



SOFTBALL, PAGE 8

Three seniors
wrap up
UWRF careers

LTES, PAGE 4 & 6

Column and election
causes stir on campus

ORGANIC BEER, PAGE 10

Downtown grocery
store to sell organic
and craft beers



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New system to improve file sharing at UWRF

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Information Technology Services (ITS) has undertaken an estimated \$290,000 project to improve UW-River Falls file sharing system.

The system provides space, such as the Courses and Home drives, for students, staff and faculty to save and store files.

While about \$250,000 is coming from University funds, about \$40,000 is coming from technology fees students pay as part of their tuition.

“Probably about \$200,000 will be spent on disk storage, the hardware and the server,” Project Manager Wendy Helm said. “[Other expenses] will be bringing in outside expertise to work with ITS with knowledge training and various parts of the transformation.”

Helm was hired to manage the project as a temporary UWRF employee.

The University has termed the new system “FalconFile,” which will provide students, staff and faculty with an improved way to store, access, control and share their files.

Among many of the problems with the current system is that students, staff and faculty can’t access files they have stored on the University system from off campus.

“Students get frustrated that they have to come to labs to get access,” Helm said.

Another problem is that non-UWRF users do not have access to the system, making students, staff and faculty find alternative ways, such as e-mail, to share files.

“E-mail wasn’t really designed as a document distribution system,” Lisa Wheeler, director of IT Services, said.

An anticipated result of the switch is that the load on the campus e-mail and web systems will be reduced because of another convenient way for sharing and storing files will be provided to students, staff and faculty.

“Instead of attaching a file to an e-mail, people can provide a ‘ticket’ or a link with the web address,” Wheeler said.

Helm agreed and said FalconFile will be beneficial because it will not take up a lot of

See **FalconFile**, page 3

Year in review



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Top: The UWRF men’s hockey team celebrates its NCHA regular season title against the UW-Stout Blue Devils Feb. 10. Above: Windows line the south entrance to the University Center, displaying the architectural design of the building, which opened in January. Left, from left to right: Students Aaron Bergman, Catherine Polnaszek and Shaun Priesgen stand with candles in remembrance of the Virginia Tech shootings at the fire pit area outside the University Center April 16.

Turn to page 12 for photos and stories from the 2006-07 academic year.

Student Health Services offers students resources to de-stress, relax

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Many students know the feelings that approach as the semester draws to a close - last minute studying, pulling together group projects and above all, feeling stressed out. To help students relieve the stress of finals week, many resources are made available to UW-River Falls students, such as Cruise through Finals and Finals Fest.

Director of Student Health Services (SHS) Alice Reilly-Myklebust said that SHS wants to do their best to help students get through such a tough time of year.

“We try to offer a variety of resources,” Reilly-Myklebust said in a February interview. “We see a lot of people getting sick this time of year, often from being stressed.”

The action begins every Saturday before finals week with Finals Fest, a free concert for students on campus. This year, the concert will take place from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. May 5, with food available for purchase from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Typically, four bands play each year; students are encouraged to attend and watch as Reel Big Fish, Mike Doughty, The Pettit Project and Jester’s Panic take the stage at the outdoor amphitheatre on campus. Students interested in finding out more

can log on to www.myspace.com/finalsfest.

Freshman Taryn Hartenstein has never participated in finals events before but said she has heard good things about Finals Fest and plans to attend this year.

“I think it’s a great idea,” Hartenstein said. “It will help relieve stress and give people a good study break.”

Cruise through Finals takes place every year at the start of finals week, this year May 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by Counseling, Career and Student Health Services, students of all ages are invited to come to the campus mall between the University Center and KFA to enjoy a variety of

“stress-relieving” activities.

Students can participate in everything from drinking rootbeer floats to prize giveaways. This year, Jane Mannetter of Zaney Janey’s Activity Center in downtown River Falls will give henna tattoos and the St. Croix Center for the Healing Arts will give massages. Everything will be free except for the henna tattoos, for which there will be a small fee. In past years, Hastings Beauty School has even done hairstyling.

Jennifer Elsesser of Student Health and Counseling Services said that the event has been

See **Finals**, page 3

EXPECTATIONS IN EDUCATION

Electronic advancements further impact the future of academia

Looking back on the past five weeks of the Expectations in Education series, I can’t help but wonder and attempt to predict what the future of academia holds at this institution. While racking my

brain, my definitive assumption was that technology will play the most prominent role in shaping the future for UW-River Falls students.

Technological advances will continue to spawn new devices for professors to use in their teaching arsenal.

More professors will begin to utilize interactive classrooms where students participate via the Internet. Similar to the e-Scholar program at UW-Stout, UWRF students will receive laptops at the beginning of their freshman year. These computers will be used in the classroom to take notes and follow along with PowerPoint presentations. These laptops could also lead



Jennie
Oemig

to the demise of paper tests and quizzes. I imagine every professor will eventually develop a lab mentality and utilize the technology of computers to their fullest capacity. Some professors at UWRF now already rely on D2L to give quizzes and

See **Oemig**, page 3

Up-and-coming technology predicted to include 3-D, high-tech features

For the final column in this series on the changing nature of education, I have been asked to look into my crystal ball and predict the types of technological advances that are likely to be found on the college campus in the near future. Interestingly, the first thing my crystal ball has shown me is that in the near future crystal balls will actually be made of cubic zirconium.

On a more semi-serious note, the seer in me believes that two interesting types of technology I expect to be used by the UW-River Falls incoming class of 2050 will involve “the book” and “the link.” Concerning “the book,” I believe that one of the most dramatic technological



Brad
Caskey

advances will involve the development of truly interactive e-text. I know that some of you are saying that electronic versions of textbooks already exist and you are correct. However, the e-text I envision is something significantly more sophisticated. Rather than a set of static words surrounded by the occasional static photograph I see the textbook of tomorrow as amazingly

dynamic. I expect the visual images in the textbook of the future will be both amazingly detailed and interactive. Holographic technology will allow a student studying the geographic structure of the San Andreas Fault to not only view a full 3-D color topographical image, but that image will also be able to be put into motion and you will witness the aftermath of seismic shifts of varying magnitudes, including the one that sends southern California into the Pacific Ocean and makes Las Vegas into a beach community. Psychology students will be able to not only view a 3-D brain, but will also be able to use a tool to

See **Caskey**, page 3

VOICE SHORTS

River Falls will collect food and clothes

Several organizations on the UW-River Falls campus will be collecting food, clothes and other items that are in good shape May 3-12 to donate locally.

The items will be collected in front of residence hall lobbies. Students with furniture or other big items are to contact Joan McDonald at 760-1775 to arrange a pick up time.

Organizations participating in the event are Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Leadership Development and Service Committee and Campus and Community Fighting Hunger and Homelessness.

Finals Fest features Reel Big Fish

Reel Big Fish, Mike Doughty, The Pettit Project and Jester’s Panic will begin to perform at 5 p.m. May 5 at the Outdoor Amphitheatre. Doughty is scheduled to perform at 6:30 p.m. and Reel Big Fish is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m.

Admission will begin at 4 p.m. The cost is free and open to the public. Food will be available for purchase from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The event is part of Finals Fest, which is an annual event at UW-River Falls held the Saturday before finals week.

For more information, visit www.myspace.com/finalsfest.

Health Services hosts new event for finals

Student Health and Counseling Services will host the event “Cruise Through Finals” from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 7 on Hathorn Hall’s front lawn.

The event is free for students and is intended to give relief to students during finals week and includes professional massages, refreshments, games and prizes, hair up-dos and Root Beer Floats.

For more information, contact Jennifer Elsesser at 425-3755.

Graduation ceremony to be held at Knowles

The spring 2007 graduation ceremonies will be held May 12 in the Robert P. Knowles Building.

The first ceremony is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include students from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Business and Economics and the College of Graduate Studies.

The second ceremony is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. and will include students from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Professional Studies.

For more information, visit www.uwrf.edu/commencement.

RF holds workshops for outdoor activities

The St. Croix River Institute at UW-River Falls will hold workshops and courses involving canoeing, hiking and fly-fishing May through August.

The institute is a collaborative effort between the University and the National Park Service.

For a list of courses offered and their times or more information, visit the institute’s Web site at www.uwrf.edu/ogs/stcroix or contact the institute at 425-3256.

Prof receives teacher of the year accolades

Physics professor Jim Madsen has been selected as UW-River Falls 2007 Teacher of the Year.

Chancellor Don Betz said Madsen was chosen for his characteristics that the University associates with an exceptional educator, namely intelligence, unbounded curiosity, persistence, accomplishment and a lifelong commitment to helping students learn. He also said the UWRF faculty is represented well with the selection of Madsen this year.

Hudson recognized as a top small town

Hudson, Wis., was recognized by *Midwest Living* magazine as a top small town to visit in the Midwest, according to the *Hudson Star-Observer*.

Hudson was listed as No. 58 in an article called “The 100 Best Small-Town Getaways.” The honor was announced in the June 2007 issue of the magazine, which is published in Des Moines, Iowa. Midwest Living is considered one of the nation’s top travel publications, according to the newspaper.

The honor was announced in the June 2007 issue of the magazine, published in Des Moines, Iowa. Wisconsin led the list of honorees with 15 towns being recognized.

The article was the cover story for the June issue. Wisconsin Gov. James Doyle sent his congratulations in a letter.

He wrote: “congratulations on this prestigious honor and for your role in putting Wisconsin in the national spotlight. Thank you for your vision and ongoing efforts to make Wisconsin a leading travel destination in the nation.”

AmeriCorps promotes youth services

AmeriCorps members from across Wisconsin traveled the state in a big yellow school bus and stopped in various cities to promote youth service and community involvement.

The bus left UW-River Falls at 9 a.m., April 26 for a mini conference. Dubbed “R.I.S.E. UP Wisconsin! The Ride to Inspire Student Engagement,” the tour aimed to motivate high school and college students to lead their friends to create their own solutions to problems within the community through service learning and civic engagement.

Students travel to Taiwan to study culture

UW-River Falls professor of marketing Darryl Miller and a group of students visited Taiwan during spring break to learn more about the people, culture and history of the East-Asian country.

The spring break study tour was the second that UWRF students and faculty have taken to Taiwan and to study at Shih Chien University and Shih Hsin University in the city of Taipei.

UWRF plans to bring more students in the future. There are also a handful of students who have spent the entire semester in Taiwan.

It allows students to gain appreciation for other cultures and compare them to their own.

Miller will be returning to Taiwan this month to teach a course at Shih Chien University and is hoping a professor from Taiwan will come to UWRF next year.

Briefs compiled by Amber Jurek

SENATE

Grievance fails to change results

Beth Dickman
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The Student Senate meeting was meant to wrap up the semester, but the crowd in attendance demonstrated the level of importance of the motions on the table.

The finance committee, headed by Jim Vierling had a motion on the table to approve a series of one-time funding requests that were submitted by various organizations on campus.

Though more organizations applied than were approved, \$8,400 was allocated to Focus on U, men’s rugby, Theta Chi fraternity and the badminton club. Each organization was required to submit a request for a specific amount of money and offer the reasons for the requests. For example, Focus on U was allocated \$6,000 for a new set.

Both the men’s rugby team and the Asian Student Alliance (ASA) had members in attendance to offer their insight on the motion.

The men’s rugby team left satisfied with the turnout, but ASA was disappointed that their request for funding for a storage unit was denied.

“We understood, as a committee, the need for space ... It wasn’t a feasible thing to build a new building on campus,” Leadership Development and Programming Board (LDPB) Chair Natalie Hagberg said.

The motion approving the funding passed by unanimously.

The remaining members of the audience were there to fight for and attest the grievance that was filed about last Tuesday’s elections.

On the ballot was a referendum for United Council. Though the final vote tallied in favor of not being part of United Council, there was only an eight-vote difference.



Natalie Hagberg

Student Ben Plunkett filed a three-page grievance following the elections accusing the College Republicans of violating election rules.

The College Republicans reserved a table April 17 in the lobby of the University Center to be used to show their opposition for United Council.

On the day of the election, April 24, they set up their table in the entrance of the University Center near the student-use computers. Due to their location and proximity to the computers that could be used for voting, they were in violation of the UW-River Falls Student Association Election Rules.

According to the election rules, “All campaign material must be a minimum of 100 feet away from the ballot box and or any other means of voting.”

Members of the College Republicans attended the meeting in order to speak about the issue.

“I was there, I was waving in the photo. I didn’t know I was doing something wrong until that day. We were told that we couldn’t be there, but we wanted to hear it from an official person.”

Plunkett and another member of the College Democrats confronted the table and informed them of the inappropriate nature of the table. Student Senate Advisor Gregg Heinselman was informed of the issue and reviewed the election rules before advising the table be shut down.

The College Republicans’ table was open from 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., not long enough to affect the voting, College Republican Casie Kelley said.

“The only interaction that we had was the negative interaction that occurred [with Ben Plunkett],” Kelley said. “No students visited our table, we handed out no fliers.”

Though the verbal sparring continued between not only audience members but also the Student Senate members, the issue at hand became more focused on the principle of not punishing a group for acting wrongly in a situation where rules and guidelines are clearly written and distributed.

“I am not saying that yes, they did sway the election, but their intent was to sway the election,” said Thomas Friant, student organizer and co-chair of College Democrats. “If this organization does not uphold its own rules then I will sadly lose a lot of respect for this institution, and that’s sad since it is one of the greatest institutions on this campus.”

“This is not ‘Nam, there are rules here,” Plunkett said.

After the grievance was filed, the ethics committee reviewed the situation and issued a written reprimand to the College Republicans in accordance with the written election rules.

“... there was no reason to overturn the election results because there was no evidence that the results would have been any different,” said Hagberg, who all sits on the ethics committee.

After an hour of discussion, and with three names still on the speaker’s list a motion passed to move to question. In this instance it skipped the remaining people on the list and allowed the Senate to vote on the original motion.

The motion required a two-thirds vote in order to pass. Through a hand vote, the motion to overturn the results of the referendum did not pass.

The members of next semester’s Student Senate sat in on Tuesday’s meeting. President Joe Eggers passes his gavel to Derek Brandt next semester with Sara Deick sitting as vice president.

To conclude the meeting, Eggers addressed all of Student Senate for the last time.

“I’m really proud of you guys,” Eggers said. “I was worried in the beginning, but I’m really proud of everything you’ve done.”



Joe Eggers

Students to speak at commencement

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UW-River Falls students Dana Laufenberg and Nicole Peters have been selected to speak during the graduation ceremonies May 12.

Laufenberg will speak at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the College of Graduate Studies. Peters will speak at the 2 p.m. ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Education and Professional Studies (COEPS).

“I wanted to speak at graduation because I have been extremely fortunate to have had so many opportunities at UWRF,” Peters said. “I saw this as one way to express my appreciation for them.”

Laufenberg said it will be a good opportunity to display her public speaking skills she has developed at UWRF.

“I originally auditioned for commencement speaking as a challenge to myself,” Laufenberg said. “But I realized that if I were chosen, it would be a huge honor and a great way to display the skills that I have learned while I have been here.”

Peters’ speech is titled “Lessons From the Textbook of Life.”

