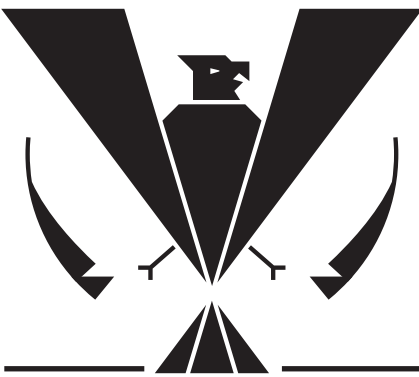




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UWRF women’s basketball beats UW-Stevens Point 77-67.

**NEWS, PAGE 3**  
College Democrats, Republicans, struggle to ignite student interest during election season.

**ETCETERA, PAGE 8**  
‘Hail, Caesar!’ evokes nostalgia for old Hollywood.



**University of Wisconsin**  
**STUDENT**  
February 12, 2016      uwrfvoice.com

**River Falls**  
**VOICE**  
Volume 102, Issue 13

# UWRF reaches fundraising goal early

Paul Langfellow  
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls has reached its Rising to Distinction fundraising goal of \$20 million six months early, Chancellor Dean Van Galen recently announced. The campaign was launched in 2011.

In all, 10,153 donors pledged money to toward the goal, with more than 91 percent already paid, according to a UWRF press release.

**For some students, the Falcon Scholars program offers the ability to participate in different programs such as studying abroad.**

Now that the goal has been reached, UWRF plans to allocate the funds generated by private donations toward different areas of the University such as the Falcon Scholars program and upgrading facilities on campus.

For some students, the Falcon Scholars program offers the ability to participate in different programs such as studying abroad. UWRF sophomore biology major Brittany Lubich is among those who have benefited.

“The \$2,000 actually allowed me to afford a study abroad trip to Costa Rica that I would not have been able to get enough loans for,” she said.

The Falcon Scholars program awards students \$1,000 per year toward their tuition, plus a \$2,000 stipend for studying abroad or undergraduate research. Scholarship support for students will remain a priority, according to Chris Mueller, assistant chancellor of university advancement and president of the UWRF Foundation.

Senior Matt Pechacek was able to use Falcon Scholars money to help support his research on energy expenditure for his sports and exercise science major.

“They had a \$1,000 per year scholarship that took a lot of weight off of my shoulders that I didn’t have to work as intensely as I normally would have if I had all that debt looming over me,” he said.

Updating campus facilities has been another goal of the

campaign. Some of Rising to Distinction funds already have been used toward work at Ramer Field, where about \$800,000 was donated to renovate David Smith Stadium.

Mueller also said he hopes to see funds go towards supporting newly created majors at UWRF.

Other facilities improvements include a new dairy pilot plant on campus. Some funds also will be allocated towards finishing the new Falcon Center athletics complex.

Though the campaign reached its goal, there is still a long way to go for private funding at UWRF.

“Private support will never replace public money,” Mueller said. “If we were going to replace the state money that we lost in the last four years we would have to have a \$100 million endowment.”

The hope for the campaign is that support will be continued from private funding, especially from alumni and community members, he said.

The University plans a Sept. 23 celebration, inviting all those who pledged toward the Rising to Distinction campaign to participate. For further details, visit the campaign website, [www.uwrf.edu/RisingToDistinction](http://www.uwrf.edu/RisingToDistinction).

# Student Senate proposes new academic priorities for UWRF

Natalie Howell  
Falcon News Service

After proposing a set of ambitious suggestions aimed at improving education at UW-River Falls, Student Senate now is facing the harsh reality of trying to make changes under budget cuts.

The Academic Priorities document, written by the Student Senate Academic Council, were passed by the Student Senate during its Feb. 2 meeting. The priorities are recommendations by the Student Senate about what should be changed at the university at the academic level.

The document is now set to be voted on by the Faculty Senate. However, even if approved, it may take time before changes can be implemented.

The document focuses on five academic priorities: General Education reform, low cost and high-impact study abroad, technological innovation, improved transparency and institutional reform.

Peter Vermeland, Academic Council chair, said that the council went about choosing the Academic Priorities by considering concerns from students and looking at what had been passed in previous years but still needed work. This is how the recommendation to change PE 108 (Health and Fitness for Life) from a one-credit online course to a three-credit course that meets in person came to be, Vermeland said.

“We wanted it to be worthy of like a three-credit course that really provides students with a basis of living a healthy lifestyle and understanding what that means,” Vermeland said.

Other changes to General Education in the Academic Priorities are the addition of a high-impact requirement, a foreign language requirement for students in the College of Business and Economics, remodeling the remedial course structure so

that students will be earning credit for the “lowest level accredited course in that field of instruction,” and the addition of a full-year first-year seminar by the fall semester of 2016.

The document also recommends the addition of low cost high-impact study abroad opportunities in multiple cities in Canada and the Caribbean to allow students to study abroad affordably.

The technological innovation changes include requiring all courses to have a Desire2Learn portal, keeping D2L course access open after the course has ended, combining all student portals to require only one login, creating a graduation checklist, and adding a D2L Early Warning System that notifies the advisor if a student’s grades become noticeably lower.

“We really feel that there needs to be like this safety net where if you really start dipping academically, someone’s there to pull you aside and say, ‘Hey, what’s going on? How can we help?’” Vermeland said. “We just want to be able to give students the knowledge that if they are struggling, we want to help.”

Recommended changes to the faculty and course evaluations include reestablishing in-class evaluations, redesigning the faculty evaluations, and creating a document that is available to students explaining how the evaluations are used when it comes to retention and tenure decisions.

