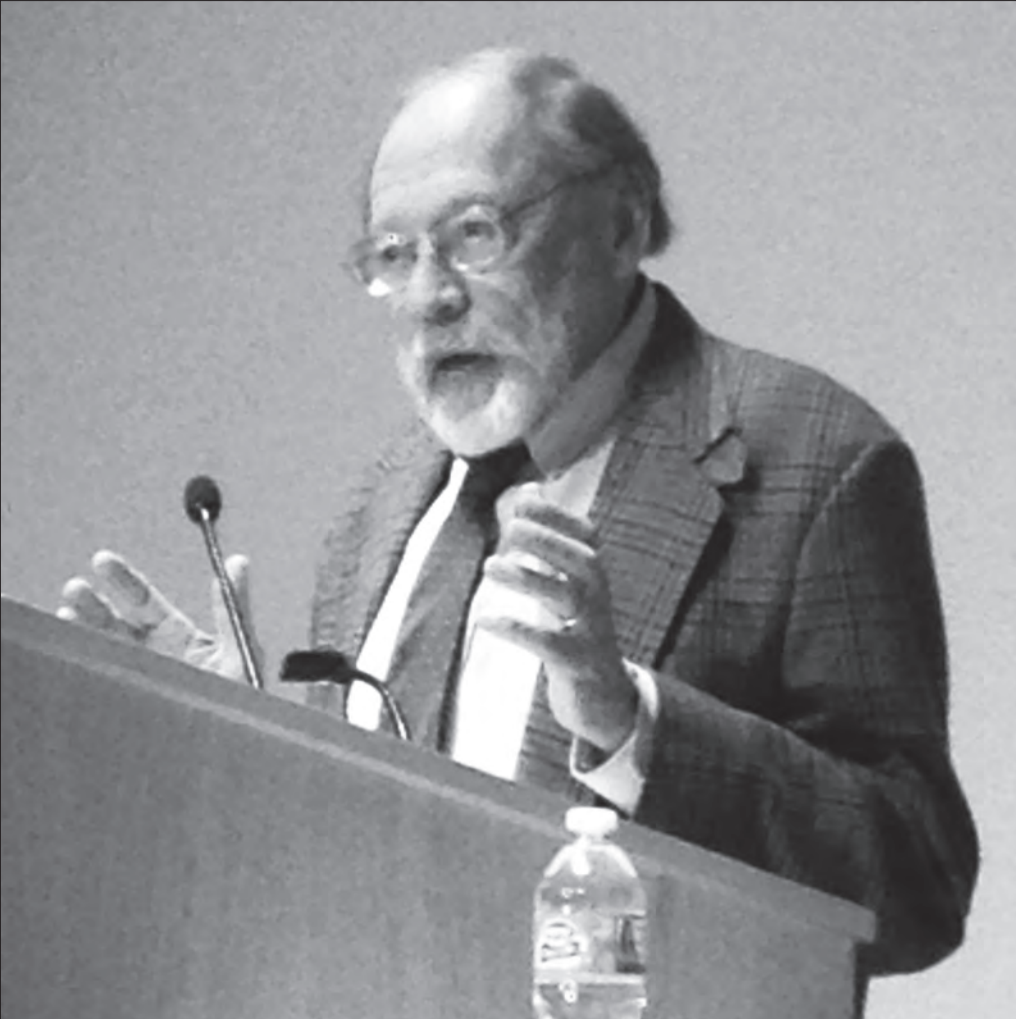
With this information, it is apparent that it varies between colleges how much money is set aside for student organizations. In this regard, UWRF falls roughly in the middle. Student organizations on campus should be weary that, when applying for a budget next year, each organization will likely have to have a contingency plan to account for the limited funds available.

## University of Kansas professor speaks to UWRF students



Jack Haren/Student Voice

The very first Wyman Visiting Professor, Donald Worster, speaks to curious students following his March 4 lecture. Worster also spoke to the community at the River Falls Library on March 6.



Jack Haren/Student Voice

University of Kansas Professor Donald Worster lectures in the Kinnickinnic River Theater in the University Center on March 4, on the higher altruism in American environmental values.

