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# STUDENT VOICE

April 17, 2009 [www.uwrfvoice.com](http://www.uwrfvoice.com) Volume 96, Issue 22

## Enrollment up at University despite tuition increases

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The number of applications the UW-River Falls admissions office has received is above average, despite the fact that tuition is increasing next year.



**Tuchenhagen**

According to Alan Tuchenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services, applications are presently at a 1 to 2 percent increase compared to 2007-08. Over the 2008-09 academic year, the increase has varied between a 2 and 5 percent increase. "UW-River Falls is one of two or three campuses in the system that are at an increase in applications," Tuchenhagen said.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average annual tuition and room and board for public institutions has increased to \$11,600 and \$29,900 for private institutions.

The cost of tuition is increasing for all UW campuses, yet the great difference in price could affect the decisions of students.

"Students are choosing River Falls because they can basically get the same education for a cheaper price," sophomore Meghan Gardener said.

According to Tuchenhagen, the present economic state is affecting UWRF.

"UW-River Falls is about the most afford-

able college in the area," Tuchenhagen said. "Students are making more realistic decisions that are affordable."

Beyond the tolerable tuition, students are choosing UWRF for several other reasons.

"I chose River Falls because it does not have distracting places, like a mall, so I can save my money. I am also able to walk to places because it is a small campus," Staci Heinz, UWRF student, said. "I also came to RF because I knew it had a good elementary ed. program and the cheaper tuition was definitely a bonus."

Beyond UWRF, other campuses have seen different results.

Within the UW System, UW-Madison is one campus that has seen a dramatic decrease in applications.

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, for the first time in five years, undergraduate applications for Madison's fall admission are on a decline.

Last year, admissions received a record high of 25,073 applications to 24,263 this year. The price for attending UW-Madison is \$21,820 for out-of-state students and \$7,570 for Wisconsin residents.

Overall, the UW System has seen an increase in student enrollment over the last 10 years through the annual tuition increases and budget cuts.

According to the UW System March 16 press release, in the academic year beginning in September 2008, UW System's enrollment reached 175,056—an increase of 1,633 from

**"UW-River Falls is about the most affordable college in the area. Students are making more realistic decisions that are affordable."**

Alan Tuchenhagen, associate vice chancellor for enrollment services

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## Students, faculty participate in 2009 Health Fair activities



*Tennae Maki/Student Voice*

**The 2009 UWRF Health Fair attracted students and staff to the University Center Ballroom on Wednesday. See page 8 for full coverage of the event.**

## Mandatory health insurance plan could be implemented into UW System by next year

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UW-River Falls Student Health Services is discussing the possibility of implementing a mandatory health insurance plan into the UW System as early as next year and adding the cost to student's tuition. Director of Health Services Alice Reilly-Myklebust said.

A survey conducted by Health Services in 2007-08 revealed that 87 percent of students had health insurance, 7 percent had no health insurance and 6 percent were unsure if they had health insurance, leaving a significant portion of the student body without or unsure if they had health insurance.

Having access to health care is important because students perform better in school, Reilly-Myklebust said.

"It has been proven that students who have access to health care have higher

GPA's," Reilly-Myklebust said. "When students are healthy they miss less class and can focus on their studies."

Students are currently offered the option of purchasing the University of Wisconsin System Student Health Insurance Plan, which is designed especially for students in need of health insurance. Reilly-Myklebust said that only about 1 to 2 percent of student body chose to participate in this health insurance plan each year.

The low enrollment in the plan is due to the nature of voluntary insurance plans, Reilly-Myklebust said. "Voluntary insurance plans are usually expensive and offer poor coverage," Reilly-Myklebust said.

The current annual cost of the health insurance offered by the University for individual students is \$1,142 for basic coverage. A student can also pay for additional coverage options like major medical, which would cost a student another \$233 in addition to the basic coverage cost.

If a student is participating in intercollegiate sports they must purchase additional coverage for injuries sustained while participating in that sport. The cost for all sports coverage except football is \$243 and coverage for all sports including football would cost \$485. So, should a male student want major medical coverage and participates in football, he would pay \$1,860 annually for the student health insurance currently offered to students.

Health insurance becomes affordable when lots of people participate in it because the cost is spread over a large number. This also allows the quality of coverage to be much better, Reilly-Myklebust said.