“It is about some of the lessons I have been lucky to experience during my time at UWRF,” Peters said. “[One thing] I have learned is the importance in investing in those around you and taking time to make a genuine connection whether it is friends, co-workers, professors or others you experience daily.”

Laufenberg’s speech is titled “Journeying Through Life.”

“I will be focusing on the journey that we have taken through our lives starting in childhood and continuing through our careers,” Laufenberg said. “Our journey through life did not start when we came to UWRF nor will it end when we walk through the doors.”

Both Laufenberg and Peters had to have an initial draft of their

“Our journey through life did not start when we came to UWRF nor will it end when we walk through the doors.”
Dana Laufenberg, student speaker

speeches prepared when they auditioned to speak at the end of March.

Miriam Huffman, co-director of the First Year Experience Program, said when the candidates audition each year, they are to present their speech the way they would the day of commencement.

A speaker for each ceremony is then selected by the External Relations Committee of Faculty Senate and recommended to the chancellor.

Since they received notice of the committee’s and the chancellor’s decision, both students have been able to refine and polish their speeches.

“Each of the speakers, following their selections, works with faculty in our Speech Communication and Theatre Arts Department to assist in crafting their final speech,” Huffman said.

Laufenberg is an animal science major with an emphasis in equine management and will be one of the many graduating seniors in the CAFES ceremony.

Peters will be graduating with seniors in the CAS ceremony and is a speech communication major with an emphasis in professional and organizational communication.

Both Laufenberg and Peters said they hope they can send important and encouraging messages out to graduating seniors.

“I would like to see my fellow graduates taking home the message that we are never going to stop learning, even if we choose not to continue to further [our] education,” Laufenberg said. “No matter what we are faced with, challenges and changes will force us to continue learning, especially in the rapid field of technology.”

After graduation, she will return to UWRF for graduate studies in agricultural education.

Peters will be moving to Ohio to get her master’s degree in college student personnel at Bowling Green State University.

RIVER FALLS POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

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- April 24**
- Graffiti was reported on the southeast side of Crabtree Hall. No suspects or witnesses have been located, according to reports.
- April 27**
- John D. Ward, 23, was cited \$109 for public urination on south Main Street.
 - Joseph K. Nourse 19, was cited \$172 for underage consumption.
- April 28**
- Christopher J. Schmitz, 24, was cited \$109 for public urination on Main Street.
 - Rachel A. Rahmalow, 20, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Stratton Hall.
 - Melissa M. Sattler, 18, was cited \$249 for underage consumption in Stratton Hall.
- April 29**
- Joseph L. VanKirk, 22, was cited \$83 for open container on south Main Street.
 - Bradley J. Handel, 18, was cited \$298 for second offense underage consumption.
- April 30**
- A parking meter was reported stolen from Q Lot at approximately 10:25 a.m. Another meter was found knocked over in the same lot. Replacement and labor costs for both meters is estimated at \$774, according to reports.

Parking

- Special accommodations will be made in lots O, T, G, P and E for move out parking from Wednesday, May 9-Friday, May 11. Designated spaces in these lots will be marked with “20 minute move out parking” signs. Parking in non-designated spaces within these lots will result in a citation.
- Accommodations for text book drop off will be made in the upper portion of B lot only on the west side of South Hall from Wednesday, May 9-Friday, May 11. Lower B lot will be limited to B permit and physically challenged parking only. Unauthorized parking in lower B lot will result in a citation. This area will be strongly enforced in the interests of safety and reducing congestion.
- Public Safety and Parking will be enforcing all student permit spaces through finals week, ending at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 11. All employee permit spaces and posted spaces are always enforced 12 months a year. Loading zones near academic buildings will be strongly enforced. If you need access via one of these loading zones and do not have a permit, you must contact the Parking Office at ext. 3333. All posted spaces, fire lanes and time limitations will also be strongly enforced.
- Completed applications along with payment must be returned to the Parking Office by May 11. Returning student applications received after May 11 will only be accepted by appeal. All appeals will be reviewed after the lottery for incoming freshmen is complete. Appeals will be accepted beginning May 14. All appeals must be made via the appeal form on the parking Web site.

FalconFile: System to be beneficial in saving space

from page 1

space like e-mail attachments do. She said when attachments are sent by e-mail, they are stored in several places, such as the sender’s e-mail and the receiver’s e-mail and directory, which take up a lot of space. “This system is a better way to store files,” Helm said.

Chair of the Political Science Department and Professor Tracey Gladstone-Sovell was part of a group that tested FalconFile in January and February.

“I loved it,” Gladstone-Sovell said. “I used it as my main file storage mechanism during that time. I am anxiously waiting for FalconFile to be available to I can retire my flash drive or use it only to archive old documents.”

Gladstone-Sovell said the new system was way more convenient because she was able to access her files from anywhere and will help her make sure her students have access to the files

they need for coursework. “It will also make the [‘dog ate my homework’] more suspect,” she said. “If the dog really does eat your flash drive, it won’t matter because your files will be located on the new server system.”

UWRF student Andy Wolfram also was part of the test group and said it was easy to understand and convenient to access. “It is much easier than the current system of file sharing because you just log on and go,” Wolfram said. “It really is a user-friendly system.”

Wolfram said a challenge students might face at first is setting up “tickets” to access files. “Once you do it, it is a lot easier,” he said.

Other problems FalconFile will help solve are the lack of storage space for files and the hassle of UWRF organizations having to request permission from ITS to add or remove users.

“Having an organizational folder has been a headache for

many organizations because they can’t add or remove users without ITS permission,” Helm said.

The new system will fix this problem by allowing UWRF organizations to have full access to any of their files or folders.

The switch will also increase the amount of space available for storing files and will allow ITS to add storage space as needed.

Though space is essentially unlimited with FalconFile, Wheeler said students, staff and faculty will be given quotas to allow only a certain amount of space. She also said if individuals ask for more space, they will give it to them, however, it will be on a case-by-case basis.

Training will be provided for students, staff and faculty at the start of the 2007-08 academic year.

FalconFile is expected to be available August 1.

Finals: Events aim to de-stress, help students through tests

from page 1

going on for six or seven years and remains fairly popular with students.

“Typically we see around 150 to 200 students come through,” Elsesser said.

Students are encouraged to check out the festivities, which are being improved every year.

Kate Garlock, a junior, barely remembers attending her freshman year and hopes to have some time between studying to attend this year’s events.

“I don’t remember it very well,” Garlock said. “But I’ve heard from people that have gone that it’s really cool now, that it keeps getting better.”

While specific events do take place, other resources to help students de-stress are made available throughout the week from Career, Counseling and Student Health Services. Information is given away regarding counseling,

relaxation techniques, and test-taking strategies and other “fun things” are offered to students as well, Elsesser said.

“[We also give away] bio-dots,” Elsesser said. “[They are] stickers that change color according to body temperature - low temp means higher stress.”

The main goal should be to maintain some sense of relaxation, meaning to take study breaks and do what makes you feel good, according to campushealth.com.

For some students, this will mean attending finals events. For others, such as freshman Amanda Dodge, it will be something a little more low-key.

“I don’t usually [do much],” Dodge said. “Just hang out with friends, study, relax and pack up for home.”

Caskey: Future holds technological updates instantly

from page 1

stimulate some specific area and view the reaction such stimulation would have on the actions of a person. Stimulate the motor cortex and watch as your anime-subject flaps his arms wildly.

I also believe that rather than buying a new edition of an e-text, you will simply pay a fee and the words and images will be automatically updated! Is Pluto a “real planet” or a “dwarf planet?” Who cares? One week it is in the planet chapter, the next it is in the unit on dwarfs. The second major advantage of such a text is the ability to insert very recent events immediately rather than waiting two to three years for the next edition. Students in a course on discrimination in the workplace can be treated to the legal transcripts from yesterday’s Supreme Court ruling barring Vikings fans from holding public office. For the sci-

ences, these updates would include research findings approved for publication just the previous day (talk about cutting-edge data). Who wants to have to wait a year to find out that single-malt Scotch and hot fudge actually cause you to live longer and healthier? Certainly not I. A final advantage is that if a student purchases an e-text, they can sell it back at virtually the same cost, as it will never be out of date.

“The link.” I do not wish to end on a too Orwellian note, but I do believe one of the more dramatic changes that will take place concerning technology on campus will involve the implantation of an electronic student UWRF ID chip on the first day of orientation. This chip will contain specific information on the individual (e.g., name, current schedule), take the place of a credit card (being automatically scanned as students exit the food court with lunch or the bookstore with

their e-text), and will also serve as a means of campus electronic communication. Students will no longer be able to say they did not receive an update from a faculty member as teachers will have the ability to send messages directly to these implants and this information will be downloadable in auditory or printed form. This chip will be useful as an attendance tracker with each entry to a classroom being logged into some central database. Finally, the chip will be seen as a major advance in security as the movements and location of all students can be known in an instant. Will some complain that this is an invasion of personal privacy? Yes, but I believe that it will be successfully argued that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. Who would have thought that when “Big Brother” is watching, that brother will be Freddy Falcon?

Students create Facebook groups for 2008 presidential campaigns

Tyler Liedman

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The presidential election may still be 18 months away, and primary elections nearly a year down the road, but politics is not far from the minds of many UW-River Falls students.

Facebook.com, the popular social networking site where more than 6,700 UWRF students and alumni are listed as members, is one of many in a large group of similar Web sites aimed at connecting young people through the Internet. According to the site, one of its main focuses, aside from allowing users to keep in contact with their peers, is the user-created groups that unite members under various causes, many of them political in nature.

“Facebook is a huge advantage for groups, especially political groups,” said John Byers, the creator of the UWRF College Democrats group. “Some people might not even know that River Falls had a College Democrats organization if it hadn’t been for Facebook.”

Nick Shillingford, co-founder of the River Falls chapter of Socialist Alternative, said he believes these Web sites can be a helpful tool for banding students together under common beliefs.

“It’s a good way to show people there are other people that think like them,” Shillingford said.

Though Shillingford said Facebook can be a positive social tool for students who feel isolated by their viewpoints, its influence on those viewpoints is relatively low.

“It’s a very minor way of convincing them, politically,” he said. “Trolling [for support] and trying to convince people are two different things.”

Similarly a political science professor Neil Kraus said he believes these sites cannot necessarily persuade someone who is not politically active to become so.

“In terms of something like Facebook, I’m not so sure that’s helpful in terms of encouraging any sort of increase in political knowledge or participation among young people,” he said. “If it were, I imagine that political participation rates among young people would be consistently increasing, but I don’t think that’s happening.”

The Socialist Alternative currently manages a Facebook group with 22 members at the University. The UWRF College

“Facebook is a huge advantage for groups. Some people might not even know that River Falls had a College Democrats organization if it hadn’t been on Facebook.”

John Byers, student

Democrats group consists of 113 students, while the College Republicans have 56 members on their official site.

Shillingford said that high membership does not necessarily mean high involvement. He said less than half of those in the group actively post on message boards or participate in events.

“You can just as easily give an inflated view of what something actually is,” he said.

When asked about the effectiveness of the College Democrat’s group, Byers said, “I’m sure it has increased awareness about our presence on campus. It seems as if we get a good turnout every week.”

Eric Bohl, the vice-chair of the College Republicans, said in an e-mail that his organization was “not interested” in answering questions on the subject.

In addition to organizational groups, there are many other political Facebook groups on both national and River Falls networks that support a wide range of perspectives and issues from “The Anti-Federalist Society,” a UWRF group with 3 members, to “Implementation of Wu-Tang in Classrooms,” a nationwide group with nearly 3,000 members.

Sophomore Katie Theien and junior Liz Fitzgerald both belong to politically oriented groups of their Facebook accounts. Fitzgerald said she joined a “Hillary Clinton for President” group to show support for her candidate.

Theien, on the other hand, is a member of a Republican group, though she could not remember the name.

“I’m only a member because I was sent and invitation from them,” she said.

Both said they mainly use the site for “keeping in contact with friends,” not political participation.

Other students, including Junior Sonia Madlon, said they try to avoid using the Web as a source of political information. Though she logs into her Facebook account “at least one to two times a day,” she said she finds much of the information

on the Internet unreliable.

“I think the Internet can be swayed either way,” agricultural education major Madlon said. “We learned in a political science class that television news and radio are the better sources to go off of.”

Junior Dan Bullock, a conservation major, also said he pays more attention to television news than Internet sources.

“It’s easier to listen than to sit and try to find stuff [on the Internet],” he said.

He said he could not remember if he belonged to any political groups on Facebook.

Both Facebook and MySpace - another extremely popular networking site - have recently become inexpensive and far-reaching forums for 2008 presidential nominees to expand their notoriety and perhaps garner support from the youth demographic.

Kraus, however, warns that political campaign sites are often meticulously censored and may not be the best way to form an opinion about a candidate.

“A major problem is that political Web sites are, of course, set up by the campaigns, which are run by consultants, who script every word, phrase or image that appears,” he said.”

In March, myspace.com, which boasts membership of over 2,500 current UWRF students, launched “MySpace Impact,” a page dedicated to politics that links users to candidate’s official profiles, allowing them to gather information about political agendas, buy T-shirts and buttons and, if so inclined, “add” nominees to their friends list. So far, 13 candidates have MySpace pages. Democratic nominee Barack Obama is leading the pack with more than 102,000 friends.

Many hopefuls have a similar presence on Facebook. Here, members have the opportunity to “support” candidates rather than “friend” them.

“Candidates are getting much more attention from college students now than in the past,” Byers said. “And they are just loving it.”

Oemig: Convenience, quickness to come with future electronics

from page 1

exams in their classrooms, but it will become more common in the future. In fact, I foresee that this resource will also make Blue Books obsolete. Students will be able to type their essays during class on their laptop and submit them via D2L or Turnitin.com. Since the campus will be entirely wireless in the future, immediate access to Web sites with answers to essay questions may encourage students to hit the Internet browser button. This can be a problem, but professors will be able to monitor the student’s computers via their technology cart.

In reality, the idea of submitting tests and term papers online will become a prominent resource for every professor. Instead of dealing with returning thousands of papers after they are graded, professors can read them on their computer and submit the grades online. Not only will this relieve instructors of the clutter in their offices, but it is also an environmentally-friendly alternative. Since some professors probably prefer to have hard copies to grade, that doesn’t mean programs like D2L and Turnitin.com will be useless to them. They can still have students submit them electronically and print them off to grade and return.

Textbooks will most likely become obsolete as

well. No longer will students at UWRF have to trudge to the library at the beginning of every semester and scurry through the Textbook Services shelves. All of the books students need for their classes will be available online. It will be similar to the Interlibrary Loan Service in that it will allow UWRF professors to utilize materials professors at other UW System universities use in their classrooms.

Attendance policies will still be enforced, I’m sure, but they will change a little bit for future students. With the laptops, students may log on from anywhere on campus and “participate” in class. This makes more sense for students who are sick, seeing as how they can sit in their room and read their professors’ presentations from their bed. This may not be the most efficient way for professors to monitor attendance seeing as how students could just log in and then leave their computer, but it will definitely be helpful for those who cannot be in class for reasons other than sleeping in or coping with a hangover. One thing professors may do to encourage their students to participate in class while not actually being present is post the day’s assignment on the D2L page and only make it available for the allotted class period. Those who take the class seriously will actually make the effort to log on and retrieve the assignment.