The institutional reform laid out in the Academic Priorities include creating a centralized internship office at UWRF, changing the pricing models of how much students pay the university for internship credits, changing the way unpaid internships are handled by requiring the internship office by providing a set percentage of paid internship opportunities, lobbying businesses to offer more “fruitful” internships, and adding a student review board for each college at the university.

Faye Perkins, chair of Health and Human Performance and

vice chair of Faculty Senate, said that although she cannot speak for the Faculty Senate as a whole, she is impressed with the Academic Priorities but believes that putting many of the recommendations laid out in the document into effect would be near impossible due to UWRF’s current budget and lack of resources.

“Because of the extensiveness and some of the things that they say in (the Academic Priorities), it might be a bit naïve to think that some of these changes can happen as fast as they want them to happen,” said Perkins.

The UW-System was hit with a \$250 million budget cut in 2015, with UWRF facing a \$3.31 million cut. This resulted in the reduction of about 50 full-time equivalent positions at the university through layoffs and not filling positions that were vacant due to retirement, attrition and non-renewal, according to the university’s 2015-2017 Biennial Budget Impacts document.

“We are bare bones,” said Perkins. “So if you want to add something, generally that means you have to eliminate something.”

Vermeland said that he isn’t surprised that there is pushback when it comes to the Academic Priorities, and said that although he recognizes how hard it will be to implement all of the changes, he still believes that they are necessary to improving the university.

“I think it’s worth it, because these are the changes the students have asked for,” said Vermeland. “And I know it may take years, but I think it’s worth it.”

Faculty Senate is planning to vote on the Academic Priorities at its next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The Academic Priorities document can be found at Student Senate’s Falcon-Sync page.

# Local spa wins Chamber’s Small Business of the Year Award

Molly Kinney  
Falcon News Service

The River Falls Chamber of Commerce held its annual Awards Banquet on Feb. 4 in the University Center ballroom, hosting over 240 business representatives from the River Falls area.

Represented among these businesses was River Reflections Medspa & Salon. It was awarded the chamber’s Small Business of the Year award, beating out the other nominee, Fox Den Used Books.

Marandah Mahr, events coordinator for the chamber, said River Reflections had to meet several criteria to earn the award. “The award is member-driven,” she said, “so members of the chamber vote on which business they think best meets the criteria we lay out.”

Some of these criteria include customer service, community outreach and promotional standards.

**Some of the criteria for the award include customer service, community outreach and promotional standards.**

“We decided a while back that it was important to have two awards when it came to business of the year, since large and small businesses are so different but so important to the heart of this community,” Mahr said.

The River Falls Chamber considers small businesses to be those with less than 25 employees.

While large corporations dominate the news media, Mahr said small businesses are important to the economy. According to Entrepreneur Magazine, there are between 25 million and 27 million small businesses in the U.S., accounting for 60 percent to 80 percent of all jobs. To be considered a small business on a national scale, the requirement is less than 150 employees.

River Reflections falls into this category, employing around 10 beauticians and esthiologists. Crystal Knotex is the owner

of River Reflections, which was started “about 10 years ago now,” she said. The salon is located in the lower level of what looks from the outside to be just a dentist’s office at 650 S. Main St., just across the bridge crossing the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

Knotex’ husband Tim is the dentist in the building. This results in the building almost having a “family business” feel about it, she said. Knotex previously worked as a senior vice president at Northwest and Delta airlines, and wanted to put her business experience to use. Owning a high-end salon was an idea she’d had for years, and the opportunity finally arose when a building remodel left the lower level unused.

Being a small business owner takes gumption and business savvy to render a company successful, and Knotex knew they had to have a vision that would set them apart. She said it felt natural to incorporate her family’s faith-based values into River Reflections’ mission statement.

“We strive to keep our mission faith based. We want to reflect God’s love by serving others,” Knotex said.

A banner of scripture running across the bottom of the salon’s Web page reads, “Our mission is to reflect God’s love as we serve others and provide an environment that refreshes our clients and employees inspiring joyful and productive lives.”

A wide variety of services is an obvious difference between River Reflections and other businesses of this kind in town. Aside from offering typical beauty services such as haircuts and coloring, perms, and styling — as well as waxes and dermatology-based services — River Reflections is also the only business that offers cosmetic injections, such as botox. After opening the spa, Tim Knotex decided to get certified to administer these to help set his wife’s business apart.

Another aspect of River Reflections that set it apart from other businesses is the staff’s commitment to community outreach and service, and to providing a comfortable, loving atmosphere for their clients.

A recent partnership with the women’s shelter Turning Point is one way Knotex has achieved this. Klass Act is a beauty product line Knotex developed, and each time a client in the salon buys one of these products, such as lipstick or gloss,

another is donated to women when they leave the shelter. The idea of supporting women locally through her business was a model she wanted to work towards form the start.

“When these women leave they sometimes leave with nothing,” Knotex said. “We have a beautiful, wrapped gift for them after they leave the shelter, and they seem truly touched that somebody did that for them, even though it’s such a small thing to receive.”

Since July, River Reflections has donated around 2,000 of these products to Turning Point and another women’s shelter it has partnered with in Madison. Knotex said she also donates time or product to around 60 other fundraisers or charitable events each year.

Knotex also has a deep understanding of what it means to be a small business, and makes a point for her business to support others in the community.

“I was raised in a small town, and was always told ‘shop locally.’ It’s tempting when we’re so close to the cities, but as a business model it’s important to do what you can to support each other. For example if I want to have a recognition dinner for someone on our team, we go to Mariachi (Loco),” she said with a laugh.