It is stressful not having the security of health insurance should something unexpected happen, freshman Shilo Eisberner said.

"It simply freaks me out and holds me back from the things I want to do," Eisberner said. "I have all my own snowboarding equipment and I can't even use it because I'm too scared I might get hurt out there."

Junior Nicola Lencz, who did not have health insurance last year, said that she

See Health insurance page 3

## Students bike to help build Ugandan school

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The capital city of Uganda is 7,873 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from River Falls.

UW-River Falls' Building Tomorrow chapter members have made plans for students, staff and community members to symbolically bike the distance to Kampala from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during April 29th's Unity in the Community day-long event.

Building Tomorrow chapter has raised \$10,500 since it began three years ago. Bike to Uganda is an effort to raise \$4,500—the final amount needed to reach its goal of \$15,000. The international non-profit organization will add UWRF's money to \$30,000 from an anonymous donor from Indianapolis—the city where Building Tomorrow is headquartered—to make the \$45,000 needed to build a school in Uganda.

UWRF's Building Tomorrow student manager Alicia Hurkman said she thinks it will be a success if athletic teams and the residence halls get involved.

"We thought we would try a different way to raise money," she said. "Our University is into physical activity and it's a good way to raise awareness and volunteers."

Twelve stationary bicycles supplied by a local bike shop—The Route—are going to be in front of the University Center.

Participants can sign up at [www.buildingtomorrow.org/btu/uwrf](http://www.buildingtomorrow.org/btu/uwrf). Registration of \$10 can either be paid online or in person. Time slots are 30 minutes apiece.

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## Ethical Citizens for Action hosts hunger banquet at UW-River Falls

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Ethical Citizens for Action, a new organization at UW-River Falls, will be hosting a hunger banquet 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. April 22, in the St. Croix room of the University Center. Hunger banquets are formed to create awareness of hunger and poverty.

Ethical Citizens for Action is an

organization of students bringing awareness to the community about equality. Ethical Citizens for Action member Sadie Mensinger said the most rewarding thing about being in the organization is the action.

"We don't just sit around and talk about it. We actually do something. The emphasis is about what we are going to do and that is inspiring," Mensinger said.

President of Ethical Citizens for

Action Joshua Lambert said his vision for the Ethical Citizens for Action is "sponsoring and staffing events, promoting a general awareness campaign for equality and creating a mission broad enough to tackle a wide range of issues."

Lambert said he is hoping 50 people will show up to the hunger banquet. The hunger banquet is free and open to anyone in the community. The hunger banquet was funded by UWRF and Sodexo will be provid-

**"The emphasis is about what we are going to do and that is inspiring."**

Sadie Mensinger, Ethical Citizens for Action member

ing the food.

As participants eat, there will be presentations and literature from Oxfam.org passed around. Oxfam is an organization promoting poverty awareness. The participants will be randomly divided into three groups.

One group will only have around seven people and they will receive a full meal. The second group will receive rice and beans and the last

See Hunger page 3

# Chancellor-elect Dean Van Galen speaks about upcoming position at UW-River Falls

Dean Van Galen was named chancellor-elect at UW-River Falls Jan. 16. He will be replacing Interim Chancellor Connie Foster June 1. He recently sat down with Student Voice Editor Ben Brewster for a question and answer session.

**Q:** Explain to the average student what a chancellor does.

**A:** The chancellor is the leader of the university and is responsible for the longer term success of the university and in particular represents, in this case, UW-River Falls, externally, to the system president and Board of Regents, to the community, and to its alumni and friends.

**Q:** What kind of qualifications and experience do you have for the job?

**A:** My background is a faculty member. I taught chemistry for many years and have a doctorate in analytical chemistry. For the last 12 years I've been in U administration in the area of advancement. Advancement includes alumni relations, fundraising, marketing and communications and representing the university externally.

**Q:** What do you want to accomplish in your first few years at UWRF?

**A:** The first thing I want to do is learn more about UWRF. I want to learn about its history, its traditions, and its people. And I think the best way to do that is to listen and to have face-to-face visits with faculty, staff, students and members of the community. A very important priority is to complete the University's strategic plan, Living the Promise. There is a great deal of consensus on campus that that plan is a strong plan, and I'm very committed to using that as a roadmap over the next several years.