Have a great summer.

Look for the next issue of the *Student Voice* to hit stands in September.

Stay updated with www.uwrvoice.com over the summer.

Rules for Letterdoku: Fill all of the empty squares so that the letters A to I appear once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box.

Solution for Letterdoku is available at www.uwrvoice.com.

A			C	F		E	D	
		I		A			B	
D	B					A		
	I	E		D			A	
			A		F			
H				E		D		F
	C	F			I			
		H	B				I	
	D			G		B	C	

Difficulty: Easy

Jennie Oemig/Student Voice

EDITORIAL

Ceremony location great disappointment

This year’s graduating class is the largest in UW-River Falls history. Unfortunately for the *Student Voice*, graduation means saying farewell to a large number of staff members. As we sat down to discuss the prospects of graduation, walking on stage in a cap and gown and what’s going to happen after we leave, we realized participating in a graduation ceremony at UWRF isn’t as exciting as it should be.

Though none of us have walked in the ceremony yet, many of us have attended one for a friend or family member. The prospect of walking through the doors of the Knowles Center and having our family and friends watch us process under the unflattering fluorescent lights is painful.

Other universities hold their commencement ceremonies outside, allowing nature to provide the backdrop. We get softball nets and basketball hoops to add to the ambiance. As one member of the staff said, “it doesn’t look very ‘Pomp and Circumstance.’”

On the UWRF campus, Knowles Center may be the only location large enough to hold hundreds of students and their guests, but with a new glorious building shining in the center of our campus, it’s a shame to have to use a facility that is not only an eye sore for an event like this, but also vastly removed from the center of campus life.

Family and friends come to graduation to not only watch their loved one prance across the stage to receive a diploma, but also to see where long hours of studying have taken place.

Each of us graduates has spent a large quantity of time on this campus studying, working, laughing and crying. Many of us are proud to become college graduates and the place where we’ve spent the last few years of our lives, but at Knowles Center, we are not able to show to others what we’re proud of.

As students, it is easy to rant and rave about the facility, and it is difficult to offer rational suggestions. However, when we thought long and hard, we realized an outside ceremony would be beautiful, or maybe smaller ceremonies held in the newest pride and joy on campus, the University Center, would be better.

With a University that is growing each semester, Knowles Center will eventually be too small to hold the crowd.

As it is, parking is a mess and no other lot on campus is close enough to the facility to make it worth parking there. Simply put, there isn’t enough room.

In a week, we’re going to don our caps and gowns and join the hundreds of other people in the Knowles Center for our formal farewell to UWRF. For us it will be great, no matter the location, but maybe in the future, the place of graduation will be a true representation of the campus and community; a place that each of the students actually considers home.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall or to student.voice@uwrf.edu.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters.

All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Single copies of the *Student Voice* are free. Printing is paid for through student fees.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Art students work hard

Mr. Winkels’ description of the lack of integrity of the art students is insulting to the students, myself, my colleagues and this institution. I feel extremely proud of my hard working students and if they ever used their talents to create something hurtful and destructive like that column, I would know that I have failed. If this is the way he chooses to use his gift for writing, then shame on him. He doesn’t deserve to have it.

Morgan Clifford
Art Department professor

Harsh view of art students brings attention

I read with interest Paul Winkels “Viewpoints” column, “Tips From a Graduating Senior” (Student Voice, April 27, 2007). While the comments were obviously intended to be humorous and/or satirical, his “monster tip” about dropping everything and becoming an “art major” raised the hackles of many of us in the art department. As Chair of the art department, I found Winkels’ comments all too familiar in a society that benefits daily from the arts but is often naïve and dismissive about the defining role art plays in a civilized society. I can only guess that Winkels’ exposure to the art majors and art faculty at UW-River Falls is cursory since his comments were so ill-informed. I don’t mean to condemn Winkels’ point of view. Clearly, art and the courageous role artists play in our culture, not to mention this campus, are not well understood.

In fact I’m feeling thankful to Winkels for pointing out the lack of awareness of the vital role of imagination, creative design, critical thinking and problem solving — these are, in fact, the hallmarks of every human endeavor and true accomplishment.

I don’t mean to imply that every project put forward by every art major is worthy of great regard, and yes, there are some students that perpetuate a stereotype of inarticulate, take the easy way out, slap-it-together thoughtless creation. These few students, however, are not “A” students in our department or in any other department. As an arts program, we are confronted by a consumer population that is “art illiterate.”

Little in Winkels’ young life has not been touched by the creative process and, yes, many creators were once art majors. The clothes he wears, the bed he sleeps in, the roof over his head, the iPod he shuffles ... all have been touched by the concepts paramount in the curriculum of the Art Department at UWRF.

I’m almost sorry this is Winkels’ final semester with us. An ongoing dialogue toward greater understanding between the major areas of study here at River Falls could enrich us all. Thank you, Winkels, for raising a topic that can only benefit by exposure and open discussion.

Michael Padgett
Chair, Art Department

Student thanks UWRF

In writing this letter, I would like to say “thank you” to UW-River Falls for the many educational opportunities I have been given during the past four years. As I prepare to leave this fine institution to move on to greener, more grown-up, pastures, I have found myself reflecting upon the valuable lessons I have learned here. The examples that follow are some of the best.

Everyone drinks all of the time, and you are considered an outcast if you do not. Going to class is a waste of time, and skipping at least once a day is the norm. RAs are only out to get you; they could care less about being your friend. But the most valuable lesson I have learned by far, courtesy of our very own Paul Winkels, is that “cheerleading is the most physically challenging and competitive sport of them all.”

On second thought, the most valuable lesson I have learned is probably the ability to recognize sarcasm, a lesson that may come in handy someday if someone tries to convince me that gullible is written on the ceiling. I can only hope that my fellow students, two in particular, will also learn this very important lesson.

Carrie Oftedahl
Student

America’s blessed

Last week while I was reading the *Voice*, I came across a letter to the editor entitled, “What kind of generation will we be?” It caused me to think about what a great country we live in and how much we Americans take for granted.

Growing up, my dad was a pastor, and being of Hispanic background, he would try and reach out to that community. This included a trip to Mexico, where I witnessed first-hand the tragedies that many others in the world face today.

Here in America, we are extremely blessed, and as Mr. Sandey was saying, we all tend to complain quite a bit about things that don’t always seem to go right, — whether it be the cost of tuition, the food in the cafeteria or why life isn’t fair. Plainly stated, America isn’t great because people complained. Rather, America is great because people sacrificed — time, effort, and even their lives.

Let’s remember those who have sacrificed for us, such as the World War II generation. I certainly hope that when challenges come against us, we act as many of our grandparents and great grandparents did and work together to overcome them.

Eluid C. Tirado
Student

Administration plan not plausible

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how proactive our administration is on this campus. As we all know, a horrific tragedy took place at Virginia Tech on April 16, leaving 33 people dead. My heart grieves for those at Virginia Tech, but I am writing this letter to thank our administration for being so proactive in their approach to keep students safe while in class.

On April 20, all subscribers of the “Falcon Daily” received a special edition, consisting of information for students and faculty if a situation as horrific as the one at Virginia Tech ever happened here at UW-River Falls. It gives two main measures. The first measure is understandable and makes sense as it details information for professors seeking to report disruptive students. It is the second point that concerns me the most. It states, “Please inform the campus community of measures to be taken in event of an intrusion by an armed individual whose agenda is to kill, not take hostages. In such cases you should immediately contact 9-911 and explicitly follow their direction.”

In giving the UWRF campus such a great plan of preparedness, I would like to thank the administration. For if there was to be a shooting in a classroom here, God forbid, everyone would be on their cell phones trying to shout above the gun shots as the students “explicitly” attempted to follow the directions given over the phone. As I graduate, I will be praying that such a flawless policy will never have to be put into action.

Kyle Reimann
Student

Senate actions inadequate

I would like to thank all the students who worked and followed the rules to support their viewpoint in the recent United Council referendum. Many students spent their personal time working in the last few weeks of the semester. During a time when demands for classes are the highest, they sacrificed and worked honestly for what they believed in.

Other students did not follow the election rules. The action by these students was in clear violation of election rules. The

Student Senate punished the College Republicans with a “reprimand” for their actions. The actions by the rule-breaking students show how little respect they have for election rules, and for all of the hardworking honest students here at UW-River Falls.

I think that a reprimand is entirely insufficient punishment for these violators. Elections are a form of public contract between all of the students here at UWRF. When this contract is broken by a few, they take away from all of the hard work put in by honest students. What kind of message are we sending when we say it is OK to cheat in elections ... the punishment is a ... reprimand? We have seen a pattern of behavior from these students that indicate they will continue to disrespect our elections in the future, for the good of the University and for the rights of all the honest hardworking students who were cheated there need to be immediate and severe consequences for their behavior.

I am calling for the University administration to follow UWS system policy as outlined in UWS 17.03 (4) (b) and punish the students that cheated and violated UWS policy. Fair and clean elections are America’s last defense against tyranny. Why is the Republican Party incapable of respecting clean and fair elections?

Ben Plunkett
Student

Rule breakers should be harshly punished

I am writing to express my extreme regret and disgust that the Student Senate voted Tuesday that election by-laws are not worth defending.

On April 24, the College Republicans, in blatant disregard for obvious election rules, set up a “Vote No To The United Council” table in the University Center on election day. The University Center, for those of you who don’t know, is a critical polling place on campus. One would expect a political organization such as the College Republicans to know campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place (in the case of the recent elections ... any computer station) is against election by-laws. However, there they were, campaigning away.

Not that I would expect any less out of their party.

However, that is not what I am on about. I am on about the fact that our Ethics Committee, entrusted by us to make sure issues on campus are handled in a fair and equal fashion, chose to take little more action than to give the cheats a slap on the wrist. And that, when challenged before the full Senate with ample evidence of the lil’ G.O.P.’s obvious attempt to

Skydiving teaches important lesson

“Wear comfortable clothes,” were the only instructions I was given as a clue to my secret adventure planned for this past Sunday. All week I was purposely given an array of clues that led to nothing but confusion.

In bewilderment, I woke up Sunday morning still unsure about the afternoon’s activities, but thought perhaps we were going on a hike to see some pretty nice views. Fast forward four hours and I’m leaning out the side of an airplane with a man attached to my back pushing me out the door. Imagine my surprise.

My boyfriend decided we were going to go skydiving. He’s a smart man by not telling me; this way I had no way to prepare or overanalyze the whole thing or wimp out.

From start to finish of this insane experience, I realized things in ways I hadn’t before.

After the proper instruction and never-ending signatures promising I would not sue them if I were to crash and fall to the ground without my parachute opening, I found myself boarding an aircraft called a “Twin Otter.”

It was strange. The only thing I could think about was how great of an interview this would make for an exciting piece about people who live extreme lifestyles, about people who choose to jump out of planes with the hope that they will land safely on the ground in a few minutes, sans the aircraft; what a bunch of crazies.

Then, all of a sudden, I lost my stomach and realized I was one of those crazy people. I was about to willingly jump out of a perfectly good airplane and I didn’t even have a parachute on.

I looked around the plane, the other 12

people (minus my boyfriend, who was in the same situation I was), and they all had parachutes strapped to their backs, helmets and gloves and goggles on and a lot of other protective gear, of which purpose they serve, I haven’t a clue. I thought maybe I should have it on too just because they did. And here he and I sat with jumpsuits, harnesses and Nikes on.

What the hell were we about to do?

The second I started to try to ponder that, a gust of wind came into the plane as the door opened. The geared people started jumping out the plane and plummeting down. I frantically tried to remember the three simple instructions I was given as to how to position my body when I was “free falling.”

I can honestly say my mind was blank.

I was hooked to the harness of a tiny man from Oxford, England who was instructing me to do things. I only caught some of what he said because I couldn’t hear him or understand his accent. I thought for a second, “I can’t do this. No way; I’m not jumpin’.” But then I realized it was just me and this little man strapped to me left in the plane.

With my boyfriend already on his descent, I couldn’t leave him to experience this alone, so my temporary ... insanity ... where I thought I couldn’t jump, was relieved and I was given my sanity back as my body left the plane and I was ‘falling with style’ very quickly toward the ground.

Still slightly worried about my not-yet-open parachute, I was wildly waving at the camera man beside me as my face flopped around like a pit bull’s does when it’s head is out the car window.

Then, just as abruptly as the free fall started, it quit and we were sailing down as

the wind resisted courtesy of the bright orange parachute 12 feet above my English tandem partner and me.

All of my worries were quickly forgotten and I was thinking of so many things, but at the same time, I was thinking of nothing. I was in awe of my surroundings, my boyfriend for coordinating the secret adventure and myself for actually jumping.

Not having the ability to recognize anything around me I just took it in and let myself enjoy the fall.

I was following the advice my best friend had given me the night before in regards to all the turns my life is currently taking. I was wound up and worried about donning a cap and gown in less than two weeks, moving off to a new city for a job, real responsibilities, health insurance, a much-needed new car, leaving my friends and so many other things. He told me to just let it all go and enjoy the ride; let the fall happen. My life is taking turns in positive directions, he told me.

There is only so much worrying I can do before it becomes detrimental and begins to prevent good things from happening rather than fostering the success.

My parting advice isn’t as clever or witty as others, but when you think your life is making massive changes you might not be able to handle; just jump and let go.

Getting caught up in the lack of things you have and others have isn’t going to make it better or easier.

You’ll do it your way and it will work. You’ll jump.

At first it will be scary and you might be tripping on yourself and falling fast, but then somehow your own parachute will open and save you.

Things will slow down and level out and you’ll be able to stop; breathe and take it in. You’ll land and you’ll look at the people around you and deem it a success.

Life continues on despite tragedies



Tyler Liedman

September to May, another eight months on Earth: A middle-eastern war against god-knows-who for god-knows-what rages on, still no end in sight. American death tolls pass 3,000. Iraqi deaths are too many to count. Even more die in Africa: in Sudan, Zimbabwe, from guns, from AIDS, from displacement and hunger. North Korea tests a nuclear weapon while Saddam Hussein hangs by his neck.

Another eight months in America: population reaches 300 million, not counting the illegal immigrants we tried our best to expel. We argue about same-sex marriage while gas prices reach new highs and corporate citizenship hits new lows. In November, four days before “Democrats” regain “control”, Malachi Ritscher, 52, sets himself on fire in the streets of Chicago for the sins of his country. In April, a disturbed student at a school in Virginia takes the lives of 32 classmates, and then he takes his own.

Another eight months at UW-River Falls: A \$30 million University Center opens to mixed reviews while suddenly rendering two campus landmarks obsolete. Mason Jennings tells us to cure AIDS. Dave Coulier tells us to “cut it out”. Our e-mail crashes twice, hornets take over North Hall and a snowstorm cancels classes for a day-and-a-half. Through it all we wrote essays on Sundays, drank whiskey on Saturdays and on Thursdays, we did both. We

planned our futures, argued about our pasts and tried hard to decide our stances by the time we had to speak. Who is right and who is wrong and what does it all mean? TELL US NOW!