# Write a letter to the editor.

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

# STUDENT voices

What are your plans for spring break?

Compiled by Amara Young



*Left:*  
**Kevin Judd, junior, business administration and communications**  
“Going to New York for internship interviews.”



*Right:*  
**Sara Joslin, sophomore, elementary education**  
“Working at the C.H.I.L.D. Center and celebrating my birthday.”



*Left:*  
**Tiara Shepard, freshman, agriculture business**  
“Going to Breezy Point [near Brainerd, Minnesota] with my friends.”



*Right:*  
**Courtney Trattles, senior, business Administration**  
“Road tripping to Nashville, y’all!”

Check out the Student Voice online at [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com).



# Men’s hockey wins title, gets snubbed by NCAA

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It had been 19 years since the UW-River Falls men’s hockey team appeared in a conference tournament championship game. The drought of an appearance and a conference tournament championship ended on Saturday, March 7, as the Falcons won its WIAC title match against UW-Stevens Point by a score of 3-1.

The game didn’t start off the way the Falcons had hoped, however. The game was scoreless through the first half of the first period, but just 41 seconds after the halfway mark, Kyle Sharkey scored for Stevens Point to put the home team up 1-0.

Less than four minutes later, it was a brand new contest. Junior forward Zach Schrottenboer scored an unassisted goal at the 14:10 mark to tie the game up at one. The score would stay that way into the third period.

At the 7:07 mark of the third period, sophomore defenseman Michael Lant was sent to the penalty box for two minutes for hooking, putting the Falcons down a man. But that didn’t stop the Falcons from attacking. With 27 seconds left of the penalty, sophomore forward Mike Fazio scored a shorthanded goal for the Falcons to give UWRF a 2-1 lead.

The attack worked for the Falcons when it had an extra man, too. At 15:40, Steven Point’s Lawrence Cornellier was called for slashing, putting the Falcons on the power play.

Fifteen seconds later, sophomore forward Mike Dietrich put in a power play goal to extend the lead to two for the Falcons. That’s how the final score would read with the Falcons winning 3-1.

“There was a whistle, 13 seconds left on the clock, and that’s when it kind of set in that we were going to be WIAC champions, so just that experience of going out onto the ice and everyone throwing their helmets and gloves off, and celebrating with each other and kind of seeing your hard work payoff is an awesome moment,” said sophomore forward Christian George.

Despite the win and the WIAC playoff championship, the Falcons’ season came to an end thanks to the NCAA committee. The WIAC does not have enough hockey teams in the conference to have an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. In other conferences,

that automatic bid goes to the winner of the conference’s tournament champion.

UWRF was hoping to get one of four at-large bids available after the conclusion of the conference tournaments. These bids are open to any Div. III school in the country, but an NCAA selection committee decides who the four are.

Despite being ranked fifth in the country in the latest uscho.com poll, the Falcons were not selected.

To make matters worse, Stevens Point, the team the Falcons had just defeated to win the WIAC playoff championship, was selected. Stevens Point finished sixth in the final uscho.com poll. Stevens Point did finish a single game better than the Falcons record-wise.

The Falcons used to not have to worry about an automatic bid. Just two years ago, the Falcons were in the NCHA, which had seven teams, the bare minimum for an automatic bid to the NCAA. That league split and now the Falcons are in the WIAC, two teams short.

“It would be great in the Wisconsin system if a La Crosse or Oshkosh or even Whitewater, someone like that, jumped in and added a team,” said Head Coach Steve Freeman.

Despite the tournament snub, there is a lot to be cheerful about for the Falcons. The Falcons won only its third conference championship ever, 1988 and 1996 were the victories before. The team started the season on a 13-game winning streak, a school record. Plus, three Falcons were named to the all-WIAC first team: forwards Kyle Gattelaro and George, and junior goaltender Tanner Milliron.

Milliron played every single minute in goal for the Falcons this season. Freeman said it was important for Milliron to be in goal every single game due to the need to win every game without the automatic qualifier.