Sally King/Student Voice

**Q:** What is the strategic plan?

**A:** It is entitled Living the Promise, and it has a number of strategic priorities. At the center of those priorities are to build a culture of learning, and to me, that reflects the University's central focus on teaching and learning and putting the students at the center of all that we do.

**Q:** What makes UWRF unique for prospective students?

**A:** I think it's unique in that it is an institution where the faculty and staff genuinely value students and where teaching and learning in all its forms are really the foundation of everything the University does. UWRF is characterized by faculty who care about the students, by small class sizes where faculty and students can benefit from a great deal of interaction, and a place where students are given opportunities such as study abroad and participating in undergraduate research and scholarship. So in many ways, it is a place where the very best of higher education is offered at an affordable price.



Sally King/Student Voice

**Q:** How do you plan to do to deal with the budget cuts UWRF is experiencing and the generally poor economy?

**A:** I think in difficult budget times it is all the more important to focus on the Univeristy's strategic plan. That needs to be our guide and our roadmap in making difficult decisions regarding budget and resources. Fortunately UW-River Falls has a strong strategic plan and I will continue Interim Chancellor Foster's efforts at using that plan as a guide.

**Q:** Do you have any plans to continue UWRF's going green and sustainability?

**A:** Absolutely. It is one of the pillars of living the promise, and as I learned more about UW-River Falls I was very excited there was such a commitment to sustainability. To me, that is exemplified by the University Center and the commitment the students have to make that a very sustainable building.

**Q:** UWRF has had three chancellors since Ann Lydecker died; do you see this job as a long-term career option?

**A:** Absolutely. I am a native of Wisconsin. Both my wife and I grew up in southern Wisconsin and met at the Univeristy of Wisconsin-Whitewater. For us this is a coming home and UW-River Falls is the type of institution that is a good fit for me and I plan to be here a very long time.

**Q:** Is there anything else you want to say to the student body?

**A:** I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve as chancellor and I look forward to spending time with the students. Getting to know them, listening to their dreams and their concerns and being very accessible to the students. In the end, that's why we're all here.



Sally King/Student Voice

## VOICE SHORTS

### Annual breakdance event set for April 23

The UWRF Breakdance Club and the student arts and entertainment committee are sponsoring a breakdance competition called BreakOut 2009. The previous BreakOut 2008 had over 200 people in attendance and will be an annual event on campus. The competition will take place 7 p.m. April 23, at the Falcon's Nest in the University Center. The event is free to everyone. There is a \$20 entrance fee for interested crews and the winner takes all. Register ahead of time or at the door the day of before 5 p.m.

### Week of events honors victims of crime

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) acknowledges our nation's response to victims of crime. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) operates under the direction of a federal agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Congress established OVC in 1988 through an amendment to the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to provide a foundation of leadership and funding for all victims of crimes. This year the National Victim Rights Week will be held on April 26 through May 2. The St. Croix County Victim/Witness Program will have a table in the government center advertising this special week with information on the NCVRW and also poems that have been submitted by individuals in the local area. There will also be a reading by District Attorney Eric Johnson on Wednesday April 29, 2009, as well as a reading of poems submitted by individuals associated with agencies in the Pierce County area.

### Wellness contest to award Twins tickets

UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services is sponsoring the Wellness Weekly Contest to win two lower reserve tickets for the Minnesota Twins game May 24 vs. the Milwaukee Brewers. To enter, e-mail Mark Huttemier at mark.huttemier@uwrf.edu a short paragraph on what you do to exercise and your opinion on how exercise is impacting your stress levels. Each week there will be a new question to respond to. Students may answer once per week and with each submission, their name will be added to the drawing.

# UWRF education majors help administer achievement tests

Kelly Richison  
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For more than 10 years, instructors and teaching education students at UW-River Falls have prepared to administer achievement and assessment tests required in the state of Wisconsin.

These tests are administered by the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) and the series is commonly known as the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination. The system is a part of the Wisconsin department of public instruction. Students in grades three through eight and 10 are tested on an annual basis in the areas of math and reading, according to the department Web site.

Teri Crotty, chair of the UWRF teacher education department, said that the testing is the same for public and private schools, and that testing for each subject is staggered during the year to avoid test exhaustion. She said also that teacher education majors have the opportunity to witness these tests as they are given by actual educators.