But here’s what they didn’t tell you: there is nothing inappropriate about indecision and nothing irresponsible about reflection or even regret. Standing up for what you believe in is always preferable, but beliefs can and should be amended from time to time.

Stubbornness and pride have brought down mighty civilizations, stunted righteous revolutions and made fools out of respectable people.

Anything that moves as quickly as life has got to be open to some interpretation, right?

Look around. Another eight months has already passed us by. Real lives filled with corporate jobs; mortgages and disillusionment creep closer every day. I don’t know about you, but I’m terrified by the prospect of growing up and being forced to accept the improbability of a life with the inevitability of death.

But what can I do? What can anyone do? Life goes on, with or without our consent. The fact is the times are always changing; they always were, whether we can see it or not. So until humans have mastered time travel, or erased our tortured memories, the only real choice we have is to take what we’ve learned, thank the people and the places and the things we’ve learned it from, apologize to those we’ve wronged along the way, and try to get a peek at some of the big answers before it’s all over.

As for today, I’ll miss what I miss, accept what is past, drop the grudges, mend the bridges, take a deep breath and ...

Stubbornness and pride have brought down mighty civilizations, stunted righteous revolutions and made fools out of respectable people.

Columnist leaving college, giving advice

So, here we are, the last week of the semester.

As some students are getting ready to relax for the summer before coming back next year, others are working on getting the wrinkles out of their robe for graduation.

As for me, I find myself pondering this question: What did I really learn in college?

Sure, I learned about journalism, obviously because it is my major, but aside from academia, what did I gain from this experience? How am I different now than I was at the age of 18 when I stepped onto the University of Minnesota campus in the fall of 2003 thinking that I could take on the world?

The answer is a complex one, nearly impossible to sum up in just one column but I will give it a try.

Honestly, I am sure a lot of this comes with simply growing up, but there are numerous lessons that gave me a good jolt

along the way so I do have some advice to pass on to those of you who will still be continuing on with your education in the following years.

First, stalling never works. Believe me, I have tried this so many times. The last time was on Sunday as I was faced with writing a paper that I had no desire to even think about.

My procrastinating techniques were pretty solid for the most part. I could come up with a hundred things to do instead of sitting down to write that paper.

But, when I was finally forced to get the assignment done, it was not as bad as I thought.

This point actually leads me to my next one. The only reason I was forced to work on that paper was because my fiancé told me a truth about myself that I did not want to hear.

As I was becoming completely overwhelmed about all that I

had to do with finals, he came into my office, shut the door and said, “Don’t you realize that every time you have to do something you really don’t want to, you drag it out and make it worse?”

When he said this to me, I knew he was right. This is my second point— do not get mad when faults are pointed out about you.

For the most part, the person doing that is simply trying to help you see how you could make something easier.

No one is perfect and is it really the end of the world if someone who cares about you wants to let you know about a habit you have that is not so great? I would rather be told instead of continuing on with that behavior.

Do not be too proud to admit that you make mistakes. If you realize it, identify the problem and then work to change it, there is no longer an issue.

In speaking of no longer having issues with things, my third point is a very simple one: laugh at yourself.

This is so essential. I cannot

even begin to count all the things I have done that were so idiotic.

Seriously, from being pulled over for refusing to put my license plate tabs on in the winter, to thinking I could dye my own hair and turning it bright orange, to the highlight of good decisions — thinking I could sneak out of a lecture hall of over 200 people and falling down about thirty stairs in front of them all. Sheer brilliance.

But, despite these moments, I did learn a lot about myself in these four years.

Life is what you make it, the best-laid plans never work, you do know when you meet the person you are supposed to be with, cars will break, you never know about a person until you take the time to talk to them and nothing tastes better after a late-night out than a McDonald’s cheeseburger.

So, for all the graduates, good luck and congratulations. For those who will be back next fall, take the time to find out who you really are.



Blair Bengs



Andy Kolodzienski, freshman

“Taking a class, summer school class and then planning on working a lot.”



Alysha Kolodzienski, freshman

“Well, I’m taking a black and white photography class, which will be fun. Then I plan on working a lot and saving up for next year.”



Amanda Chaub, sophomore

“Hopefully find a job ... other than that I’m going to Rock Fest. Super excited about that; Kiss is going to be there.”

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Tabitha Kleckner, sophomore

“Working at home before doing an internship for one of the local mills.”



Brian Buck, junior

“Staying up here and hopefully working I guess. Probably go play softball, I haven’t thought a lot about it I guess.”



Nick Lauer, senior

“I will be working for the summer registration staff at the beginning of the summer. The rest of the summer I will be working back at home. Then back here for my super senior next year.”

Desired lessons learned out of the classroom, valuable

I’m going to write a column about me. A lousy and selfish topic, I know, but as readers of the Student Voice, it’s nothing you’re not used to. I’m not used to this kind of writing, but here it goes.

I’ve done a lot of things wrong in my time in college. I didn’t take my classes as seriously as I could have, I over-involved myself with far too many clubs and organizations, I gave up on people I loved deeply and I didn’t have as much fun as I could have. I only truly regret one of these (see if you can guess which), but they all boil down to one thing: priorities. We get too involved and forget what college should be.

Most people say they learned more in college outside of class than they did inside, but I would say that not too many of us are going out of our way to prove that cliché wrong. Students, me included, tend to go about academia in the same way most underpaid Americans do their jobs, with the attitude of making it through instead of making it happen.

Though I should have invested myself more in academics, the only thing I ever did in college that really made a difference was being a resident assistant (RA). I don’t mean Residence Life. They don’t have a clue about what really makes a difference to students. That end of it is a business, business run by intelligent, fickle, goal-oriented and out-of-touch people. The problem is that as the business they have become, they are forced to sell politically correct, G-rated programs and activities to adults who are fresh out of high school and already sick of all the flakiness and bullshit. You have to learn that nobody trusts someone who doesn’t swear a little, and is “just, like, really super-excited to be there.” Get real.

That being said, I really loved the job. I was an RA for 2 and a half years, and I’m still friends with most of my residents. I treasure every community I have ever been a part

of, and if I ever get married, my groomsmen will probably all be past residents and people I have met through being an RA. Thanks for all the good times.

I think that’s what many people miss when they join clubs and organizations. They don’t concentrate on having fun, and being real with people, and building relationships. They exist for the purpose of being a sub-note on our résumés. If you spend more time in budget meetings than you do building real relationships, your time is wasted. Don’t let your activities speak for you. Don’t have people wondering where you are all the time while you sit in some waste-of-time “team building” meeting or diversity conference.

I think that’s what will really catch up with you, being too involved with all of the business-like clubs across campus. Academics are necessary, the rest is not. We’re all spreading ourselves thin rather than concentrating on class and friendships. Honestly, until I came to college, I lived a life free of regret. Now, at the end of my days here, when I lay down at night, my mind is consumed by thoughts of loved ones who I just lost touch with. I was too busy for them. When they would ask for dinner, I had a staff meeting. When they needed to talk, I was with one of my organizations. Too often, we ask ourselves whether our loved ones or our résumé is more important, and despite everything, we come up with the wrong answer.

Priorities. We’re all here deciding what we want to do with our lives, as though our future jobs were going to define our legacy, but the thing that will survive longer, and more memorably throughout the years ahead, are the experiences with people and friends, building friendships that don’t depend on circumstance, and maintaining through hustle and bustle, through good times and bad, and through sickness and health, all of the ties that will keep us nose deep in fond memories and good times for the rest of our lives.



Kris Evans



Cassie Rodgers

I expected to change, I realized how much I really had, mostly because I realized how I can wish for a change, but I could never force it.

Actually, the most important realization that I’ve had over the years is that change is not the answer to all my problems.

The best thing I can do for myself is to simply accept who I am, and what I can do.

I wanted to do and be a lot of things, and I think I set the bar a bit too high for myself my freshman year.

Though I didn’t do bad, my expectations were so high that I was pretty much guaranteeing failure.

Failure makes people want to give up, but luckily I was too naïve to realize I could give up and drop out of school, or skip a bunch of classes or transfer to a community college.

Those failures were harsh as I was experiencing them, but in the long run, I think a bad grade or a lost friendship teaches you more than if things go well.

Failure is as much a part of the learning process as success is, and in my case I think it was more beneficial. By the last year of college, I had figured out a lot of stuff.

Now, as I look forward to my post-collegiate life, I have a lot of hopes, but I definitely know not to create expectations for myself.

Having my hopes fulfilled is a lot more exciting than completing tasks I have required myself to complete.

Cyclists lack respect

I am not a commuter student, so parking is rarely a problem for me, but another parking issue needs to be addressed. Since the weather has been getting nicer, several students are taking full advantage of the opportunity to drive their motorcycles to campus.

I have absolutely no problem with this, except when the drivers decide to park on the street and take up entire parking spaces students driving trucks or cars could use. I’m not saying students should refrain from driving their motorcycles in favor of an alternate mode of transportation, but they should be more respectful of other commuters.

Before you motorcyclists get all bent out of shape, you should know there are designated spaces right on campus where you can park. There are designated stalls for motorcycles located in A, E, F, G, O and Q lots. That’s right - free parking couldn’t be any closer to campus.

If you have classes in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, North Hall or South Hall, park your motorcycle in A lot or Q lot. If you spend the majority of your day in the Agricultural Science building or the Wyman Education building, you could park in G lot behind Hathorn Hall or F lot behind the University Center.

While other students have to purchase permits or feed parking meters to park in these lots, motorcyclists do not. What’s upsetting is that many motorcycle stalls are vacant on any given day with cycles parked along Cascade Avenue. On Monday, I noticed a motorcycle parked near

Hagestad Hall along Cascade was taking up an entire space while the motorcycle parking spaces in Q lot, less than 100 feet away, sat empty. There is no rhyme or reason as to why this motorist did not make use of the space designated for their vehicle.

What really chaps my ass is when one student vacates a space on the street and a motorcyclist zooms into the spot in front of another commuter who is then forced to park in the metered lot or drive around until another space opens up. I can’t even count the number of times acquaintances of mine have arrived late to class or

skipped it altogether because they couldn’t find a parking space less than seven blocks away from campus. The spaces reserved for motorcycles can in no way, shape or form be considered bad parking spots.

Motorcyclists should be so lucky to have the privilege of free parking and what is more surprising is they don’t take advantage of it.

Since most students don’t use motorcycles as their primary mode of transportation, the rules and regulations set forth by the UWRF Parking Department may not be common knowledge. I am here to tell everyone that motorcycles can be parked on campus without a permit and without risk of paying a parking fine.

Students who park their motorcycles on the street must realize, on a campus where almost everyone bitches and moans about how stressful it is to find a parking spot near campus, they are just making matters worse.



Jennie Oemig

✓ CHECK YA LATER ✓



Jenna Nelson

The editorial board staff of the Student Voice wishes the campus community a fun and safe summer. We hope you had a great academic year and look forward to returning in the fall. Half the editorial board will be graduating May 12, moving on to other endeavors. The remaining members will return to the staff in the fall. Clockwise from top: Editor Beth Dickman, Viewpoints Editor Keighla Schmidt, News Editor Leah Danley, Sports Editor Nick Sortedahl, Photo Editor Kenny Yoo, Offbeat Editor Sarah Pakingham, Chief Copy Editor Addie Carlson, Front Page Editor Shalena Janis and Assistant Editor Jennie Oemig.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

from page 4

sway the vote with this violation, not even a re-vote was instated despite the fact that the referendum was illegally compromised.

Apparently, pictures, eyewitnesses and a transcript of a table reservation, shadily reserved under the title of “College Republicans” rather than “Vote No To U.C.” is not enough evidence to decide what this group’s intentions were, and what the results of setting up a sign telling people how to vote within arms reach of a polling place is.

It has also become apparent to me that election rules really don’t matter, and the price of illegally compromising a vote is a nasty letter. At least, this is the message that this decision is sending.

All that said, I am not trying to flame against Student Senate. I hold the institution in high regard. However, I do regret the discussion and I hope that the

new Student Senate will uphold the integrity I expect from such an institution.

Trevor M. Tomesh
Student

Misconceptions of art students clarified

Paul Winkels’ column last week was sorely misinformed, rude and completely offensive. Art is an extremely involved area of study which requires hours upon hours of work each week; we spend twice as much scheduled time in class (for the same amount of credit as other standard classes) and are required to spend hours outside of class pursuing ideas and improving technical skills. Unlike most other major course, art classes are also the most widely sought as “fun” classes by those such as Mr. Winkels, who don’t understand what

they’re getting into. I’ve known several people who took classes for fun and were later surprised to announce they spent more time in the ceramics studio than they did on their (major) math work, for example, and that was just an intro class. They didn’t spend all of their spare time in the studio just because it was fun-which, of course, it is-but also because it takes the practice of both mental and physical skill to create are. Like any discipline, you get out of it what you put into it. To suggest that we, art students, can all “laze [our] way through college” is incorrect since our efforts are visible to everyone in class on working days or critiques. Our professors know when we’ve been slacking, because what we do is visible. It’s much easier to neglect studying for a test than it is to slack on creating a series of well-crafted hot glass, stained glass, photographs, lithographs, woodcuts, etchings, felted material, weavings, surface designs, graphic designs, paintings, pot-

tery or sculpture, jewelry, illustrations, resolved drawings or oh, yeah, also writing papers and studying for the exams in our art history courses. We are held accountable for explaining what we do and expected to be able to articulate our ideas and influences through educated dialogue and proper terminology...not to mention the general coursework we must complete as well. Bachelor of Fine Arts students also must hone abilities in specific media and create our own exhibitions in order to gain some experience to launch us into a world where we may evolve and show our work.

It’s ridiculous that someone who considers himself so clever would have the audacity to print such a blatantly untrue pile of excrement that he could rub on his own piece of 8x11 notebook paper and turn in as an excuse for an informed column. It’s too bad you’re graduating, Mr. Winkels, because my challenge to you would be to take a studio class next semester and try to

get an A, or to create any work worth displaying in a respectable gallery.

Jen Dolen
Student

ECO letter of thanks

UW-RF ECO would like to thank everyone that participated in the Earth Week events several weeks ago. Together we cleaned up the South Fork and other areas, toured the recycling center, and heard an excellent speech about the small window of opportunity we have to combat global climate change by David Orr.

One thing each and every one of us can do is drive less. This is just what hundreds of students, faculty, and River Falls residents did during our 2nd Annual Drive To Not Drive. We left our cars at home and walked, biked, carpooled, or

used other means of alternative transportation to get to where we were going. Driving less reduces carbon emissions, makes our air cleaner, lessens our dependence on foreign oil, makes us healthier, helps local businesses, and has many more benefits.

We did conduct a survey during the Drive. Many people would like to see a city-wide bus service in River Falls, more bike racks, and better lit and safer bike paths. Still more would like to see safer on crosswalks on Cascade Avenue as well as Main Street. We hope the University and the City of River Falls can work together to address these issues and make alternative transportation safer and easier for students and residents.

So remember-When you can-Leave your car at home- get there a different way!

Paul Erdmann
Student

‘Kickin’ It Old Skool’ should be kicked out



A.J.
Hakari

Right now, I could be using this space to whip up a sentence or two about the tricky art of comedy, using an array of fancy words and descriptions that only go to show that I know my way around a thesaurus. But, in writing a critique of the new comedy “Kickin’ It Old Skool,” there’s no getting around one plain, simple and obvious fact: this movie just sucks. Hard.