“Tanner played so well and we have so much confidence in him that we rode him all the way through and he’s done a tremendous job for us,” Freeman said. “It seems like every night he gives us a chance to win. He’s been pretty consistent. He’s a workhorse.”

Losses show up on the schedule later in the season, and the Falcons’ season did get dramatically tougher in the second half. The Falcons finished 20-7-1 overall, but UWRF only lost to three teams all year: Stevens Point, UW-Eau Claire and the University of



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications  
**Tanner Milliron defends his goal as the Falcons play UW-Eau Claire in Hunt Arena.**

St. Thomas.

Freeman glowed when talking about his team this season, commenting on the enthusiasm and dedication from his players.

“I’ve been here a long time; we’ve had great teams and good players, but this is one of the most fun-filled years I’ve had working with the team as far as good guys to be around, a lot of fun, and they work hard in practice,” Freeman said. “That’s really what led to their success, their work ethic in practice.”

The good times should keep rolling for the Falcons next year. The Falcons only lose one senior who was receiving significant playing time. The 19-year conference championship game drought looks like it won’t be repeated in the near future.

When 10-goal scorer George was asked about his expectations for next season he had only two words: national championship.



Courtesy of UWRF Sports Information  
**The men’s hockey team celebrates a WIAC championship win against UW-Stevens Point on Saturday, March 7. This is the first Falcon playoff title win in 19 years.**

# UWRF softball team looking to bounce back in 2015

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Last season, the UW-River Falls softball team struggled to get anything going during the season, finishing 4-12 in the WIAC and going 0-6 on the road.

The Falcons look to bounce back and make a serious impact in the WIAC this season, however. Leading the way is senior captain Abbie Morris, who set the all-time school record last year for home runs in a season with 13. Morris was an all-WIAC selection and second team NFCA all-Region selection. She finished the season batting .391 with 39 RBI’s and an .827 slugging percentage.

Not only can Morris hit, she also pitches for the Falcons. In her 23 appearances last season, Morris held a 4.60 ERA with 91 strikeouts in 105 innings pitched.

“My role this year is really just making sure I’m a good leader for everyone and trying to help get everyone on the same page and teaching them what it takes to lead for the next few years,” Morris said.

Alongside Morris this season are her senior teammates, Brooke Lauritzen and Amber O’Connell.

Lauritzen is a senior who, like Morris, plays the field and pitches. Last year, the Lauritzen started in 34 games, both as a pitcher and at first base. At the plate, she boasted a .295 batting average that included five home-runs. She also had a .982 fielding percentage, which was the second highest on the team for someone playing in more than 25 games. On the rubber, Lauritzen had a 4.46 ERA, the best on the team, in 86.1 innings pitched with 58 strikeouts.

O’Connell is the signal caller behind the plate, playing in all 39 games last season hitting .300 with a team-leading 140 at bats. O’Connell was a rock behind the plate with a .976 fielding percentage, helping keep runners from advancing bases.

The team lost one player this season due to graduation. Sarah Bohlen was the team’s lone senior last season, and put up impressive numbers. An all-WIAC and third team NFCA all-Region selection, Bohlen finished the season the season with a .387 batting average, eight home runs and a team-leading 11 doubles. Starting at third base for the last two seasons, Bohlen finished her career playing in 139 games, with a career fielding percentage of .916.

This season, the team has played in eight games down in Rochester, Minnesota, at the dome located on the Rochester

Community and Technical College campus. In those eight games, the team is 4-4, winning three of the first four games it played between Feb. 28 and March 1. This past weekend, March 6-7, the Falcons didn’t have a strong showing, winning just one game in two days. The team will be leaving on Friday for its annual spring training games in Clermont, Florida.

The Falcons will be taking on the best of the best which includes University of St. Thomas, back-to-back national champions Tuft University, and Macalester College, which is coached by former Falcons Head Coach Jody Gabriel.

Morris is excited to see the team play difficult opponents in Florida and can’t wait for the regular season to start.

“The team looks to have great potential with many different strengths,” Morris said. “We all continue to work well together and as long as we keep working hard, we’ll be all set when conference games hit.”