“One of the things that our students get in their field experience, before they student teach, they work with teachers in the field who are giving these tests,” she said. “These tests are given all the way from third to eighth grade and then also in high school, so most of our students, especially in elementary and middle schools, have opportunities to watch teachers help prepare students to take the tests.”

Crotty said that Wisconsin is in a positive state because

the content of the curriculum and testing standards are closely related.

“In the state of Wisconsin, the academic standards are the basis for the standardized tests and the academic standards are woven into the curriculum,” she said.

“Because the academic standards in Wisconsin, are called model standards, are woven into the curriculum, the teachers prepare their students by teaching the curriculum, so Wisconsin really is in a good place in that regard.”

When preparing students for testing, working teachers focus on making sure that they are free of anxiety while the tests are administered.

“They don't really spend a

whole lot of time preparing students for test taking skills, they try to make them aware of the tests what the tests are for so that they lower the anxiety and they try to communicate in a positive way with the parents the results of the use the tests to get their students the best help they can to make them successful,” Crotty said. “So the philosophy is to reduce stress for everybody.”

Crotty said that one complaint that occurs with the testing has to do with the amount of time the tests take to carry out.

“One complaint that a lot of educators have is that the amount of time the actual tests take away from teaching time,” she said. “So that is a bit of a concern but it's one of those requirements the teachers have sort of learned to live with, its been since the early '90s that they started these tests so people are pretty adapted now.”

## RIVER FALLS POLICE/UWRF POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

April 6  
Li Shang, 24, was arrested and cited for retail theft at Shopko at 1777 Paulson Rd.

April 10  
- Nicholas D. Brue, 18, was arrested possession of mari-

juana and drug paraphernalia at Hathorn Hall.  
- Nicholas A. Bona, 19, was cited for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.  
- Parker W. Abel, 18, was cited for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.

April 14  
- Taylor C. Evans, 18, Justin A. Besch, 19 and Rachel A. Patnode, 19, were cited for climbing on the roof of the chiller building at the UWRF heating plant.



## FIND FREDDY'S FEATHER

Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!

Call **715.425.3118** or  
E-mail @ **editor@uwrfvoice.com**

Be the **first person** to report the find **AFTER 10 a.m. Fri., 4.17**, and win a **Prize!**

Last week's winner: Grady Stehr

*\*\*This feather does not count\*\**



## Uganda: UWRF one of 5 ‘donor communities’ hosting Bike to Uganda

from page 1

The Route shop owner Adam Schmidt said he is excited to sponsor events.

“Being involved with the campus and international events and support is all part of being part of a community,” Schmidt said in an e-mail interview. “My family lives in River Falls and enjoys many of the events that the campus puts on and supports; this is a small way to give back to that organization.”

**“The visual effect of actual biking will have an impact on the student population ... those who take the initiative can make a difference internationally, going above and beyond just serving the River Falls community.”**

Alicia Hurkman,  
Building Tomorrow student manager

way.  
“With their purchase of \$3 [individuals] will be able to write their name on a paper brick and then we will hang them up in the front window of the University Center for the entire campus to see,” Hurkman said in an e-mail interview.

Building Tomorrow’s main goal is to build schools for children in Uganda.

Over 1 million children in Uganda, between the ages of 6-12, are not in school, according to Building Tomorrow’s Web site.

UWRF is one of five university chapters—known as “donor communities” on the Building Tomorrow Web site—that has planned to host Bike to Uganda.

Hurkman said she has high hopes that Building Tomorrow and Bike to Uganda can raise \$4,500 because the event is unique.

“The visual effect of actual biking will have an impact on the student population,” she said. “To see that those who take the initiative can make a difference internationally, going above and beyond just serving the River Falls community.”

## Hunger: Banquet marks first event held by Ethical Citizens for Action

from page 1

group will only be provided with rice, Lambert said.  
“This is to represent how food is split up in the economy,” Lambert said.

The UWRF hunger banquet will be the first event held by Ethical Citizens for Action and was the idea of Vice President of Ethical Citizens for Action, Therese Selin.

Selin said she had heard about a hunger banquet hosted at UWRF four years ago by Campus and Community Fighting Hunger and Homelessness (CCFHH) and thought it would be a great idea to do it again. The CCFHH organization no longer exists.