Being able to work with such a great team is how she personally sees her business as set apart from the rest, Knotex added.

“My staff was thrilled when they announced we’d won,” she said. “They’re completely supportive of our faith based business model, and I’m blessed to work with these women every day.”

Having a solid mission like this is important to the success of a business, Knotex said.

“Whether it be the economy or your opinions or religion, the decisions we make going back to what we believe in,” she said. “If you do that, what you truly believe in, good things will happen.”

River Reflections is expanding westward into Woodbury this year. The salon offers a 10 percent discount to college students on all products and services.



# News briefs:

## Black History Month Celebrated at UW-River Falls

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is celebrating Black History Month by offering three public events hosted by the Black Student Union.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, the 14th Annual Soul Food Dinner features Bubba’s Chicken, black-eyed peas, mac and cheese, collard greens, peach cobbler, and corn bread from 5-7 p.m. in Room 201 Rodli Hall. Pre-sale tickets are available in the University Center lobby from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. through the event date. Pre-sale tickets are \$8; \$10 at the door. UWRF student pre-sale tickets are \$6; \$8 at the door. Takeout is \$10. Open to all.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, a representative from Black Lives Matter (BLM), Twin Cities, will speak about the history of BLM, where it started and what they stand for. Free and open to the public, the talk is from 6-8 p.m. in the St. Croix River Room in the University Center.

On Friday, Feb. 26, African Night features performances, a fashion show, and authentic food. Enjoy African cultural performances from 6-8 p.m. and authentic African cuisine from 8-9 p.m., all in Abbott Concert Hall in Kleinpell Fine Arts. The event is free and open to all.

For more information, email [mariemorella.kponou@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:mariemorella.kponou@my.uwrf.edu).

## Memorial servies planned for former university employee

Please join the university community in extending our sincere condolences to the family of Marion Linder, 95, who died Feb. 8. Marion worked for a number of years as the laundress for the UWRF Athletic Department. Marion’s funeral is Saturday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. at St. Bridget Catholic Church, 211 E. Division St., River Falls. Visitation is Friday, Feb. 12, from 4-7 p.m. at the church and 1 hour prior to the funeral. In lieu of flowers memorials preferred to the UWRF Foundation for the Linder Scholarship Fund. There is a trophy case in Karges that is being dedicated in honor of Marion and her late husband, Glenn, who also worked at UWRF. An obituary can be found at <http://www.hillfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Marion-Linder/#!/Obituary>.

## Annual barn dance to be held

The Kinni Creek Boys, a River Falls area string band, will play on Saturday, February 20, for the Saturday Night Barn Dance series in River Falls.

Location is the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) on West Maple Street, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The Kinni Creek Boys, a welcome addition to western Wisconsin's old time music scene, make their second appearance at the River Falls barn dances.

First-time dancers are invited. An exprienced dance caller will teach steps to participants. All ages are welcome, singles, couples, and groups. The first half of the evening features family dances at a level easily grasped by children, with more advanced dances in the second half.

Remaining dances in the 2015-16 Barn Dance season feature Poor Benny, Saturday, March 19 and Grit Pickers, Saturday, April 16.

The Saturday Night Barn Dance Series is a joint project of River Falls Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available.

## UWRF jazz festival to host Grammy nominated guest


The UWRF jazz ensemble will be hosting their latest addition of the RADD Jazz series next weekend. On Friday night, New York City based and Grammy nominated drummer, Matt Wilson, will join the UWRF jazz ensemble for a Jazz Club Cabaret event at the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center. On Saturday, the music department will host high school jazz ensembles for a clinic with Wilson. More information can be found at <https://www.uwrf.edu/MUS/Jazz>

## University to offer CPR class

A CPR class will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 17 in the St. Croix room of the University Center. The class will be brought to the campus by Heartsaver. Heartsaver teaches students critical skills needed to respond and manage a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac arrest emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) arrives.

## Campus Media Day announced

The four campus media on will be uniting for a day of celebration and exhibition on April 13. The Student Voice, WRFW-FM, Focus On U and Prologue will hold festivities from 5-9 P.M. in the Falcon’s Nest of the University Center. The event will feature live music, readings, and video presentations. Campus Media Day will also serve as the release party for the upcoming edition of Prologue. More information will be released as it comes available.



The “It’s Only Another Beer”  
Black and Tan

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8 oz. stout lager  
1 frosty mug  
1 icy road  
1 pick-up truck  
1 10-hour day  
1 tired worker  
A few rounds with the guys

Mix ingredients.  
Add 1 totalled vehicle.

Never underestimate ‘just a few.’  
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

### River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

- Tuesday, Feb. 2**
- Police responded to a fight at Stratton Hall around 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 5**
- A student was cited with a underage drinking ticket at the Jesse H. Ames Suites around 3 a.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 6**
- A student was cited with a underage drinking ticket at the South Forks Suites around 4 a.m.

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

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## Tune In To WRFW 88.7

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Write a letter to the editor.

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Thank you for not driving buzzed last night. You saved my life.

Liz Osaki

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

  U.S. Department of Transportation



Neil Kraus, chair of the political science department, said that votes from younger people, just like any group, have the potential to shift the balance of an election. He said that part of the youth disinterest in voting could be related to politicians' lack of focus on them.

Co-chair of the College Democrats Amanda Norby-White said that voting doesn't take as long as students might expect, especially if they register to vote before going to the polls. Both she and co-chair Joseph Norby-White have completed the training allowing them to register voters and plan to have a table in the University Center where students can sign up.