In 1986, 12-year-old Justin Schumacher and his friends, together known as the Funky Fresh Boyz, dominated the break dancing scene. That is, until during a school talent show, Justin popped and locked his way right off the stage and into a coma.

Twenty years later, Justin (played in grown-up form by Jamie Kennedy) awakens to find that the world is an incredibly different place, that He-Man and “Star Search” have taken a back seat to iPods and “American Idol.” After reuniting with his childhood sweetie (Maria Menounos), Justin decides to try to win her heart and pay off his massive medical bills by entering a break dance competition with a prize of \$100,000. All he has to do is bring back the out-of-shape Boyz and update their old-school skills to blow away the competition.

Words really can’t describe exactly how a movie like

“Kickin’ It Old Skool” put me in as foul a mood as it did. One would have to see the movie to get a real idea of what I’m talking about - but on the downside, that means actually having to sit through this painfully unfunny pile of cinematic rat droppings. The whole flick is a long, painful nostalgia trip that makes me wish the ‘80s never happened.

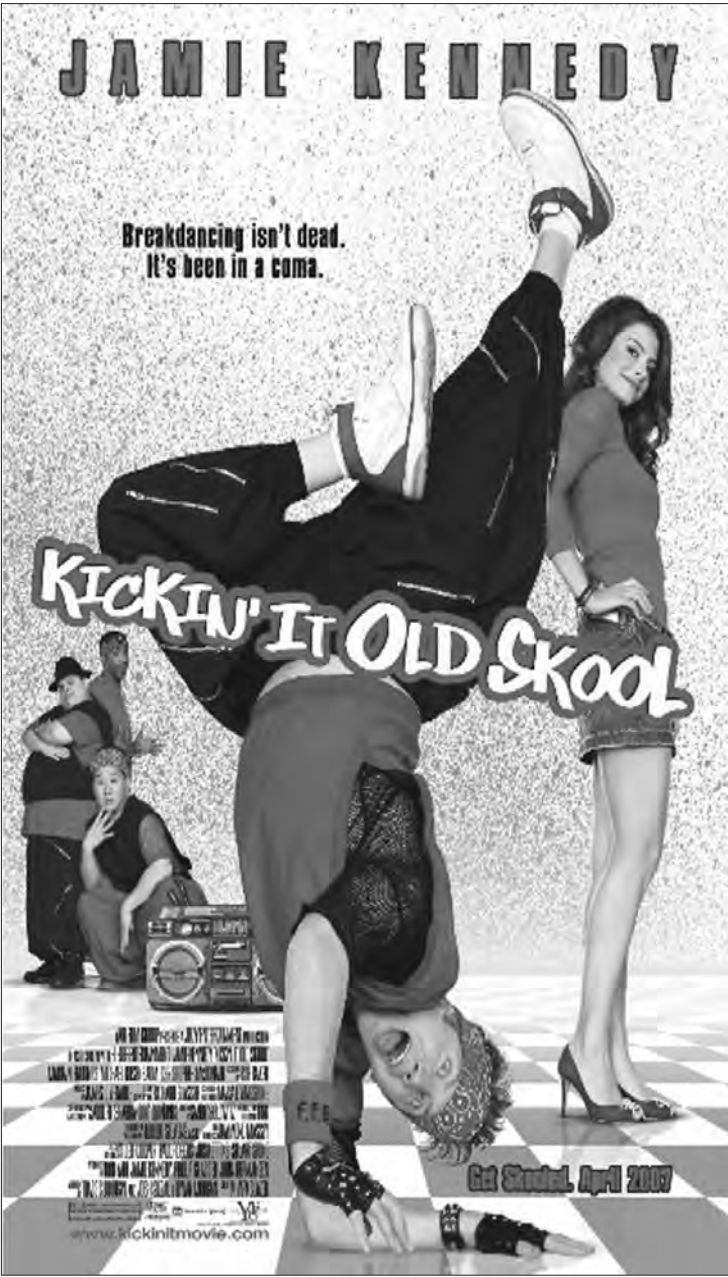
Whether the movie is a result of the resurgence of dance movies or America’s growing preoccupation with all things ‘80s (how else do you think a “Transformers” movie got the green light?), “Kickin’ It Old Skool” is liable to put the final nail in the coffin for both cases.

The mere look of the movie is enough to put one at ease, a comedy made on the cheap without the slightest bit of effort put in to make it any good at all. The script is a slipshod mix of lame gags, ‘80s references and a story that leads into an agonizingly long break dance competition.

The story stinks, the script is an unfunny shambles and Kennedy’s performance is just slightly more tolerable than his turn in the downright ghastly “Son of the Mask.”

The movie’s only saving graces are some all right dance moves and Pink Sushi, an incredibly hot crew of break dancing Japanese women who provide just enough eye candy to distract me from wanting to slit my wrists with my nachos.

While not the year’s worst movie thus far (“Because I Said So” staked that claim back in February), “Kickin’ It Old Skool” is a pathetic and lifeless excuse for a comedy that definitely makes the list. Movies like this make Jesus cry.



Ratings for movies are based on a scale from one to five.
A film that scores five stars is worth seeing at least once.
A film that scores one star is horribly acted or directed, with no substance.



Teresa
Aviles

One of the saddest things about America is that there are actually people out there who enjoy these types of movies. “Kickin It Old Skool” feeds the lowly minds with cheap slapstick comedy and stereotypes that I didn’t even know still existed. It seriously disturbs me that I supported this waste of film in the box office, only to further encourage people to keep making movies this terrible.

“Kickin It Old Skool” is Jamie Kennedy’s latest endeavor about a young break dancer who falls into a coma in 1986, only to awake 20 years later. Still at the mindset of a 13 year old, Justin Schumacher gathers up his old crew, now in their 30s, to recreate the Funky Fresh Boyz and win big money in a dance contest. The dance contest is conveniently hosted by his middle school rival, Kip (Michael Rosenbaum) who is also engaged to Justin’s love interest, Jen (Maria Menounos).

Sound familiar? Well, it should because odds are you have probably seen this movie before; if not, you’re fortunate beyond belief. Not only is the plot completely trite in every way, but the jokes aren’t even funny. OK, there is the occasional laugh from the many ‘80s pop culture references and even one unexpected scene that counts for the movie’s sole hint

at originality.

I was shocked at the amount of racial jokes made throughout the movie. Justin, the white male, is the main character who first finds his black friend, Darnell (Miguel A. Núñez Jr.). Darnell needs money badly because his girlfriend will kick him out if he doesn’t bring back diapers. The next of the crew found was Hector (Aris Alvarado). Hector is a plump Mexican with a low-level job. The last of the crew is the Asian, Aki Terasaki (Bobby Lee). At one point he hints at the fact that he is “The Asian Guy,” but they continue to laugh when he impersonates the “booby trap” line of “The Goonies.” He is also the only member of the crew who has a well-paying job because he is the smartest. The movie sickened me with its racial slurs and even some jokes demeaning women’s worth.

Movies that deem this style of themes, whether it is football, “riced” cars, music or dancing, all conclude with a major event at the end in which the same thing happen. The lead character backs out before the event or competition, the love interest finds them moving away or at a bar and convinces them they are amazing, the lead character gets to the event at the end to win the big prize and humiliates his rival in public.

I have some respect for this movie. There is a sub-culture that can appreciate this movie. If I had not seen this movie with my little brother, whom is a skilled break dancer, then I would have depicted this movie as pure rubbish instead of a crap movie that was made for 80s nostalgia and the break dance moves of these times.

A.J. is a junior-year transfer student studying journalism and film studies. He mostly digs horror movies and documentaries.



Teresa is a junior-year transfer student studying journalism and geography. She enjoys dark comedies and documentaries.

Staying busy over summer can be fun

With summer no more than a week away, I thought I would give advice to students on how to make the most of their break from the classroom. I’ve been counting down the days until summer break since the beginning of this semester. I know this is my last summer off as a student and this time next year I will be planning on entering the working world With that being the case, I plan on making the most out of my summer.

Sleep as much as you need to so you have plenty of energy to get up and enjoy your day. Stay up late if you want to and get up early if you want to; just do whatever you want to do. It’s summer.

Work so you have money to pay for things you want this summer. Odds are I’ll be working as much as I can in order to pay for what I want this summer and for my final year of school. Get a job you like, you will enjoy it so much more if it’s something you enjoy doing.

This summer, I have a goal of overcoming my fear of heights and airplanes. I plan on having one of the craziest, most memorable experiences of a lifetime: skydiving.

Someone has been trying to talk me into doing it for nearly a year and this summer, I think I’m going to give in and, do it and forget my theory of ‘why would you jump out of a perfectly good airplane?’



Sarah
Packingham

Do something crazy like sky-diving, bungee jumping or whatever it is you would have never thought to do before.

One thing I plan on doing a lot of this summer is getting outdoors. I live up in beautiful northern Minnesota and plan on taking advantage of it.

A good way to enjoy a summer weekend is to take a trip up the shore of Lake Superior and picnic, camp and sit under the stars.

Go to a Minnesota Twins game at one of my favorite places ever, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome. Watch hometown heroes like Joe Mauer, Pat Neshek and Glen Perkins try to lead the Twins to a second consecutive American League Central title.

If you are staying around the Twin Cities area this summer, go to the Vali-Hi Drive In, in Lake Elmo.

I just went there last week for the first time and can’t wait to go there again. Spend time on the water. Go to the beach and swim, lay out and get tan or even head out in a boat.

Golf. Although I am not very good at golf, the one time I went I got a 100 on a par 30 course, I still enjoy it.

Play softball or volleyball in a bar league, make the most of your summer vacation and get active.

If none of these things sound interesting to you, that’s fine. Do whatever it is you enjoy. After all it is your summer vacation.

Have fun not reading history or doing calculus and enjoy the warm weather.

Local band prepares for summer tour

Theresa Kurtz
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With influences from bands ranging from The Beatles to Okkervil River, the local indie, folk-rock band Gazillion is creating a name for itself one gig at a time.

The band, formed in the fall of 2003, consists of four members who are extremely passionate about their music. Simon Fuerstenberg (lead vocals, piano, guitar), John McConville (lead guitar and vocals), Marshall Fassino (bass, vocals) and Mike Barthman (drums) have all attended UWRF at one point, and McConville still attends as a theater major.

Gazillion strives for uniqueness when making its music and members said they don’t want to be pigeonholed into a particular genre. Each member contributes parts of his own style and talent to the band to create the finished sound. The band can often be heard on Minnesota Public Radio’s “The Current,” and has been on the Minneapolis cable access show, “Drinking With Ian.” When all four members attended UWRF, they also appeared on “RF Live.”

“We totally love it”, McConville said, on behalf of the rest of the band in regard to “There’s a lot of give and take. For the most part, we are given the basic chords and melody by Simon and then we add what we feel. It’s all inclusive.”

John McConville, Gazillion member

control of the band,” McConville said.

Last October the band released its third full-length album, Best Kept Secret, at the 7th Street Entry on First Avenue in Minneapolis. The band is still actively promoting its album.

McConville said as far as creative differences go, they are only a problem, “ ... once in a while.”

“There’s a lot of give and take,” he said, “For the most part, we are given the basic



Submitted Photo

Left to right: Mike Barthman, John McConville, Marshall Fassino and Simon Fuerstenberg, members of Gazillion are getting ready to go on a west coast tour this summer.

The band has yet to be signed to a specific label, but is currently working on developing its own independent label to accompany its independent sound.

“It would allow us to be more self-sustaining and give us more financial and creative chords and melody by Simon, and then we add what we feel. It’s all inclusive. We are in our own arenas where we get to be creative.”

Gazillion is preparing for its first ever summer tour, where they will grace west coast stages in cities such as Seattle, Los Angeles and Portland, Ore., for three weeks in August.

Beth Ashton, a UWRF junior, has been the band’s merchandise coordinator, or “merch girl,” for almost a year.

“They are all really loved by their fan base,” Ashton said.

The band’s merchandise includes T-shirts, posters, buttons, stickers, and albums. Aside from a few record stores in the Twin Cities, shows are the best place to purchase Gazillion albums.

“I’m really looking forward to this summer,” Ashton said about joining the band for the upcoming tour. “They just have fun and have a good time doin’ what they’re doin’.”

McConville said the band is also looking forward to the tour. “[It’s exciting] experiencing the thrill of being on the road and knowing you’re out to play your music,” McConville said.

On April 19, the band played at the Varsity Theater in Minneapolis for the “Friends With Benefits” show, where emerging local artists collaborated with local veteran bands including Prudence Johnson, of the Prairie Home Companion, who performed “The Tango Trinidad,” a fan favorite, with the band.

“The Varsity show they just played was really good, and a lot of people showed up,” said Kristin Rotter, a junior and friend of the band. “I was so proud of them.”

This month, the band will be playing at the 7th Street Entry in Minneapolis along with other local bands including Capitol Jay, The Fountainheads and The Vintage Mink.

The bands will be covering sets of Paul Simon, Ween, Tom Petty and the Beatles, just to name a few, for the classic listening pleasures of all. Tickets are \$5.

More information and upcoming show dates can be found at www.myspace.com/gazillion-music.

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

Drunken NFL Draft chronicles

Kelley, who is an outfielder from Rochester, Minn.,



"I'm not ready to leave the sport, or the people," Syverson said. "But I'm glad that over the four years, I'm going to be leaving with a ton of great memories and some everlasting friendships."

Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

There won't be any changes made to the lineup or the pitching staff during the WIAC tournament. The only thing Perkins said she hopes to see change is that utility player Jessica Lundgren can return from injury to contribute as a pinch runner.

SPORTS WRAP

UWRF softball wraps up regular season

The Falcons softball team ended its regular season with two one-run wins over St. Mary’s on Wednesday afternoon at Ramer Field. The 3-2 (in eight innings) and 2-1 wins give the Falcons a 30-10 record. The 30 wins is a single season record. The 1993 Falcons won 28 games.

In the first game against St. Mary’s the Falcons scored the winning run when Keri Feller singled to left center to score Mindy Rudiger. Brittany Rathbun led off the inning with a walk and Michelle Kelley ran for her. After an out, Rudiger singled to center to put runners on first and second. Breamber Syverson then reached first on a bunt single to load the bases. Emily Howlett grounded out to second and Kelley was thrown out at home on the force play. With the bases still loaded with two outs, Feller ripped a single to left center to get the Falcons the win.

UWRF scored three runs on six hits and made two errors. SMU scored two runs on nine hits and made one error. The Cardinals scored single runs in the first and third.

Ashley Bertrand went the distance on the mound for the Falcons. She allowed nine hits and two earned runs. She walked two and struck out four. She is now 13-5.

Rudiger was 2-4 while Syverson, Feller, Peters and Ashley James also had hits.

In the second game the Falcons scored all the runs they would need in the first inning. SMU scored its run in the third. UWRF had two runs on five hits and made two errors. The Cardinals scored one run on four hits and made two errors.