“One of the things we can do is pick up where they [CCFHH] left off,” Selin said.

Ethical Citizens for Action will also be taking over Volunteer Day from CCFHH. It will be held from 8 a.m. to noon April 18. Students can meet on the lawn in front of the University Center. The volunteer day is to bring students together and volunteer at different places in the community.

“Students may feel strongly about an issue but don’t know where to go with it. This organization is an outlet where people can get together with like-minded people who want to make a change,” Selin said.

Ethical Citizens for Action just started this spring. If students want to join they can look up the Facebook group, Ethical Citizens for Action, for information, Selin said.

“I hope we can accomplish getting the word out for the banquet,” Lambert said. “And also get the word out about the organization.”

## Enrollment: University’s enrollment has grown 17 percent in past 10 years, fourth largest growth rate in UW System

from page 1

the previous year, and an all-time record for the System.

According to the UW System data report, UWRF has seen a 17 percent increase within the last 10 years, the fourth largest growth rate within UW campuses.

The growth is definite and beneficial to the economy.

“These campuses are essential to the

economic and cultural well-being of their regions around the state, and this growth will be increasingly important to the economic vitality of the entire state,” UW System President Kevin P. Reilly, said in the March 16 press release.

UWRF may have received benefits and a higher interest from potential students, yet the UW System will continue to strive towards success through these rough times.

“Our UW System campuses continue

to offer an exceptional educational value. Through some tough economic times, we’ve managed major budget cuts and kept quality high,” David Giroux, executive director of communications and external relations for the UW System, said. “More students and families today understand that a college education is key to their future prosperity, so people still want to attend college. Our job is to keep the doors open.”

## Health insurance: Approximate cost of plan still unknown

from page 1

always worried about her health but feels much more secure now that she is covered by a health insurance plan.

“I was always worried about getting sick or something happening and how much it would cost to get better,” Lencz said. “Now I really don’t have to worry as much and can focus on other things.”

UWRF provides students with access to basic clinical health needs through Student Health Services should they fall ill. Through contractual agreements with the River Falls Medical Clinic and Pierce County Reproductive Health Services students can receive certain services free of charge or at a discounted price.

Services provided free of charge to students by both establishments include doctor visits, basic psychiatrist vis-

its, emergency contraception, urinalysis, throat cultures, pap smears and allergy injections. Visits to the emergency room after clinic hours and prescriptions are not covered by Student Health Services. All prescription costs and ER charges are the responsibility of the student.

Students are also provided with transportation free of charge by the River Falls Taxi to and from the River Falls Medical Clinic and Pierce County Reproductive Health Services. A valid student ID must be presented each time.

The University of Minnesota has taken steps to ensure the health of its students by requiring that all degree-seeking students provide proof of a health insurance plan. If they cannot provide proof they are automatically enrolled in the university-sponsored Student Health Benefit Plan and a fee is added right into their tuition, according to the U of M Web



Renae Bergh/Student Voice

**River Falls Taxi provides free transportation to the River Falls Medical Clinic for all UWRF students with a valid student ID.**

The possibility of health insurance being required by the UW-System is still in the very beginning stages of consideration and the cost of the plan is unknown at this time.

“It will most likely take a couple of years to create a coverage plan and get it approved,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “It probably won’t happen this coming year.”

## Resident Assistants vital to dorm life at UWRF

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Resident Assistants at UW-River Falls experience much more than the average college student.

“Resident Assistants (RAs) are expected to work with student residents to create an open, inclusive and supportive residential community,” according to the UWRF Resident Assistant position description.

Along with those expectations, RAs must work with the Residence Life staff and contribute to student life programs on their wing of the dorm.

“The main responsibility as an RA to make sure that everyone in the building is safe,” Johnson Hall RA Hailey Samples said.

She also has the responsibility of making sure that everyone in the dorms is obeying the rules and that strangers do not get into residents’ rooms.

Students who wish to become an RA must fill out and submit an application. From that point, they will have an interview with Residence Life where it will be decided whether they qualify for the

position.

Kevin Smith, who has been an RA for two years, explained some other duties of being an RA.