Melanie Meyers, vice president of the Col-

Residents of the west end of campus include those living in the all-freshmen Johnson Hall, who Joseph Norby-White said are the least likely to be able to get to the high school easily. The College Democrats often provide rides for students who want to vote but lack

The College Democrats meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in 282 Kleinpell Fine Arts, and the College Republicans meetings are every Thursday at 7 p.m. in room 322 of the University Center.

The priorities will officially be introduced to Faculty Senate to review within the next two weeks.

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

**TUNE INTO WRFW 88.7**  
Hear your friends and jam to  
their favorite music.  
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EDITORIAL

Black History Month lets us think on euquality

As students at a university, unity is critical. It’s black history month, and to celebrate, UW-River Falls has some events lined up. On Thursday, UWRF held its 14th annual Soul Food Dinner, put on by the Black Student Union (BSU). This coming Wednesday, Feb. 17, there will be a Twin Cities representative of the much-talked-about Black Lives Matter movement. Lastly, Friday, Feb. 26 will see African Night, BSU’s biggest event of the year, featuring performances, food and a fashion show. The Student Voice, of course, enthusiastically supports the attention to our black students that these events will engender -- particularly the efforts on the part of the BSU to promote a diverse and inclusive campus.

As university students, we must be aware of others and treat each other as the equals that we are. Every life matters as much as the next and that is a sentiment that we as a campus ought to embody. Black Lives Matter has been a controversial movement since it began in 2013. While the meaning behind the name is clearly true, members’ methods have been a bit more questionable; for example, interrupting events, such as Bernie Sanders (of all people) and Hillary Clinton speeches, as well as blocking off terminals and roadways around Minnesota’s MSP Airport, and chanting, “Pigs in a blanket, fry ‘em like bacon,” in reference to the police, at the Minnesota State Fair.

We students will be the people in charge one day and when that day comes, we need to be prepared to support a world where every person recieves the respect they deserve, not depending on their skin color but by the content of their character. This of course means fighting to keep equality in our laws and institutions, and working to stop certain races from being disproportionately stuck in poverty. This also means supporting minorities celebrating their cultures and, for those of us in the majority, to join in and celebrate right alongside them.

This also means that, when change is needed, protests are held civilly. Black Lives Matter has our support in its name and in a mutual desire for equality between all people, but to spread an important message of peace between people of different colors, one has to remember the golden rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Black Lives Matter is missing out on reaching many people with its message because of its protesters’ methods. Regardless, we look forward to hearing the movement’s representative speak at our campus and to enjoying BSU’s events which, every year, help bring us closer together as a campus and as people of different colors.

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As President Obama addressed the nation in his final State of the Union last month, I recalled fondly all the achievements this seemingly progressive President has made. From expanding opportunities for immigrants, or repealing homophobic military standards, to fostering diplomacy between previously hostile nations such as Cuba, I’ve been proud to say that President Obama is the first I voted into office in 2012. For myself, and thousands of other young activists, his actions towards stopping environmental degradations is what I have found most meaningful. His work establishing emission caps with China, working towards climate agreements at COP 21, banning new offshore oil drillings in the Arctic, and the finally denying the Keystone XL pipeline (KXL) has some news outlets dubbing him the “climate change President.”

While these accomplishments are drastic, important and necessary, this title is far from accurate. While we rejoiced at the denial of Transcanada’s KXL, Enbridge Energy was approved to follow through on an illegal scheme to transport twice the legal amount of the dirtiest fuels on Earth (tar sands crude) into the United States, in the Alberta Clipper pipeline that runs across the heart of Minnesota’s pristine water systems and branches off across Wisconsin, and some to the Great Lakes for transport.

Any company that wishes to build a pipeline crossing our international border must obtain a Presidential permit, which Enbridge did do initially. But, though the Alberta Clipper was strictly limited to move 450,000 barrels of tar sands crude oil per day BPD) by the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), it was built to move almost twice that capacity. Two years after operations started in 2012, Enbridge came to the State Department asking for a permit to start using Line 67 at it’s full capacity, 800,000 BPD. The state department at first said they would need to wait for the full study, including public input, but Enbridge couldn’t wait. They instead planned to divert half of the 800,000 barrels of tar sands into Line 3, a 50-year-old deteriorating pipeline that runs parallel to the Clipper, before the border, so that they technically would not be operating at a higher capacity coming into the country. Line 3 would be moved back to Line 67 further into the country. This illegal “switcheroo,” a term coined by opponents of Enbridge, is a dangerous and blatant breach of contract, and a reckless move that jeopardizes the heart of Minnesota’s

waterways, farm, and forest ecosystems. Little action was taken by the state department, and it was eventually approved entirely, making a mockery of the entire permitting process. From a public perspective it seems a deal was made between Enbridge and the government. If this is not challenged, it will become the status quo, a danger to our environments and health. Outraged and saddened, a suit was filed against the State Department by groups such as MN350, The Sierra Club and Honor the Earth calling for an injunction against the plan until the permitting process did take place. On Dec. 9, a federal judge ruled in favor of Enbridge. While crude oil that would have been moved by sections of KXL is bad, tar sands are far worse. Production of this dirty fuel emits three times as many CO2 emissions, a huge impact on the quickly changing climate. The heavy sediments that they’re found in sinks to the bottom of waterways when spilled, making them almost impossible to clean up. We saw this tragically in the Kalamazoo River of Michigan in 2010, where Enbridge spilled almost one million barrels of this toxic substance. It was the largest inland oil spill in history- but only one of more than 800 spills committed by Enbridge pipelines in the last 12 years. President Obama is not the climate change president, but we need the next one to be. Since all the Democratic Presidential candidates took a stance against Keystone XL, it seems natural for them to take a stance on the Enbridge pipeline invasion currently taking place in the heart of the country: the Midwest. Young voters in particular care about this issue deeply, as we’re the generation that will be affected by whatever action (or inaction) is taken by the powers-that-be to stop climate change, and the nominee will have to address this issue truthfully to secure this block of votes. For this reason, we urge moderators at the Democratic Debate on Feb. 11 to ask the candidates about their stance on the Alberta Clipper and what they will realistically do to address climate change aggressively. There won’t be a more perfect opportunity to do this than while they stand in Wisconsin, a state that will inevitably be drastically impacted if oil companies continue to take precedence over the best interest of this country’s citizenry.