Rudiger led off the first and reached first on an error. Syverson then bunted for a hit and Rudiger went to second. Howlett reached on a fielder’s choice with Rudiger out on the play at third. After a second out, Peters singled to left center and went to second on the throw. Syverson scored on the play and Howlett went to third. Pinch hitter Margo Taylor then reached first on another error and Howlett scored what proved to be the winning run on the play.

Brittany Rathbun pitched a complete game to get the win and she is now 14-5. She allowed four hits and one earned run. She struck out three and walked one.

Berkhof retained as men’s basketball coach

Jeff Berkhof has been named head men’s basketball coach at UW-River Falls.

“I am extremely pleased to announce that Jeff Berkhof will be the new head basketball coach at UW-River Falls,” Athletic Director Rick Bowen said. “During his interim status this past year, Jeff further solidified my belief in him. He has prepared himself and is ready to be the head coach at UWRF. Jeff understands the challenges of coaching basketball at his alma mater. He also is part of and believes in the strong basketball tradition we have built. I am excited about the future of our program.”

Berkhof was the interim coach during the 2006-07 season. UWRF finished 10-16 overall and 5-11 in the WIAC with no seniors on the roster. The Falcons lost two WIAC games by one point and four other games by five points or less.

Berkhof is no stranger to Falcons basketball. He was formerly Bowen’s top assistant for nine seasons while Bowen was head coach; he was also a member of the Falcons coaching staff dating back to the 1994-95 season.

“I enthusiastically endorse the hiring of Jeff Berkhof as the new head men’s basketball coach at UW-River Falls,” Chancellor Don Betz said. “Jeff’s background and experience has prepared him for this challenge. I look forward to great things from Jeff as our athletic program continues to move forward.”

During his 12-year stint as an assistant coach, Berkhof held many responsibilities. He has coordinated the Falcon recruiting efforts, directed the Falcons summer basketball camps, and organized scouting and film exchange. He also had numerous administrative duties and on-the-floor coaching responsibilities.

Before joining the coaching ranks, Berkhof spent two seasons playing for the Falcons in 1992-94. During his senior season, he was selected to the 1994 All-WSUC team and was chosen co-MVP and co-captain by his teammates.

Hasselquist honored for breaking record

Junior Krista Hasselquist has been named the WIAC Field Athlete of the Week.

Hasselquist won the shot put event with a record-breaking distance of 46-1 1/4 at the Macalester Invitational on Saturday, helping lead the Falcons to a second place team finish. The previous record set earlier in the season by Hasselquist was 45-8 1/2. Hasselquist earned All-American honors at the NCAA Div. III indoor championships with a fifth place finish in the shot put.

The Falcons will host the WIAC Outdoor Championships this weekend at the Ramer Field Sports Complex. Action starts at noon Friday and at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

UWRF softball splits regular season finale

The Falcons softball team ended its WIAC season with a split with UW-Whitewater Sunday afternoon at Ramer Field.

Whitewater won the first game, 9-3 and the Falcons took the nightcap, 14-7. The loss in the first game was the third straight for the Falcons. But they bounced back in the second game to break the streak.

The Falcons finished third in the WIAC standings with an 11-5 record. UW-Oshkosh was first (15-1) and UW-Stevens Point was third (13-3). The Falcons will play UW-Superior in the first round of the WIAC tournament on Friday in Eau Claire at a time to be determined. Superior finished sixth in the WIAC with a 6-10 record and they are 18-20 overall. The Falcons defeated the Yellowjackets twice in Superior on April 25. UWRF won 5-3 in eight innings and 13-6.

In the first game Sunday, Whitewater scored nine runs on 11 hits while the Falcons scored three runs on six hits. Both teams had two errors. Whitewater scored four times in the sixth and five in the seventh. The Falcons scored once in the second and twice in the seventh.

Sports Wrap courtesy
of UW-River Falls
Sports Information

STANDINGS

Fastpitch				
WIAC Standings	OVR	W	L	
UW-Oshkosh	29-7	15	1	
UW-Stevens Point	30-6	13	3	
UW-River Falls	30-10	11	5	
UW-Eau Claire	27-11	10	6	
UW-Whitewater	23-13	8	8	
UW-Superior	18-20	6	10	
UW-Stout	16-20	4	12	
UW-LaCrosse	12-24	4	12	
UW-Platteville	10-26	1	15	

For complete stats check out the UWRF Sports Information Website at www.uwrf.edu/sports

Falcons set to host WIAC meet

Nick Sortedahl
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This is the weekend the men’s and women’s track teams have been working for during the entire outdoor season.

“Their training is meant for them to be peaking this weekend,” Falcons track and field coach Martha Brennan said.

The WIAC meet will be hosted by UW-River Falls Friday and Saturday at Ramer Field with several hundred athletes from nine teams on hand to compete for individual and team accolades.

Brennan said she has taken all year to prepare her athletes for this weekend.

“You try to model meets, you try to get them nervous,” Brennan said. “You also really try to give them confidence in practice.”

Recently the Falcons men and women competed in the Macalester invitational, a final tune-up. Team scores were kept for the women, with UWRF taking second place. The teams point finish there is meaningless, Brennan said. The only thing that matters is the meet this weekend.

“Every track coach will tell you they could care less about points until the conference meet,” Brennan said.

The goals for this weekend are different for the men’s and women’s teams, though the primary goal is for both teams to show improvement from the WIAC indoor meet. Brennan said she hopes for the men to finish around sixth or seventh place overall.

“I don’t know if we’ll pick up another place, but I think we’ll pick up more points and I’d be happy with that,” Brennan said.

The women’s team has set their goal at finishing in third place, Brennan said. The women finished fourth in the WIAC indoor meet Feb 23-24 at UW-Whitewater, one spot behind UW-Eau Claire.

“I think we can get third if everybody does solid,” Brennan said. “To get Eau Claire, that would be great.”

Brennan said the key for both squads isn’t the reliable staples, but some of the younger athletes who could improve their finish.

“It’s those kids that are tenth,” Brennan said. “If they can come out and finish fifth, that will make the difference.”

Another factor that could help the Falcons is having home field advantage.

“It’s nice not to have the stress of having to travel and get things done and organized ahead of time,” junior hurdler Shannon Zweifel said. “It’s nice to compete on the track you practice on every day.”

Zweifel is one of the staples on the team. She is the defending WIAC outdoor 400-



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice

Decathlete Bruce Baillargeon practices for the pole vault at Ramer Field Wednesday. He is practicing by vaulting over a bungee cord set up on the pole vault stand. Baillargeon will compete in the WIAC meet held at Ramer Field Friday and Saturday.

meter champion. She said one of her goals is to defend that title and to make the finals in the 100-meter hurdles, and to have a better showing the 4x400-meter relay.

One thing that could be troublesome for the Falcons is the absence of one key athlete and questionable status of another.

Junior sprinter and hurdler Brittany Smith who is out with a knee injury and senior heptathlete Jill Crandall has a foot injury that will be closely monitored by Brennan and the training staff.

“Jill is a competitor,” Brennan said. “She will show up and do every event she planned on doing. We’ll try and limit her as much as possible, but still get the full points

from her.”

Freshman distance runner Becca Jordahl is also nursing an injury and could possibly compete this weekend.

“Even if [Crandall and Jordahl] compete at 80 percent, they’re valuable,” Brennan said.

This weekend will be the last opportunity for many Falcons track athletes to compete at Ramer Field.

Brennan has spent three seasons with this group of seniors since taking over as track coach in 2005.

“That last time in the uniform is significant,” Brennan said. “I hope they appreciate the experience and have learned a lot from it.”

Remembering the best of RF sports in 2006-07

Another year has passed for Falcons athletics and that means it’s time for the annual Student Voice Eggy Awards.



Nick Sortedahl

As with every year, this one had plenty of high and low points, but for the sake of the history of these awards, we’re going to stick with the high points. I have also added a new category from last season’s awards.

This year’s Eggy selection process was a little more tedious than last year’s as well. I have had the luxury of getting input from numerous sports journalists on campus. They include fall Student Voice sports editor Sarah Packingham, WRFW sports director and play-by-play voice of Falcons men’s hockey Paul Winkels and the WRFW radio team of Mark Haley and Nick Hassel, who announced for the football team and men’s and women’s basketball for the past few seasons.

After handing out ballots and listening to cases made for many worthy candidates, the final choice for these prestigious awards was mine.

On a side note, I was thinking maybe we should change the name of these awards to something different in the future. If readers have any suggestions feel free to shoot me an e-mail and I’ll see what I can do for next year.

So, without further adieu, I present the 2007 Eggy award winners.

Rookie of the year

Nate Robertson was a unanimous choice amongst the panel of experts. The 6-foot-7-inch forward stepped into the Falcons starting lineup in the first game and never looked back. He was named to the Div.

III news all-freshman team and also earned honorable mention on the all-WIAC team. Robertson led the Falcons in scoring, 14.6 per-game, rebounding, 6.8 per-game, blocked shots, 43, and steals, 28.

Male athlete of the year

Everyone on the panel agreed junior forward TJ Dahl was the choice for this award. The NCHA player of the year was spectacular from start to finish this year, compiling 52 points to lead the men’s hockey team and the NCHA. Dahl also reached a milestone by breaking the career 100-point mark at UWRF. Dahl is currently 20th on the all-time list with 112 points and could very realistically end up as a top five scorer in school history. Dahl received numerous accolades this off-season including being named to the USCHO.com West All-America team, the AHCA-RBK All-America team and All-NCHA first team.

Female athlete of the year

This was the toughest decision for the panel as four different candidates were named on the five ballots. The only player receiving two votes was senior Andrea Geehan. Besides this award, the middle-hitter for the volleyball team was named honorable mention to AVCA All-American team and first All-AVCA Midwest Region team and All-WIAC. Geehan finished her UWRF career in third place in kills with more than 1,400.

Coach of the year

This was one category where I had very strong feelings on who should win, but was overruled by the rest of the panel. I believed softball coach Faye Perkins, whose team surprised many in the WIAC this season with a third place regular season finish. They were predicted for

seventh.

Perkins also got her 400th career win this season. But the eventual winner, who received three of the five votes, was men’s hockey coach Steve Freeman. With the Falcons first win of the season, a 6-4 victory over Lawrence University, Freeman secured his 200th coaching victory. The WIAC coach of the year led his team to a 21-win season and an NCAA berth as well. Freeman is always a very deserving candidate for this award and has now received the honor in back-to-back years.

Best team performance (single game)

The game recognized for this award was chosen by four of the five panelists, and I was shocked it wasn’t unanimous. The men’s hockey team’s win at Stout in the regular season finale was huge for obvious reasons. It completed the vital home-and-home sweep to bring the NCHA regular season championship banner to Hunt Arena for the first time since 1996. The overtime victory, clinched by Dustin Norman’s goal, was thrilling for everyone that made the trip to Menomonie, Wis., and those who caught Paul Winkels’ dramatic call on WRFW.

Best team performance (season)

The men’s hockey team had one of the best seasons in recent memory, winning their first NCHA championship in 11 years and getting an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. Many members of the team earned post-season accolades, including four players being named to two different All-American teams, six All-NCHA selections, the NCHA coach of the year, Freeman, and player of the year, Dahl.

Most improved team

This was another tough award as three different candidates



Steve Freeman

received votes including the swimming and diving team, the softball team and men’s basketball team, the latter of which eventually came out on top. The team improved by four wins from the previous year and beyond that were much more competitive overall, losing four games by three points or less and seven games by six or less. The team’s improvement was also recognized by the powers that be, as head coach Jeff Berkhof had his interim tag removed and was named permanent head coach.

Club sport team of the year

This is a new category I decided to add this year. I can safely say this team is very deserving of this award in only its third year of existence. The men’s lacrosse team finished this season 11-2, the previous two seasons they were 2-8 in Great Lakes Lacrosse League play. They started their spring season with a 14-7 exhibition win over rival Stout at the Xcel Energy Center. The team carried that momentum to an 8-0 start to the regular season. The team also finished the year off with a fifth place finish in the league tournament.

Surprise story of the year

One of the few loses the men’s hockey team suffered this season took place off the ice when junior stand-out goaltender AJ Buchhino signed a pro contract with the Augusta Lynx of the East Coast Hockey League. All those who frequent the Hunting Grounds will miss Buchhino, but I for one wish him the best of luck and can’t blame him one bit for chasing his childhood dream.

That wraps up another year of Student Voice Falcons sports coverage. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners.



AJ Buchhino

CBE hosts annual awards reception

Brandi Stillings
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The annual College of Business and Economics (CBE) awards and reception was held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center to honor those students who achieved academic merit this academic year.

Students who were invited to attend the prestigious event include those in Sigma Beta Delta and the masters of management program, as well as students receiving academic scholarships.

“It is important to honor students who have achieved academic success in our college, and we look forward to recognizing them for their hard work,” said Ellen Schultz, academic advisor and coordinator of the CBE awards ceremony.

Sigma Beta Delta is an international honor society which allows students being inducted to be recognized for their achievements in business, management and administration.

“Membership in Sigma Beta Delta is the highest national recognition a business student can receive at a college or university. In order to be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper ten percent of the junior, twenty percent senior or master’s class and be invited to membership

by the faculty officers,” Schultz said.

Juniors, seniors, masters of management students and faculty were also inducted into Sigma Beta Delta.

The ceremony began with CBE Dean Barbara Nemecek and Provost Charlie Hurt welcoming every student, their families and faculty members.

Many awards were given out starting with merits for students who achieved in academics and finishing at the top of their class.

One student was honored to receive senior merit.

“It was nice to receive an award such as the senior merit,” marketing communications major Lance Wiersma said. “It’s a great way to recap all of my hard work the last four years.”

Stephanie Schotthofer, senior and summa cum laude recipient, said she was also grateful for such an achievement.

“It was a positive end to my college career,” Schotthofer said. “I felt like my hard work has paid off.”

Summa cum laude is awarded to graduating seniors who have maintained a minimum cumulative 3.9 grade point average for their entire college career, at all institutions, with no outstanding Fs, incompletes or satisfactory progress grades, according to the UW-River Falls Web site.

Following the graduation honors was the

acknowledgement of students who received scholarship awards.

A variety of UWRF scholarships were given out, including: the Andersen Foundation Scholarship, Marcel K. Lynum scholarship and a University Women’s Club Scholarship.

There were also a number of CBE scholarships awarded to students.

The attendees of the ceremony found the reception to be gratifying.

“It was very enjoyable,” Schotthofer said. “It was nice to see the accomplishments of the CBE and those within the college.”

Wiersma said the reception was nice and the ballroom is a great facility for reception such as the awards banquet he attended.

Another group of recognized students who attended the ceremony was the masters of management graduates.

The masters of management program at UWRF is a graduate degree program that teaches students to be successful managers through a series of decision making and communication skills.

To earn the master’s degree at UWRF, you will need to complete 10 required courses plus electives, including Practicum (Management 710), for a total of 30 graduate-level credits, according to the UWRF Web site.

Organic beer now locally available

Jude Harder
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Whole Earth Grocery, 126 S. Main St., in downtown River Falls now offers a unique selection of organic and hand-crafted beer after it was approved for a liquor license by the River Falls City Council last month. The move allows the store to complement its organic wine selection with gluten- and wheat-free organic beers along with a variety of specialty crafted beers.

“It completes the circle by having beer and wine,” co-manager Erynn Delahousaye said.