In the eight games the team has played, sophomore transfer Katie Thompson leads the team with a .450 batting average and sophomore Kaitlyn LePine is crushing the ball with four home-runs and a .440 batting average. The team is set to play its first home game March 29 in a doubleheader against Finlandia University.



# Women’s hockey wins second straight WIAC title

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The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team defeated the UW-Stevens Point Pointers on March 7 to win its second straight WIAC playoff championship.

The Falcons beat Stevens Point by a score of 6-1. In the conclusion of the game, the Falcons held the O’Brien Cup, the trophy for winning the WIAC playoff championship. Last year, the Falcons defeated these same Pointers, 5-1.

“You could feel the atmosphere in the rink,” said senior defenseman Kendal Evenson. “We were all hyped up, very energetic, so it was a lot faster game.”

The Falcons dominated the first period, with a 15-0 advantage in shots before the Pointers got its first shot. The Falcons led 1-0 after one period. In the second period, UWRF added two more goals to make it 3-0.

“We had a great first period,” said Head Coach Joe Cranston. “And when Stevens Point put on some pressure we were able to play solid defensively. It was a great all-around effort.”

In the third period, Stevens Point scored its first goal, but the Falcons scored three more goals to polish the win off by a score of 6-1. The Falcons have not lost in its last 16 games, while winning 10 straight.

“We’re a fast team and we pride ourselves on that,” said sophomore center Emily Stark. “We were able to keep a fast-paced tempo throughout the whole game, our passes were clicking really well, and we were getting the shots on the goal that we really needed.”

The victory improves the Falcons’ record to 24-3-1. The Falcons have also received an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament. UWRF hosts Lake Forest College at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, in the NCAA quarterfinals. If the Falcons win, UWRF will advance to the final four.

The UWRF men’s hockey team also won the WIAC playoff championship, but will not be playing in the NCAA Tournament.

The fact that both teams won the WIAC conference playoffs is a



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications

The Falcons hold the O’Brien Cup for fans to see. Falcons won the WIAC championship against UW-Stevens Point on March 7.

rarity. In the history of the WIAC, there have only been nine instances of this happening. These happened in soccer, basketball and baseball, but never hockey.

In fact, the men’s and women’s hockey teams have never each won the WIAC playoff championship in the same year.

The women have a lot of hope and expect a lot out of the team come championship time.

“With it being my senior year, you obviously want to go all the way and make that trek,” Evenson said. “We went last year and I’m never going to forget that feeling with the team and having those

memories with the girls.”

“Hopefully a national championship title,” Stark said of the team’s main goal. “But honestly, just being with all those girls and being a family, and no matter what the score is we will always love each other.”

Cranston said that UWRF women’s hockey has developed into a

winning tradition, as the Falcons have received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament seven years in a row now, which is great for recruitment as it shows future players how good Falcon hockey is and how stable the team is.



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications

Left: four Falcons celebrate an early goal against UW-Stevens Point. Right: junior forward Chloe Kinsel and senior captain forward Alice Cranston hold the O’Brien Cup.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

WOMEN’S HOCKEY  
SATURDAY, MARCH. 14  
HOME VS. LAKE FOREST  
PUCK DROPS- 2:00 P.M.



# George Orwell ‘1984’ novel compared to Snowden, NSA mass surveillance

Jack Haren

Columnist

In 2013, evidence of widespread surveillance actions were taken on domestic and national targets by the U.S. National Security Agency. Edward Snowden’s revelations conjure other connections to a novel written by George Orwell.

“1984,” the novel title, is a fictionalized depiction of a society under complete control by “The Party,” or “Big Brother,” the totalitarian regime. The book is read from the eye of main character Winston, a worker that receives media materials and re-writes history for a more favorable Party time line. Or, he burns the scraps of paper not aligned with Party ideology. Their slogans: war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength.

In “1984,” there are telescreens present in all rooms and that all citizens have in their homes to follow demands, cheers, and minutes of hate to those Big Brother are at war with.