Molly Kinney  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

J-term courses too good to be true for some students

I previously penned a column that basically expressed my deep love for the opportunities J-term has to offer...and then I dropped my j-term course. In my original column, I only quoted a few students, and the overall emphasis was that taking an online course doesn’t mesh with their desire (or need) to make more money. I have been blessed with the ability to attend UWRF without the need for student loans, so I didn’t think that would be an issue for me. However, I soon learned I would rather work on a small Wisconsin dairy farm, milking cows every morning and night, than read a textbook and spend entirely too much time on my desire to receive an A. I enjoy learning and have loved my first semester of college but I felt that the time required to commit to a course was entirely too much for my enjoyment. And hey, the money was nice. Students seeking greater educational opportunities might find j-term to be the opportunity to excel and advance, but they may also choose to take a bit more of a break. School-work seems to be more fun with friends, so focus on crafting a schedule that will allow you to take more breaks. After all, everyone likes to make the good statement, “work smarter, not harder,” and by focusing on fulfilling all of your requirements to graduate in four years, or transfer with all your generals completed in two, it will certainly leave you more satisfied than being swamped with work during break when your friends are having more fun than you. And even if your friends aren’t having more fun than you, it’s worth reconsidering if the effort is worth the commitment.

*Melanie Meyers enjoys Greek Bible Study, Ballet I (Dance 224) and Einstein's surprisingly well-done Americanos here at the university. When not in River Falls, she takes great pride in cheering on the Mondovi, Wis. Buffaloes. Meyers is majoring in dairy science and communication studies. However, she also academically pursues a variety of unique subjects including political science and French.*

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# Death in the family a humbling experience to go through

Matthew Clark

Columnist

For those who consider themselves part of the music community, 2016 has not been off to a great start. Since the start of the new year, music fans have had to say goodbye to the likes of David Bowie, Natalie Cole and Glen Frey, just to name a few. As a music enthusiast myself, the loss of so many talented artists has brought me sadness and disappointment. The artists that helped shape my music tastes, my outlook on life and my love of culture, are now gone and will never be heard from again. Until recently however, I didn't completely understand what it meant to die. I had my notions and I had been to several funerals in the past but I wasn't remotely aware of what it really was. I didn't conceptualize it until death hit home for the first time with the passing of my grandfather, Larry.

Now, before I go any further, I must say that I don't know everything about death and what I'm about to say is not a one size fits all column. Death and grieving happen in many different ways and my experience may only be true to some. That said, I feel that what I write here is an interesting perspective that we all could find beneficial in some way. There were three major things that stood out to me during the final hours of my grandfather's life and after some reflection; I wish that I had realized them sooner.

Like all of the subsequent realizations, the first one is simple. Death is a time to come together and let bygones be bygones. Like almost every family, my family is not perfect and sometimes we don't all get along. With a very large family, it is very hard to always see eye to eye. But upon reaching the hospital on the day we were instructed to say our goodbyes, there was an obvious change. Family members who once had a heated past were laughing together and talking in peace. Family members who had not seen each other for extended

periods of time were chatting and picking up where they left off. Though the occasion was still grim, the reunions and truces being made brought a joy to the air that had almost been forgotten.

Near the end of my grandfather's life, things were not always easy. With the challenges of aging comes heartbreak and confusion. This flux of feelings often caused regrettable moments on both sides of the argument. But in the final moments of life for my grandfather, none of that mattered. As words fell out of the mouth of family members, the air was filled with memories and laughs about the good times and the precious moments that could never be replaced. All of this brought me to my next simple realization that in the end, absolutely nothing matters besides the important stuff. When my grandfather took his last breath, it felt like a wave had washed off all of the troubles and left only the happy times.


The final realization is more of a combination of the first two along with several smaller realizations. As I sat by the bedside of my grandfather during the earliest hours of the morning, I talked with the hospital's chaplain about my grandfather's life. As he asked questions and I answered, I realized something very important about the culmination of life: death is a beautiful thing if you do it right. If you look at the brass tax of this thing we call life, you realize that, well, we're all dying. But if you take the time now to create connections, make lasting and meaningful memories, you'll hopefully go the right way; surrounded by family, friends and most importantly, peace. When those come together in such a delicate moment like death, it can only be beautiful.

Matthew Clark is a junior journalism student. Clark is the News Editor for the Student Voice as well as the Program Director for WRFW-FM. Outside of school, Matt is an active musician and songwriter.

# STUDENT *Voices*


What are you doing for Valentine's Day?

*Compiled by Tori Schneider*




Jared Abraham  
Senior

"Just feel it. That's it. That's my answer."