In mid-December the downtown co-op began selling organic wine, which was such a success that it decided to go even further and offer a unique beer selection to its shoppers.

“A lot of our customers are consumers of unique things and organic beer is a great complement to that,” Delahousaye said.

The move has been a big hit thus far among its customers.

“We sold out both times,” employee Lindsay Van-Beek said. “I foresee it being a very big hit amongst our clientele.”

Of the dozen or so beers currently in the cooler at Whole Earth Grocery, Germany’s Pinkus-Muller is the only one that is U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic, Delahousaye said. The rest of the selection is of unique specialty beers and crafted beers from around the world.

Popular European names like Sam Smith of England, Traquair of Scotland, Celebrator of Germany, American beers like Anchor of San Francisco and New Brand of Wisconsin form a rotation that Whole Earth Grocery employee Jon Lutz said he wants to keep fresh and appealing.

“I want to rotate our selection in and out and keep [it] diverse,” said Lutz, who does the beverage ordering for the co-op.

Delahousaye said the co-op is still in the introductory stage of the experiment and that it hopes to continue to widen its selection of organic, gluten-, and wheat-free beer for its many customers with allergies.

One goal of the co-op is to supply the city with a rare selection of beer that is difficult to find in this region of the country, Delahousaye said.

“It’s unlikely that you will see these labels anywhere else in River Falls,” Delahousaye said. “It gives the city a different taste of what’s out there.”



Slippy Douglas
Bottles of organic beer sit on the shelves at Whole Earth Grocery, 126 S. Main Street, River Falls.

New River Falls attractions prove prosperous

Katie Velebir
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Two new attractions opened in River Falls in a three-week span, proving that as the city grows, so does the opportunity for business.

Walgreens opened its doors to the public March 23; three weeks later, Rush River Brewery brewed its first batch of beer.

Rush River Brewery owners, Dan Chang and Nick Anderson look forward to establishing connections with the River Falls community and the University.

“We will be offering internships for UWRF students in the fall,” Chang said.

Those interested in the opportunity can receive more information at rushriverbeer.com.

“An internship at the brewery sounds like a lot of fun,” senior Becca Helgeson said. “I plan on looking further into it.”

The original brewery was located in Maiden Rock, Wis.

What motivated the owners to open a brewery in River Falls was the prospect of a larger facility.

“It was fate,” Chang said.

“The city actually built the facility and is leasing it to us,” Chang said. “We will have the option to buy in a few years and we will take it.”

Chang and Anderson decided they wanted to expand the company’s line to bottles, not just keg beer, resulting in the immediate need for more space.

The brewery was limited to keg beer which, in turn, limited the extent of distribution to simply restaurants and bars.

“We are taking a big step in starting the bottling production, but we look forward to it,” Chang said.

It will offer many more opportunities to those interested in trying the product, he said.

“I enjoy having a beer from time to time,” senior Tara Swanson said.

She looks forward to the opportunity to try the product once the bottling line is available to the consumer market.

So far things have been working out great for both Chang and Anderson.

“Our new brewery runs much better than the old one,” Chang said. “You can even tell in how



Niki Paton/ Student Voice
The Walgreens store on Main Street opened March 23.

the beer tastes.”

The brewery is already known in the community for its generosity. St. Bridget’s, a pre-kindergarten to eighth grade catholic school has received gifts from the brewery. The Trout Foundation charity program has also been a recipient of donations. Rush River also provided the beer provider for Kinnikinnic Days, which takes place during the summer months.

“We look forward to continuing to serve the community and remain a presence in the commu-

nity,” Anderson said.

A post- grand opening party is in the works for the public this month.

“We want to celebrate with the public and throw a bit of a party,” Chang said.

Keg beer will be available for taste testing at the gala.

Chang and Anderson also plan on hosting tours this summer for those interested in seeing how a brewery operates.

Walgreens is a one-stop spot for those who may need a few household items, photo finishing or prescriptions.

“So far business is going great,” store manager Mike Ditlevson said. “I already have noticed regulars.”

The store offers internships for students who plan on going into business, management or pharmaceutical work.

“I would love to land my internship at Walgreens,” junior Britta Olsen said. “It is so close by.”

Ditlevson said being a UWRF alum is what made him decide to commute from Cottage Grove, Minn., to River Falls to manage the store.

“I knew the clientele would be friendly because that is how it is in a small city,” Ditlevson said.

There was some concern at the start with how well the store would do competing with ShopKo.

“I am not a big Walgreens fan,” senior Nikki Hahan said. “I usually get my things at ShopKo.”

Ditlevson said with anything new, sometimes it takes time to catch on, but he feels confident in the success of the store.

“I love that there is a place that I can run in and grab something quick I have never had to wait in line there,” sophomore Hannah Seidenburg said.

For more information, visit rushriverbeer.com or walgreens.com.

“A lot of our customers are consumers of unique things and organic beer is a great complement to that.”
Erynn Delahousaye, Whole Earth Grocery employee

Budget

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Students make adjustment from home life to college

Chris Acker, Erin Orgeman, Katie Velebir

A major adjustment many college students must make is the transition from a home life with parents and family, to a life of uncertainty and being on their own.

There are many new experiences open to the college student. Two of them are income and credit.

Students at any level must decide how to effectively budget their money and determine if a loan and/or credit card is the proper solution.

There are many reasons students may consider or need credit, according to the CHASE Credit Survival handbook. Students may receive credit to pay for tuition or other college related materials. They may also use it for car purchases or payments as well as having it to fall back on in case of emergencies.

Improper budgeting and excess use of credit can land students in a lot of debt, and could, in turn, result in a bad credit rating, meaning it will be harder to get approved for credit in the future.

The Credit Survival handbook gives some steps that should be taken in order to obtain a minimal and reasonable debt to earn a solid credit history. Some of the things it suggests are to make payments on time, be aware of limits and create a realistic budget and stick to it.

“Students need budgets or else they can become overwhelmed and find themselves in financial trouble,” Director of Financial Assistance Sandra Oftedahl said.

Oftedahl said due to being newly-exposed to credit cards, combined with a lack of parental supervision for the first time, college students are more susceptible to going over budget and falling into debt.

Another question students may have is when is it best to use credit?

“If you eat it, wear it, or drink it, don’t borrow for it,” Oftedahl said.

The best way to find out if a change to the current money situation is imminent is to record all forms of income that are received, then subtract the expenses from what is earned.

Edamerica, a student loan corporation, recommends students write out a simple budget to show where they are at with all their expenses. It suggests recording all monthly earnings and monthly expenses such as bills to be paid, as well as personal expenses like clothes and entertainment. This budget plan states that students should try to save at least 10 percent of their monthly earnings.

“When creating a budget, estimate income low and debt high,” Oftedahl said.

Some expenses students may plan to budget for are food, clothing,

gas and housing. Expenses vary from student to student and may differ from those living on campus to those living off campus.

Students on campus have their budget pre-determined, where commuters have bills that vary from month to month. Betsy Van Dyke, a senior who lives off-campus, said at first, she had a hard time budgeting and quickly learned that it is a necessity.

“I started writing down my monthly expenses. I took old receipts and took guesses of how much a month I would spend on food, gas, rent and extra activities. Once I had these estimates, I took the total amount of financial aid and divided it by how many months it had to last. That’s how I budget.”



Nick Sortedahl/Student Voice
Senior Blu Silberhorn receives assistance at the cashier's window on the second floor of North Hall.

Myth of poor college student disputed on, around campus

Brandi Stillings, Mandyce Meerschaert, Josh Dahlke, Leah Danley

We have all heard it at some point “I’m just a poor college student.” However, the myth of the poor student is disputable.

There seems to be conflict as to whether students actually fall below the poverty line.

A recent informal survey conducted at UW-River Falls in a classroom chosen for its diversity in ages, class ranks and lifestyles, revealed that 13 percent, of students are considered poor. However, it turns out there is no definitive answer to the question of whether students at UWRF are poor because there are different perceptions of what poor actually is.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the measure of poverty has been defined differently over time.

In 1964, the poverty line was measured in terms of food consumption costs as outlined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The poverty line is now based on the Consumer Price Index, which is a measure of prices from a wide range of goods and services people use to live.

From the Consumer Price Index, the “poverty threshold” is developed, which provides an annual income dollar amount.

For one person in 2006, the average poverty threshold was \$10,295, excluding students living in residence halls because the cost of living is lower. If a person’s annual income doesn’t meet the poverty limit, they are considered poor.

According to information provided by Director of Financial Aid Sandra Oftedahl, the average annual income for undergraduates is approximately \$7,000.

By the standards of the U.S. Census Bureau, these students would be considered below the poverty line, but the participants in the survey had their own definitions of what it is to be poor.

One student said he is poor because his parents don’t provide him with money anymore.

Another student said they felt poor because they were “constantly scraping up money to do anything.”

A third student said they defined poor as “having a hard time finding food to eat each day.”

On the other hand, during an e-mail exchange, Oftedahl said she had a different reaction to the realities of a poor student.

“I do not think students are poor because they are taking out loans and many students are not poor because they have their own income or assistance from family members,” she said. “In many cases, the loans are what enable the student to attend college at all.”

Oftedahl said most students aren’t poor, but loans are a part of becoming a responsible adult.

“The unfortunate truth is that college can be expensive in the United States, and both federal and state financial aid has not kept up with the costs,” she said. “While in college, students can have financial difficulties and need to become financially literate, it’s part of being an adult.”

However, the benefits of a college degree will in the long-term offset any temporary “poverty” a student experiences while in school, Oftedahl said.

A major factor separating students from true poverty is student loans.

The majority of students involved in the survey said they take out student loans, and estimated their debt upon graduation to be anywhere between zero and \$50,000.

The myth is also skewed because of the availability of loans that allows students to take out more than is needed for tuition

“Of the undergraduate students who graduated during 2005-06, those with loans had an average indebtedness of \$19,139,” Oftedahl said.

According to HigherEducation.com, a Web site designed to find information on colleges and universities around the world, the average cost of tuition is exceeding the rate of inflation, especially at four-year institutions.

So, it may not come as a surprise that loans are taken out by every university, including UWRF.

The rising cost of loans has also been recognized at a national level, as President Bush signed a bill in February increasing the amount of money students will be able to receive.

It will help students with loans and other such expenses because tuition is expected to remain on the rise.

The increase in loan availability will only allow some students to create more debt, but it does keep them from becoming poor.

UWRF economics professor Glenn Potts said he has mixed reactions about the myth.

“Certainly some students do struggle to pay for their college education,” Potts said. “However, the return on the investment is very high for most students, so the sacrifices that individuals make or the debt that is accumulated is justified.”

Potts also said in some cases, debt is necessary. “Debt isn’t bad,” he said. “Debt that is used to acquire an education is, in most situations, an extremely good investment.”

The River Falls public perception of students being poor is also ambiguous.

“... the kids I see are partying around me, frickin’ livin’ it up, are driving better cars than I can afford now, after 22 years in a trade,” River Falls resident Chris Shammol said. “I don’t think they’re poor.”

Resident John Johnson said he felt the same way.

“Today I feel that the parents of the college kids are giving them too much, buying too much for them that they’re not doing nothing for themselves, not taking pride in themselves to make something of themselves,” Johnson said. “Their extra money goes to Friday and Saturday nights at the bars.”

On the other end of the spectrum, a few people said they felt students are generally poor.

Erin Bells, an employee at Grateful Bread on Main Street, said she thinks the majority of students are lacking in necessary funds, and she, too, didn’t have much money when she went to college.

“Most college kids in general are poor,” said Nichole Batine, a waitress at South Fork Café.

She said school didn’t allow her much time to work and generate a substantial income.

The myth of the poor college students may be just that a myth.

Overall, the students, community and faculty have expressed both sides of the story that some students are poor and some are “livin’ it up.”

UWRF makes personal finance course mandatory for students

Amber Jurek, Jude Harder, Rachel Ogrodnik, Rebecca De Neuvi

National statistics regarding student debt have sparked an interest for UW-River Falls to find ways to educate students about credit cards and managing finances.

A study done in 2006 by Experian, a credit-reporting agency, revealed college students have an average of \$5,781 in revolving debt, including credit cards, and an average of \$14,379 in student loan balances.

The University does not require students to take a course in personal finance, however, Charles Corcoran, professor of the Personal Finance course (Finance 210), made a proposal to make it part of the general education curriculum. He received notice April 10 that the General Education Committee approved it.

Previously, the course was open to everyone and could be used to meet the credit requirements in the business administration major or minor.

The course will now also be included in the general education curriculum starting next fall. Though it is not a required class for students to take, it is another option to meet the ethical citizenship requirement under goal five.

Brad Caskey, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said he supports the course, and the idea of having it become a requirement has been discussed occasionally.

“There are so many unknowns for graduating seniors,” Caskey said. “It would be great for students transforming out of college to know these practical things.”

Topics the course covers are consumer finance issues, such as developing a personal balance sheet, how to do a simple tax return, saving money versus investing money, consumer credit risks and insurance.

“I think [the course] is a very meaningful class for students,” Corcoran said. “It’s one class where I usually don’t have trouble getting students to participate, even at 9:05 in the morning. I can’t say the same for my other classes.”

To have the course fit into the general education curriculum, Corcoran said he has developed the course to not only focus on teaching students about consumer finance issues, but also how to make decisions and the ramifications for those decisions, such as buying big cars that are

Other ways to help students budget their money are to not eat out so much and to cook their own food. Students can cut down on spending by walking instead of driving or staying in and watching a movie instead of a night out on the town.

There are many answers to the question of proper budgeting and how to use credit.

Students can find more information on creating a budgeting plan and credit information at the Financial Assistance Office.

Students living in on-campus housing may have an easier time budgeting money because they pre-pay for room and board as it is worked into their tuition. This means if students living in the dorms work, as well as attend classes, that money is theirs to dispose of as they see fit.

“Student fee rates will increase for the 2007-08 school year,” Director of Residential Life, Terry Willson said.

Those students planning on living in a double room will pay \$2,974, \$3,960 for a single and \$3,960 for a suite.

Students must also purchase a meal plan if they are residing in the dorms. Dining services offers seven different meal plans that fit with every student’s individual needs.

The Take 5 meal plan will cost \$1,880, the Any 10 meal plan costs \$1,940, the Flex 10 Meal Plan costs \$2,184, the Any 14 meal plan costs \$1,950, the Flex 14 meal plan \$2,290, the Flex 19 meal plan costs \$1,990 and Flex 19 meal plan costs \$2,390.

“I have lived in the dorms for three years, and I hope to move into South Fork Suites next year,” said junior Mike Leon, who resides in May Hall. “... it is far cheaper than living off-campus.”

Senior Barbara Bright lives in the Campus View apartments on Cascade Avenue.

“I have lived in Campus View housing since I transferred here and, though it is a bit more than living in the dorms, it is worth it ... I need my space.”

Living off campus means students have much more to consider when it comes to expenses and budgeting.

Senior Jennifer Krause said it is tough from month to month to figure out how much she is earning and spending. For her, it seems more goes out than comes in, but she admits student loans have been a big help.

UW-River Falls students, upon approval, are allowed to take up to \$12,000 a year in student loan money.