“I make bulletin boards, door decs [decorations] and offer programming for residents. It’s a misconception that RAs are just here to ‘bust’ residents for underage drinking. In fact, that is usually the worst part of the job,” Smith said. “Being an RA is all about making relationships and building an inclusive community.”

“Super helpful” RAs have been present throughout the college life of Amanda Mollner, a resident with a disability.

“They all really cared and listened when I explained what was going on,” she said. “All three of them gave me numbers and told me I was more than welcome to knock on their door at any time of the day or night if I needed help.”

Reduced cost of tuition and a desire to get more involved with campus activities are what made Samples decide to become an RA.

She said one of the benefits of being an RA is that “you get free room and

board [and] also get paid \$87.50 once a month.”

However, being an RA has its disadvantages as well.

“It is hard to have a life outside of Residence Life because you are so busy and also everyone knows who you are and what position you hold,” Samples said. “What you thought as a simple cuss word becomes taboo to say in front of anyone that might go to the University.”

“You’re always wearing your RA hat, no matter where you are, on and off-campus. People know you even though you might not know them,” Smith said.

RAs are responsible for many different tasks, including student group activities, staff functions, management functions and community development, according to the UWRF position description.

“I loved being an RA,” Smith said. “It’s been a very rewarding experience and I am grateful for all of my experiences, all that I learned and all of the amazing people I met along the way.”

## Pad Your Résumé! WORK FOR THE VOICE!

The Student Voice is currently accepting applications for fall semester!

**Available positions:**  
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All applications can be picked up/dropped off outside 304 North Hall.  
Deadline: April 22

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To see a complete course listing, to register, or for more information, visit **www.online.uwc.edu** or give us a call at 1-877-449-1877.



EDITORIAL

College work now pays off in future

College isn’t just a place to socialize, stay up late drinking with friends and experience the rush of finally living out from under the thumb of Mom and Dad. It is manifestly a springboard meant to catapult students into the “real world” by providing a specific skill-set through education. But far too many students at UW-River Falls treat this University as a private resort on some pricey vacation getaway. The Student Voice feels that UWRF students as a whole need to exhibit far more professionalism and responsibility.

College comes with it a healthy dose of hard work. Classes get increasingly hard farther up the academic ladder, each one requiring more and more complex assignments dependent on a widening skills base. Professors treat their classes as if they are the only ones, piling on loads of work, usually in the weeks immediately following spring break. But even though the workload gets intense, students need to just suck it up and do their work. Future employers won’t tolerate excuses such as “I forgot” or “I’m just so swamped with other stuff right now” when the going gets a little tough. In this harsh economic climate, companies are consistently looking for ways to trim the fat around tightening budgets. And recent grads entering the work force accustomed to on Easy Street are the fat.

An easy way to keep up with homework, a time-honored and proven method, is to go to class. Far too many students are paying increasing tuition prices for the right to sleep in and play video games online. Every time a student skips class for some extra shut-eye or because they are playing Halo 3 on Live, the academic integrity of UWRF goes down. The student body is the future. People graduating now will run the major corporations someday, represent our country overseas, be the President. It is more than a little worrisome that the future prioritizes video gaming and keggers over going to class and doing homework.

But this sense of responsibility and professionalism doesn’t just apply to homework and class attendance. Every student enrolled at UWRF is constantly living the role of University Ambassador. Everywhere every student goes, every action and decision they make (good or bad), reflects on UWRF. Students need to be aware of this fact and act accordingly. You never know who could be watching you, making a note that could affect your future.