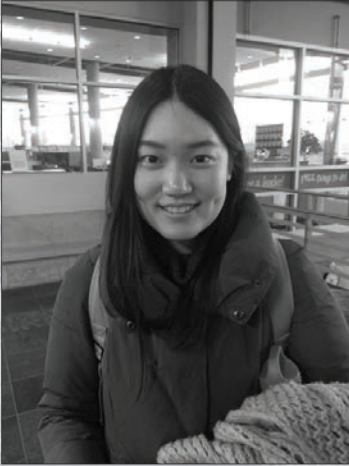
Marie-Morella Kponou  
Senior

"I don't know. Well I don't have a Valentine, so I'll probably just do my homework."




Mataya Barrett and Aaron Bigaouette  
Sociology and Agricultural Engineering

"Chick flick and ice cream."




Yeji Kim  
Senior

"I have no plans on Valentines Day. I'll just go to church because I don't have a boyfriend so maybe just spending time with friends.."



Brian Erdrich  
Junior

"I am going to go on an outdoors adventure and then go home and watch the magicians and drink hot chocolate. Whether I'm going to do that with somebody, I have no idea."



Gwen Ballard  
Freshman

"This Valentines Day I'm actually going to a Residence Life conference and it will be the second year that I won't be with my boyfriend on Valentine's Day."

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

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

The winner will be announced on the Voice's Twitter and Facebook accounts:

**@uwrvoice** and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**

Now Playing: Spotlight and The Big Short

Do you have something to say?

**Write a letter to the editor.**

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



# Women’s basketball takes down number 16 in nation

Zach Dwyer  
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons women’s basketball team took down UW-Stevens Point Pointers 77-67 in a thrilling comeback on Saturday afternoon. The clash of two top-25 ranked teams, with the Falcons at 18 and the Pointers at 16 in the nation squared off to determine who would hold sole possession of second place in the WIAC.

The Falcons got off to a quick start, going on a 9-3 run out of the gate with three Falcons starters hitting jump shots in the opening minutes. The Pointers quickly turned the game around when junior guard Taylor Douglas entered the game and completely took over. Douglas made 5 of her first 6 shots and dropped 13 points in only a few minutes to put the Pointers up 21-14 after the first quarter.

UWRF’s sloppy play clearly held them back in the first quarter, committing 7 turnovers in the opening 10 minutes. But the story of the second quarter began differently, with the Falcons slowly chipping away at the Pointers lead. River Falls finally broke through midway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter when Brynn Liljander’s three pointer gave the Falcons their first lead since the opening minutes at 32-31. A few easy baskets near the end of the half put UW-Stevens Point up 40-35 heading into the break.

The Falcons balanced scoring attack kept them in the game throughout the first half, with the leading scorer being Liljander with 11 points. Taylor Douglas quieted down in the second quarter and added only two points to her half-high 15 points.

The Pointers came out of the second half looking to make a statement. They quickly jumped out to a 46-36 lead through converting on some Falcon missed opportunities. UWRF couldn’t seem to cut into the deficit and it remained a 10 point game through most of the third quarter. But the Falcons’ zone defense came up big in the closing minutes of the third quarter, forcing turnovers and leading to higher percentage shots for the slumping Falcons.

Liljander said, “In the first half Stevens Point got to the basket a lot so we knew we had to take that way. By going into zone we packed the lane in and made Point take some tough shots.”

Junior Forward Ali Clark also dropped in 10 huge points off the bench to keep the game close at 54-49 going into the decisive 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

Head Coach Cindy Holbrook was especially impressed, saying, “With Katie [Theisen] in foul trouble we needed to someone to step up for us. Ali came up huge for us in the post with her scoring and defense.”

UW-River Falls owned the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, jumping out to a 17-5 run to begin the quarter. Huge three pointers from Liljander and Taylor Karge jumpstarted the Falcons offense and swung the momentum and crowd towards the Falcons.

“We started taking better shots early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and going on a run like that really changes the energy,” Holbrook said.

The Falcons made their free throws down the stretch and committed zero turnovers in the second half, making it all but impossible for UW-Stevens point to get back in the game. The final score of 77-67 didn’t clearly show how close the game was all afternoon long.

“In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter we were a lot more patient on offense. We didn’t force shots and we found the open player. We played with a lot of confidence and in close games like that confidence is a huge advantage,” Liljander said.

Liljander finished with 26 points, nailing 4 threes and going 10-12 from the free throw line. Karge also added 16 points and 6 rebounds to clinch another huge WIAC victory for the Falcons.

While at the beginning of the day the game looked to be a battle for second place, UW-Oshkosh’s loss to UW Stout 59-52 propelled the Falcons to sole possession of first place in the WIAC. UWRF currently holds the tie breaker after their victory over Oshkosh on the road earlier this season.

“The difference between the top and bot-



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Junior Kate Theisen searches the court for a teammate to pass to. The Falcons play at home on Feb. 17, against UW- Stout.**

tom teams in this conference is only about 10 points. But if you don’t show up for even one day it can change everything this late in the season,” Holbrook said.

With the win the Falcons move to 17-4 on the season, and improve to 9-1 at home and 8-2 in the WIAC. The Falcons now head on a two game road trip before returning home for the final two regular season games.

Holbrook said, “This is a team that is good enough to win a conference title or a conference tournament. But as we saw by Stout’s upset win, you have to come focused and ready to play every night.”

The Falcons final two home games will be key in determining the tight WIAC race this season. Falcons’ fans won’t want to miss the Falcons first chance at a conference title since 1988-1989. UWRF’s next home game is February 17<sup>th</sup> against UW-Stout. Tipoff is set for 7 PM.