Social media creators are in collusion with the NSA, at least at some level. Tweets on Twitter are equal to one thought. There seems to be modern newspeak, which

in “1984” was a shortened, bare-bones language meant to strip creativity. Text messages on mobile phones has long been transforming language. Hashtags on Twitter are words or phrases that sum up, label, and filter various tweets into categories. This idea doesn’t seem crazy or bad, just efficient and effective. Hashtags have become a new niche way of communication and it reminds me of newspeak in “1984,” whether bad or good.

Creativity, certainly, hasn’t been taken away in modern times, at least in the U.S. The fear of being creative, however, may have increased.

Another main connection between “1984” and modern surveillance is the instruments citizens used that were collected from by the government. In “1984,” it was the telescreen. In the beginning of “1984,” the main character, Winston, explains the telescreen:

“The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound... would be picked up by it; moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the

‘Thought Police’ plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.”

The telescreen in “1984” was a single device and could be a generic term used to describe all modern devices with a screen. Snowden, in the documentary “Citizenfour,” describes that all modern devices possibly are hear-through, just like the telescreen in “1984.” Anything with a chip-making it a computer-is vulnerable. Society currently uses a variety of devices: smartphone, tablet, laptop and desktop.

A major difference between “1984” and modern times is that they are connected to us pretty much at all times. In “1984,” it was the secret police who overheard and enforced, spied and arrested citizens. In modern day, the government can be sticking to you in your pocket. These devices rarely turn off, even while we sleep.

In “1984,” Winston is extremely aware of his surroundings and the possibility of government spying. In

modern times, I see nobody seriously acknowledging the possibility or presence of government spying, unless they are joking. The trouble is that much of modern communication is numerous, addicting, and seemingly invisible. It’s there when we want it at nearly anytime.

“1984” is becoming an increasingly important masterpiece to read, study, and learn. The extreme totalitarian principles it describes has become “Orwellian.” That itself is perhaps reason enough to read the book, and then read again a year or two later to really pick up the darkness and terror. Orwell’s imagination is shuddering, but deserved for a reader wanting a clear cut way of understanding. It teaches you what society shouldn’t be.

Comparing, contrasting, and drawing connections between old novel predictions and modern day whistleblowing is fascinating and fun, but mostly alarming and scary. The modern mass surveillance machine has been hiding in secret under the law and only recently the truth of our reality has gotten out, and it has proven to be much worse than predictions and warning of fiction in many ways.

Jack Haren is a junior journalism student. His free time is spent snowboarding, skateboarding, reading, writing and designing.

## ‘Citizenfour’ premiere encourages more analysis

Jack Haren

Columnist

Some friends and I drove to St. Anthony Main Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Feb. 15 to view the documentary premiere of “Citizenfour,” the film about the National Security Agency (NSA) leaks by whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The filmmakers kept a cap on leaking its own content on the internet; I first tried to buy a digital version. The film’s website read “coming to digital platforms soon” for weeks. To be straight, I wanted to pay—messing with online pirating usually leads to sketchy places, so I avoid it.

After the Oscars, where “Citizenfour” won best feature documentary, I found that HBO was now offering the documentary on-demand through Xfinity. I was pleased because I could

watch it for the second time.

“Citizenfour” extends far past a review-type analysis. The premiere happened to be a few days after David Carr, a prominent New York Times journalist from the Twin Cities area, died after interviewing the three main people of the film: Edward Snowden, the whistle-blower; Glenn Greenwald, the reporter; and Laura Poitras, the filmmaker.

As a journalism student, who looks up to professionals like Carr, I studied the interaction between Greenwald and Snowden in the film. Seeing, in snippets, Greenwald and Ewan Macaskill physically working with their tools: computers, pens, and paper, was also a bonus. They wrote fast and worked quickly.

From the epilogue of “No Place Left to Hide,” the book preceding the documentary, and detailing the situation, Greenwald writes: “In the very first online conversation I had with Snowden, he told me he had only one

fear about coming forward: that his revelations might be greeted with apathy and indifference, which would mean he had unraveled his life and risked imprisonment for nothing.”