Those who are on their own may not know what to do with that much money, and it runs out before the end of the semester.

“I receive financial aid at the beginning of every semester,” Van Dyke said. “The first semester I spent all of it and had nothing when I was only half way through. I knew that I would have no choice but to learn how to budget.”

not environmentally friendly.

“It will be much more reflective on how to make life-long consumer decisions,” he said.

Corcoran said the course may be very beneficial to many students as part of the general education curriculum considering the increase in student debt.

Junior Phillip Bauer is currently enrolled in the Personal Finance course and said it has helped him manage his money.

“We really haven’t talked about saving and investing yet, but as far as leasing or buying a car, it has helped me a lot,” he said. “We also learned how to properly insure a car.”

Bauer said the most important thing he hopes to learn in the course will be about investing.

“I already have mutual funds started, but I think it is important for everyone to start investing when they are young,” he said.

Bauer said this course would help students with their own finances and he advises other students to take it.

“This class also talks about how to use your credit card and how to build credit without having a credit card,” he said. “It deals with real issues that they face right now and will face in the future like buying a car and a home.”

Jake Hovden graduated from UW-River Falls in 2004 with a degree in health and human performance. His degree requirements didn’t call for any business or financial courses, but he said he knew he would soon need good financial skills as his graduation neared and entrance into the real world became inevitable.

Coming into the class, he said he was very uneducated in the area of personal finance, like other college students.

“I had no idea what to look for when buying insurance or a home,” Hovden said. “And my money management skills were pretty poor, too. At some point, you have to start thinking outside the box of school and look ahead, especially for juniors and seniors whose turn will come sooner than they think.”

Hovden currently owns a home in Farmington, Minn., with his wife, Lisa.

In addition to using the course as a tool to educate students on credit card debt and managing finances, Career Services and the First Year Experience (FYE) program have offered programs focusing on these issues.

In March, Career Services featured a program called “Ultimate Money Skills” during the one-day event called “Career

Roadmap: Navigating the World of Work.”

Miriam Huffman, FYE co-director, said the University brings in a program called “Ultimate Roadtrip” each fall during Weeks of Welcome.

“This session addresses a variety of transition issues, including ideas for budgeting and managing money,” Huffman said.

In January, FYE offered sessions called “Money Matters,” which the program plans to offer again in June.

“[It] introduced specifically the financial aid and tuition payment processes to family members of incoming students,” Huffman said.

FYE is continuing to seek out ways to educate students about finances.

The program is currently developing money management sessions for students to attend during registration for new students and Weeks of Welcome.

Sarah Egerstrom, FYE co-director, said it may be required for students during new student registration, but would be strongly encouraged during Weeks of Welcome.

“We have seen that our students have struggled to pay for school,” Egerstrom said. “We have seen national data on the issue of credit card debt and managing finances.”

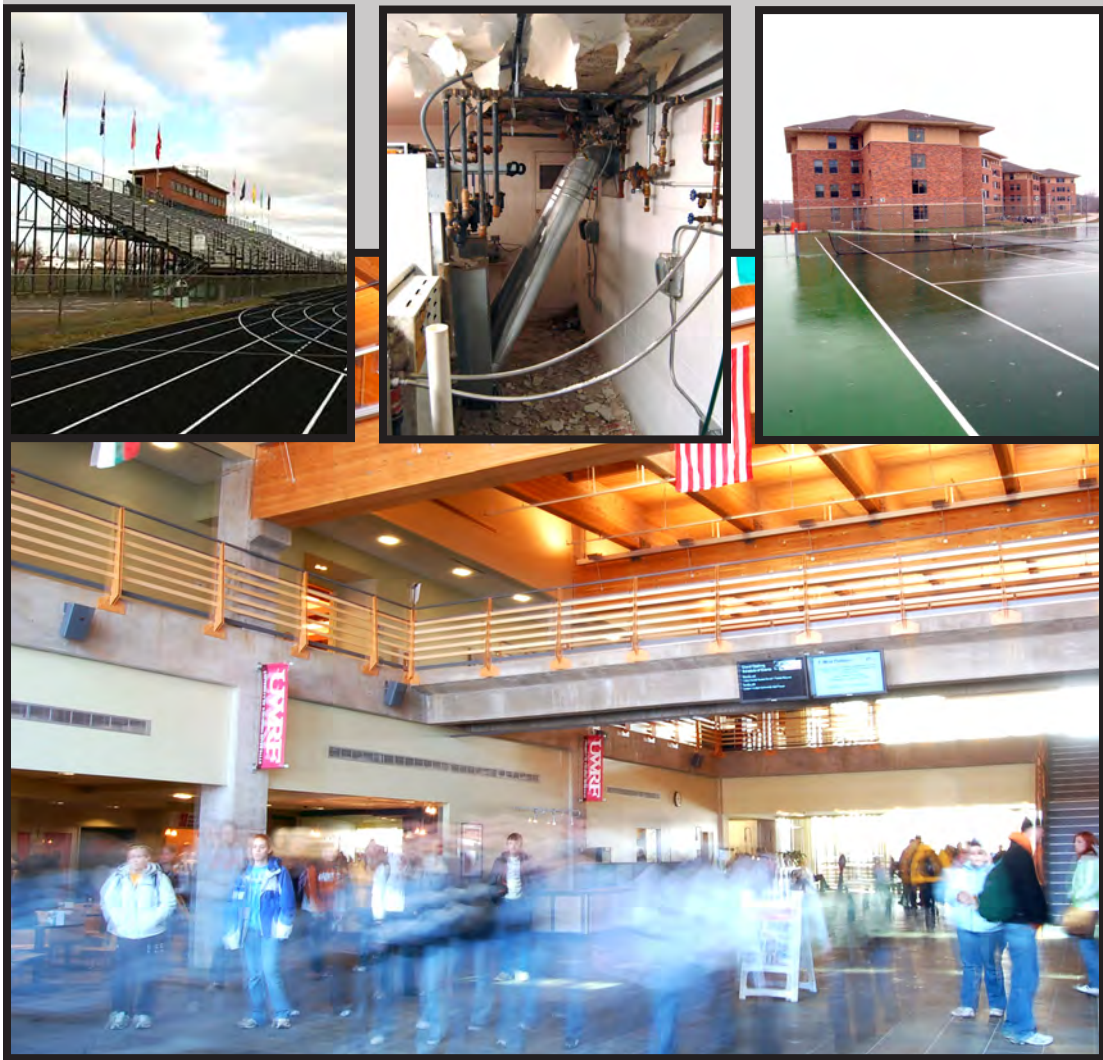
The program is also considering partnering up with First National Bank.

“We’re looking to partner with First National Bank here on campus during the Weeks of Welcome program and for the upcoming 2007-08 year to help students learn about credit, how to maintain good credit, what credit is and how it can affect them in the future,” Huffman said.

With FYE still developing the money management sessions and discussing possible partnerships, and the inclusion of the Personal Finance course in the general education curriculum, national statistics continue to demonstrate the need to educate students on money matters. Huffman said during college, students are often responsible for funding a variety of expenses including laundry, groceries, gas, a quick snack or social activities, such as concerts.

“It is important to educate college students about finances early and often,” Huffman said. “We need to be certain that students are making smart choices and not making uninformed decisions about money matters.”

A year in review



Top, from left to right: Ramer Field, the Health and Human Performance facilities and South Fork Suites are all getting upgrades or additions. Bottom: The University Center opened for students and faculty to see Jan. 21.

Kenny Yoo/Student Voice & Submitted Photo

UWRF receives new University Center, other facilities prepare for facelifts

As students were making the trek back to UW-River Falls Jan. 21, preparing for the start of a new semester, the doors of the University Center were open for everyone to get their first glimpse of the building.

During the open house, students were allowed to venture throughout the building, utilize the two-story game room and some even stopped to relax on the couches in front of the big screen television on the first floor to watch the Chicago Bears defeat the New Orleans Saints and secure their place in Super Bowl XLI.

These are just some of the features the new University Center has to offer. Besides free gaming tables and arcade games, students are able to enjoy the luxuries of a cyber café, a convenience store with late-night hours and a bank open on Saturdays, all without leaving campus.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in the lower level of the building Jan. 23, with student and staff members speaking about the building and their hopes for the future of the University Center.

There are plans in the work for a facelift at Ramer Field. 250 trees will be planted around the perimeter to add a improve the overall aesthetics of the stadium.

When completed, the bleachers will be enclosed in brick with an elevator inside to make the press box handicap accessible. The lights will be brightened and moved behind the stands, and the grass will be replaced with artificial turf. The new press box will stretch the length of the bleachers and offer place for the athletic department to entertain guests.

The Wisconsin Building Commission allocated more than \$1 million in general purpose revenue to UWRF, so planning can begin. Almost \$7 million was devoted to this project.

One of the proposed sites for the new facility would place two new HHP buildings adjacent the Knowles Center and Hunt Arena.

A logical choice due to its cost effectiveness in using campus property and would also concentrate all university athletic facilities. The new buildings would include a new basketball gymnasium, pool, weight room, labs and classrooms.

The George R. Field South Fork Suites will be receiving an addition only a few years after the original building was constructed.

The plan to add onto South Fork Suites went to the state commissioning board and passed March 19. The project will now go to the Joint Finance Committee for consideration.

The Suites will be hold approximately 480 students once the expansion is complete; the building is currently able to house 240 students.

The addition to the Suites will cost the University \$14,586,000. This will include the building plans and additional parking.

UWRF remembers Virginia Tech

A candlelight vigil was held April 17 in remembrance of those who lost their lives at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech.) in Blacksburg, Va.

At 8 p.m. more than 80 UW-River Falls students and staff congregated around the fire pit on the south side of the University Center, expressing sympathy and sorrow for the families and friends of the victims of the April 16 shootings. Those attending the vigil were also able to sign a banner that will be sent to Virginia Tech. late Friday afternoon.

The banner was available for students and staff to sign in the University Center throughout the week.

Though the events occurred a little over 1,000 miles away, they have made a lasting impression on the lives of people at UWRF.

A number of students and faculty members had some sort of ties to the school.

Junior Amanda Krier had a friend who attends the school and she was unable to get a hold of him until he sent an e-mail on the evening of April 18.

Professor Gordon Hedahl's daughter attended Virginia Tech and she and her husband live about 10 miles away from the campus and he attends school there.



Kenny Yoo/Student Voice
Students, faculty and staff gather around the fire pit behind the University Center to participate in a candlelight vigil to honor those who lost their lives at Virginia Tech.

RF student attacked on campus

A UW-River Falls student was the victim of a sexual battery at 11:30 p.m. Nov. 9 on the Blue Stem Pathway — the most direct route from the Ramer Field parking lot to the main campus.

The female student was walking to campus near the nursery plot shed when an individual jumped out of a nearby wooded area and attacked her from behind, according to UWRF Public Safety reports.

While no physical penetration occurred, the incident has been categorized as a sexual battery because "sexual attempts" were made — including efforts to remove the woman's clothing, Public Safety Director Mark Kimball said.

The unidentified perpetrator pinned the student down on the ground before apparently hearing a noise and running away, according to reports.

There is no description available of the perpetrator, who remained behind the victim at all times. However, statements from the victim indicate that the individual is male.

While this recent incident is daunting, sexual assaults at UWRF are very rare.

The 2006-2007 Annual Crime Report, one forcible sexual offense took place in a residence hall each year for 2003-2005, and one forcible sexual offense was reported on campus in 2005.

CBE receives accreditation

The UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) now joins only a small percentage of colleges that have been accredited by one of the most elite accreditation organizations, showing the college's commitment to a superior higher education.

According to a UWRF Public Affairs news release, CBE was informed April 12 that they had been successfully accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The accreditation from AACSB comes after an intensive evaluation of the college by three deans from other universities.

Over the course of their evaluation they reviewed the department as a whole, including intensive investigation of faculty, students, programs.

Student senator burns Voice

Thousands of issues of the Student Voice went missing from the racks in academic buildings across the UW-River Falls campus.

Tory Schaaf, who is a member of Theta Chi fraternity and the newly-elected shared governance director of Student Senate, admitted to stealing the newspapers from campus and using them for kindling to keep a bonfire going during a party.

Student Senate Ethics Chair Jason Schultz was also identified as an accomplice to the theft of the papers.

Schaaf said he took the copies of the Voice, and though the original intention was not to use them to start the bonfire, they were thrown into the flames at some point during the night.

Schaaf claimed to be unaware there was a limit the number of the student newspapers he could take.

Differential tuition approved

The Board of Regents approved the implementation of differential tuition for UW-River Falls students April 13.

Beginning in fall 2007, students will pay an additional \$36 per semester.

It will average out to about 29 cents per day, Chancellor Don Betz said.

Mary Halada, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said the differential tuition will help pay for library resources, a testing services center and undergraduate and scholarly research expenses.

Chalmer Davee Library hours will be extended by 15 hours per week and more online journals and references will be purchased.

Class times shortened for fall

For the 2007-08 academic school year, Monday, Wednesday and Friday class times will be reduced by five minutes, making each class period 50-minutes long. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be only 75 minutes, instead of the current 85-minute length.

Faculty Senate approved a motion, which was investigated and written by the Calendar Committee by a vote of 16-3 Dec. 20, 2006.

Chancellor Don Betz encouraged the change and said the five-minute reduction will have a positive affect on the education received by students attending UW-River Falls.



Niki Paton/Student Voice
Left to right: Marlys Nelson, network services manager, network specialists John Smits and Joe Barbley work on e-mail.

Falcons finish season at the top

A thrilling overtime goal by UW-River Falls Falcons forward Dustin Norman Feb. 10 capped off the Falcons' weekend sweep of the conference-leading Stout Blue Devils.

The victories moved the hockey team into a tie for first with Stout and St. Norbert, but the Falcons will have the number one seed in the NCHA playoffs due to the tiebreakers.

The Falcons lost three games in a row to Stout to end last season and cut short what many thought would be a deep playoff run. The men looked like they were playing with a chip on their shoulder, and no one on the team downplayed the revenge angle before the series.

In overtime, the Falcons had the power play set up in the Blue Devil zone. Norman, who has recently joined the top power-play unit, did a great job holding the zone on a deflected puck near the blue line. Seconds later he was set up around the left wing face-off circle on a pass from defenseman Jim Henkemeyer.

The celebration ensued for the Falcons and the hundreds of Falcons fans who made the trip to pack the Dunn County Ice Arena.

Junior goaltender A.J. Bucchino signed a professional contract with the Augusta Lynx of the East Coast Hockey League March 23.

Bucchino's decision to leave the hockey team came as a surprise to coaches, teammates and fans. The Lynx are affiliated with the Anaheim Ducks of the NHL.

Bucchino played for the Lynx's coach when he was a junior hockey member of the United States Hockey League in Des Moines, Iowa, along with Falcon teammate Pat Borgestad.

Bucchino can never play hockey at UWRF or at any other college again.



Kenny Yoo & Jennie Demig/Student Voice

Top: Members of the men's hockey team leave the ice following the home victory against UW-Stout Feb. 9. The Falcons won the game 4-1. Left: Junior goaltender AJ Bucchino signed a professional contract with the Augusta Lynx March 23. He will now forgo his senior season with the Falcons.