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LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

SATURDAY, FEB. 13

HOME VS. EAU CLAIRE

PUCK DROPS- 2:05 P.M.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, FEB. 13

HOME VS. PLATTEVILLE

TIP-OFF- 5:00 P.M.

MEN’S HOCKEY

SATURDAY, FEB. 13

HOME VS. STOUT

PUCK DROPS- 7:05 P.M.



# UWRF women’s basketball improves to No. 1 in WIAC

Trenten Gauthier  
Falcon News Service

An off-season for an athletic program can work wonders, and for the UW-River Falls women’s basketball team, it has brought the Falcons from seventh in the WIAC last year to first in 2016.

The Falcons just wrapped up an upset victory over UW-Stevens Point, and with a loss by UW-Oshkosh, the Falcons are now in first place and control their own destiny with four games remaining in the regular season. If UWRF wins the remaining games, it will win its first regular season conference championship since 1988, according to uwrfsports.com.

Head Coach Cindy Holbrook, who is in her 16th season as the Falcons coach, said last year’s team was young and inexperienced, but this past off-season, the team grew in more ways than one.

“There is a huge difference between sophomores and juniors. Just the intelligence for the game, and the ability to respond to the game and the physical strength,” Holbrook

said. “There is a night-and-day difference in strength from sophomores to juniors. Plus, you got to figure, last year we lost games not by a lot. So we thought we were going to be good this year.”

Along with working hard in the offseason and returning four starters from a year ago, the Falcons added junior guard Brynn Liljander, a transfer from UW-Superior. Liljander is second on the team in scoring with 13.1 points per game. She also leads the team in three pointers with 35 this season, and is No. 1 on the team in free throw percentage with 81.3 percent.

Holbrook said she knew that Liljander was going to be special when the program brought her in this season.

“You add Brynn to the mix, a kid that can score, a kid that keeps the tempo up. So you add that one piece, everyone else gets better,” she said.

Richell Mehus, the only senior on the team this year, has been around during the bad years and is enjoying success this season, Mehus credits Liljander’s aggressiveness in her first season here.

“She’s a dream come true! She’s a threat to score continu-

ously throughout the game,” Mehus said. “She is willing to attack open gaps to score or kick it out and/or dish it to the post so someone else can get a shot. She’s not afraid to pop it in someone’s face or behind a screen, so defenders have to be ready all the time.”

The Falcons control their own destiny in their final four remaining games, and Mehus said there is still a lot the team can improve on in order to get the first regular season conference championship in 28 years.

“We need to continue to do what we do well but out-rebounding our opponents will be the biggest deciding factor on how the last four regular season games end up,” Mehus said.

According to d3hoops.com, UW-River Falls is currently ranked No. 15 in the nation, and is tied with UW-Oshkosh at the top of the WIAC but owns the tiebreaker. The Falcons play UW-Stout, UW-Platteville and UW-La Crosse in their next three games, and in their final game, UW-Oshkosh will come to River Falls. With both teams tied at the top of the WIAC, the game very well could decide the regular season champion and is sure to be a thrilling finale for the Falcons.

## Women’s hockey team looks forward to game against UW-Eau Claire, Saturday, Feb. 13, at 2:05 p.m.



*Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications*  
**Left: Freshman Izzy Brosseau skates with the puck. Right: Senior Chloe Kinsel watches the game from the bench. The Falcon’s record is 16-5-1 this season.**



*Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications*  
**UWRF Falcon freshman defense man Haley Nielsen, from Plymouth, Minnesota, handles the puck. Nielsen has one goal and three assists this season.**

# Falcon football loses defensive coordinator to UW- Eau Claire

Kate Vruwink  
Falcon News Service

After three seasons with the UW-River Falls men’s football team, Defensive Coordinator Matthew Ebner is leaving the team to return to his alma mater, UW-Eau Claire.

Ebner came to UWRF in 2013 after playing for UWEC from 2005-2008, and then coaching three seasons as an assistant offensive line coach as well as the defensive line coach, according to uwrfsports.com. Ebner could not be reached for comment.

Ebner brought a lot to the team not only as a coach, but as a person,

said Head Coach Matthew Walker.

“He quickly became part of this football family, and had a lot of passion for what we were doing,” said Walker. “Anyone that follows us knows we’ve been through some ups and downs trying to turn this program around. We’re on the edge of something special and he was a big part of that with his passion and commitment.”

One part of the “downs” the Falcons faced was their 2013 season, when they finished 0-10. Ebner had a part in turning the program around and making this season the most successful one the Falcons have seen since 2001.

Eau Claire went through a similar situation in its 2015 season, going 0-10, and in response the entire coaching staff was let go. The team then offered Ebner the defensive coordinator position there, and Walker says he is excited to be returning.

The news came as a shock to some of the players, but they are happy for him. Defensive Captain Tyler Ledbeter said the men are going to miss him, but that leaving comes with the territory.

You have to understand that when you play college sports,” Ledbeter said. “Every defensive player developed with him, and started un-

derstanding how he coached, so that will be hard (to see him go).”

Walker agreed, and said that although he was sad to see a really good friend go, these changes call for a little bit of excitement.

“You get a chance to get what you want, maybe change, and make a couple adjustments that better fit your guys,” he said.

Walker also said he feels the team is in good shape moving into the future. He credits part of that to the group of players returning to the field and said that they will benefit the team as they move forward.

“This is the best personnel of kids I’ve ever had on a defense on any

team I’ve ever been around,” he said. “I’m a big believer it’s about the people not the scheme.”