At one point during “Citizenfour,” Greenwald was being shown documents and interrupts Snowden’s explanations. He then exclaimed how massive the scale of what he was witnessing can go, and how deeply analyzed it can be. This has proven to be very true with stories still being written about the revelations worldwide two years later. It seems like every slice of what Snowden has is a new angle for a new story. During the film, they didn’t mention too many specifics regarding the titles of documents.

The setting, the hotel in Hong Kong, China, was intense. Snowden’s paranoia is very justified if one imagines his situation: he decided to turn on everything. He traveled across the world to come out against one of the

most powerful governments on Earth: the U.S.

Snowden explained far past just the U.S.; international systems are mentioned. For example, the United Kingdom spying program is more extensive than the U.S.

Snowden said in the film that the U.S. loved to look at the United Kingdom’s program because they could do things the U.S. couldn’t.

Currently, Snowden remains in Russian asylum. CNN reported Snowden’s Russian lawyer on March 4, talking about Snowden’s consideration to return to the U.S. His only condition being a fair trial.

The NSA is not national security. It is domestic security in the name of national security. It’s possible for terrorists to be identified, but it should not be in the way currently deployed; that of collecting everything people do and mapping it through sophisticated analytical methods.

# UW-Madison professor speaks to students about race and media

Hayden Bosch

Columnist

UW-River Falls students were treated to a renowned special guest who came to South Hall on March 5 to discuss the role of Native Americans in news media.

In her presentation, titled “ImagiNATIVE Communities: Indigeneity and Communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” UW-Madison Professor Patty Loew discussed tribal news and the discrepancy of minority reporters in the media. Citing recent news statistics, Loew stressed the fact that the minority population of the U.S. has increased, 25.9 percent in 1990 to 36.9 percent in 2014, at a disproportionate rate to its increase in news media. The minority television workforce, Loew claimed, increased from 17.8 percent in 1990 to 22.4 in 2014.

Loew came to campus to the ongoing Working Journalists Lecture Series hosted by the UWRF journalism department. This semester, the event was cosponsored by the UWRF Women’s and Gender Studies program.

As the presentation began, there was hardly a single seat that wasn’t filled (granted, a few columns of desks were roped off). As stragglers came in late, they had to be pointed by faculty in the direction of the last few available chairs in the room.

According to her page on the UW website, Loew has “authored dozens of scholarly and general interest articles on Native topics and produced scores of Native-themed documentaries that have appeared on commercial and public television stations throughout the country.”

Loew has also published “Native People of Wisconsin,” a social studies book read by over 15,000 elementary school children, among other achievements.

A failing newspaper industry has also contributed to a lack of representation of minorities, says Loew. Between 2007 and 2014, according to Loew, the amount of people employed at newspaper jobs decreased from 55,000 to 36,000.

“I know for a fact that... many people of color lost their jobs in this media

consolidation,” Loew said in reference to many aspects of media forming together in the wake of this huge downturn in media jobs.

Loew discussed why there has been such a small increase in minority representation, specifically focusing on Native Americans. While implicit racism was one clear reason, when asked about why Native Americans mostly stayed within their specifically-tailored news media, Loew said: “I think that a lot of people who go into journalism in Indian country would prefer to remain within their tribal areas.”

Loew mentioned that journalism in Native American regions features much more advocacy articles than in cities or small towns. She said that this is mostly because of the Native American desire to fight against biased U.S. mainstream media which, due to their small Native American representation, lack the perspective necessary to write fairly on the subject.

During her presentation, Loew stressed that students should interrupt her at any time to ask any questions they might have. Before and after her presentation, she went around the room talking to students and faculty.

Loew’s presentation appeared to be a great success compared to last semester’s Working Journalists Seminar, which followed a panel format, during which only one student asked a question. During and after Loew’s presentation, many people, both faculty and students, asked questions to better understand a subject which seemed to legitimately interest them.

With Loew and many other famous personalities, including Daymond John, known for being an investor on the television series “Shark Tank,” slated to visit campus for the Fourth Annual Scholarship Benefit Dinner on Friday, April 24; Temple Grandin, an activist who appeared on 2010’s “Time 100” list of the world’s most influential people; and the many speakers who will be coming to campus to speak for TEDx on April 11, one has to laud UWRF for bringing in so many renowned people to motivate and inspire its students.