That sentiment was echoed by Ledbeter, who said he feels the team was strong enough to move forward pretty smoothly. As the men move into preparations for the next season they are excited to see who will be guiding them out on the field in the defensive position.

Walker said he hopes to have that position filled by early March so the new coach has time to get settled in before the spring football season begins on April 4.



# Hail, Caesar! presents lackluster plot, but great cast



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

wThe Coen brothers take us to a far off place that was as chaotic as it was beautiful in the Golden Age of Hollywood with “Hail, Caesar!,” a film that is filled with as good call-backs as it does actors.

A love letter to the old days when both beauty and garbage was being produced at once by studios, the film covers the life of real person Eddie Mannix, whose job it was back during his time in Hollywood to cover up the embarrassing details of actors’ lives.

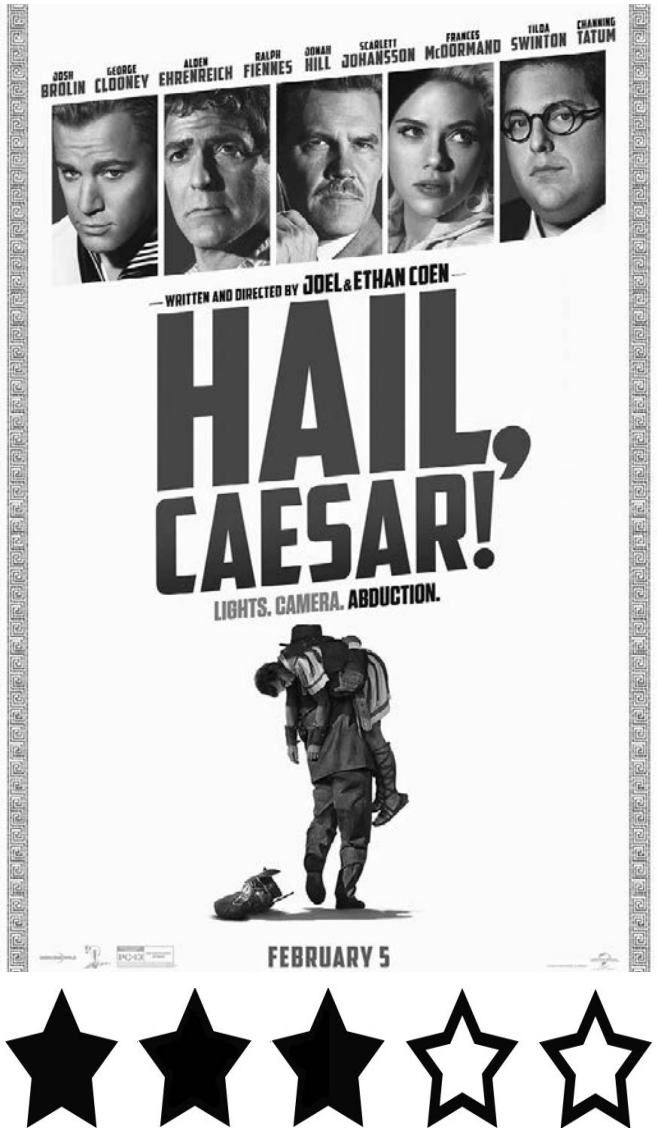
Eddie, played by Josh Brolin, finds himself on the trail of an actor gone missing in Hollywood, and it just happens to be Baird Whitlock (George Clooney), his studios biggest star.

As more things begin to disassemble piece by piece, whether it is a cowboy actor who can’t act anything else, or an actress who is facing a public image problem with a child and no father, Mannix must go through the thick of it just to keep Hollywood from crumbling all in just one day.

For a premise like this the Coen brothers manage to hit all of the common tropes that were found in 1950’s Hollywood at the time, such as the commonality of westerns and epic films, the seediness that occurred behind the scenes, and the fear of communism felt by many at the time.

Some of this is reflected in the various segments of the film, from large synchronized swimming scenes to a musical moment with sailors, it all comes across as true, genuine Hollywood, and the Coen brothers are to be commended for getting down the feel and size of productions at the time.

However, some of those scenes can also trail on and seg-



ment the film up quite a bit with those long, fantastic moments and end up making the story a little choppy. In fact, one criticism that can be given to this film is that it can feel like things don’t flow well from scene to scene.

This results in the film feeling unsatisfying in regards to entertainment value but still remaining a treasure to those who honor the Golden Age; which is sad to say because the film is quite well cast.

Josh Brolin does a fine job as Mannix, a man who is both frustrated with his clients and loves his job, and even George

Clooney as Baird Whitlock, a man who never seems to grasp the immensity of his situation of being kidnapped by some very benign men.

All the actors play their parts very well and do a fine job portraying the actor tropes of the time. They even manage to get a few laughs out here and there. One scene involving an actor flubbing his lines constantly got a chuckle out of me.

Despite some laughs, the film felt scattershot in some of its humor. I can appreciate that some of it comes from characters alone and odd situations that occur from time to time, but I never felt fully satisfied, even though this is meant to be a comedy.

I think one can appreciate how well the Coen brothers are honoring how hilariously inept running the big film studios of the time was and how despite all the crookedness that may have occurred we still turned out some good stuff every now and then, but I feel as though some audiences may walk away a little disappointed, especially with two big names writing and directing this picture.

“Hail, Caesar!” is not for everyone, but it may please some out there who are fascinated by the old days of picture making and how seedy and oftentimes criminal it could be to work in films those days.

*Ryan Funes is a Junior at River Falls majoring in Journalism with a minor in Art History. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.*

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