Hayden is a journalism major with an unofficial minor in sociology. He loves to read, edit stories, and pet cute puppies.

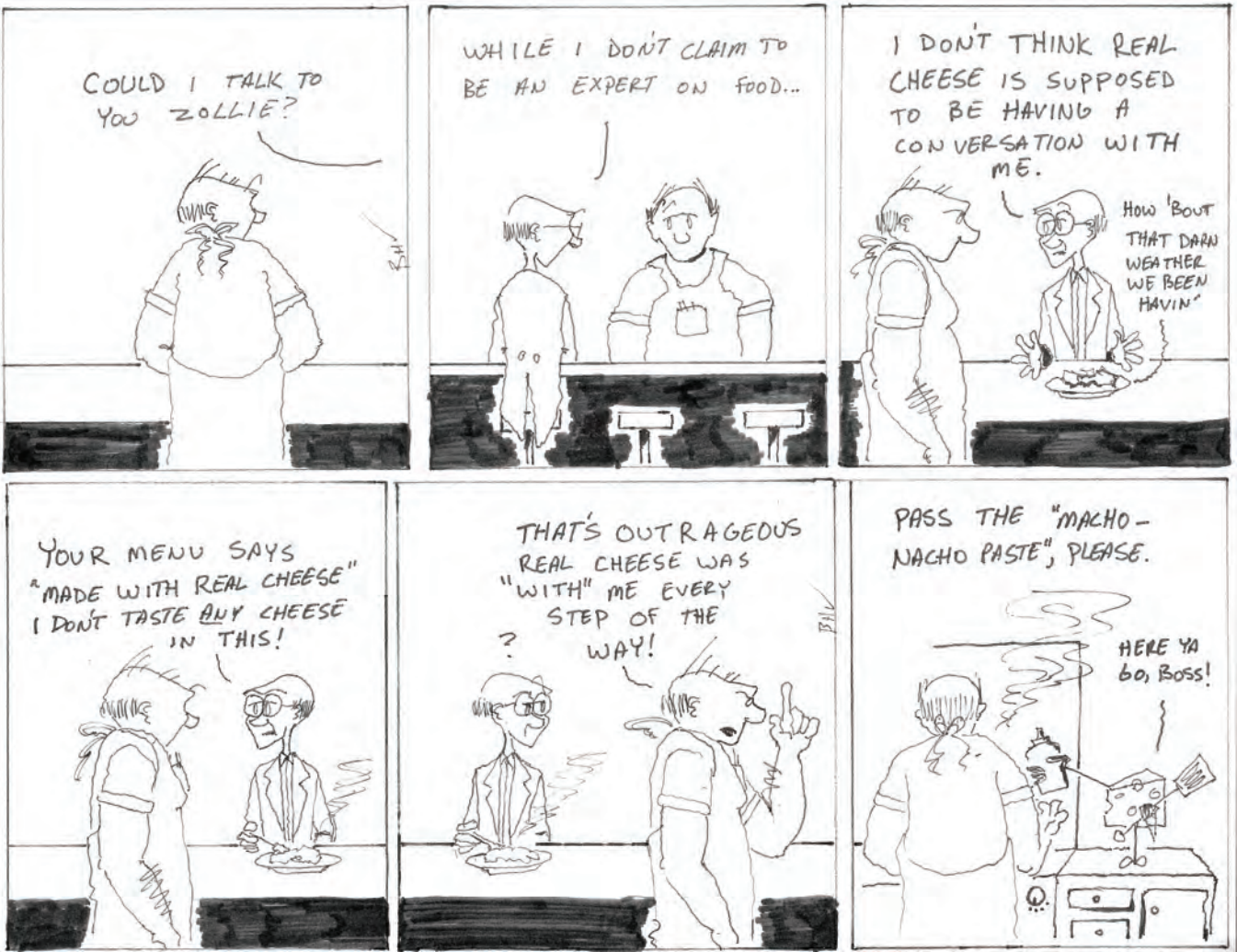
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Cartoon by Benjamin Heer