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

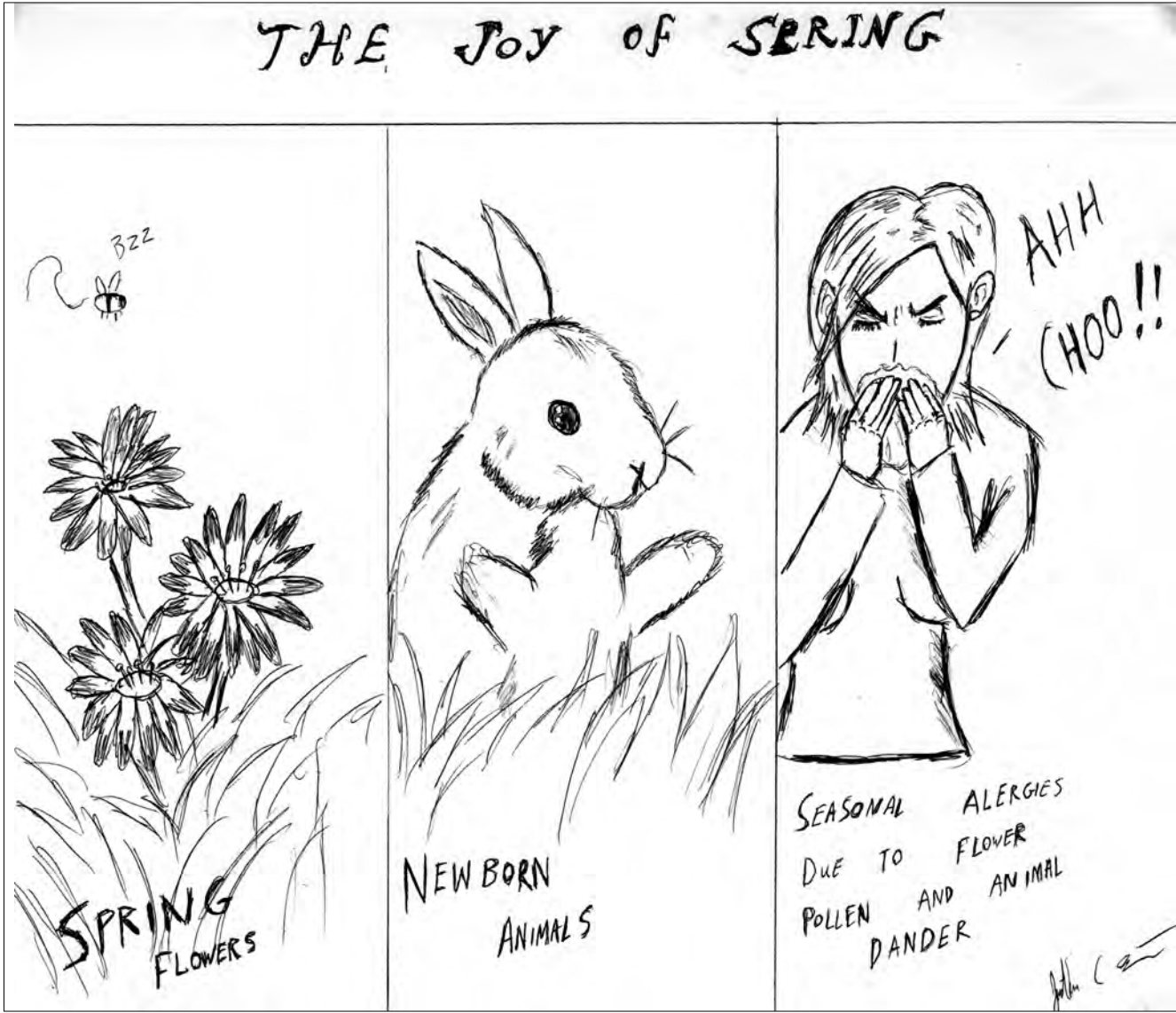
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By Jon Lyksett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student journalist shows his skills

I’d like to respond to the thought-provoking article by Nathan Sparks in the April 10, 2009 issue entitled “UWRF receives national online attention after student complaint.”

I especially appreciate that Mr. Sparks cited his sources, including the Web site [http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas\\_shrugs/2009/03/university-of-wisconsins-jewhating-professor-kiril-petkov.html](http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2009/03/university-of-wisconsins-jewhating-professor-kiril-petkov.html).

This is good journalistic

practice; all too rare these days.

I don’t know Ms. Montgomery or Professor Petkov. However, I have read the cited Web page and much of the rest of the Web site <http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com>.

The Web site is very clearly run by a virulently racist demagogue. Ms. Montgomery’s choice of this site to launch her attack on Professor Petkov reduces her credibility to less than zero in my estimation.

Brent Hopkins, student

Anti-smoking column appreciated

I just want to thank and praise, yes praise, Brad Brookins for his article on smokers. I could hardly get through without tearing up with laughter; it was almost as if someone took all of my thoughts and attitudes toward smokers and wrote it down.

I am about as anti-smoke as one might become but Brad might have me beat, and this I am thankful for. I have lost more than a few very close relatives due to smoking, not to mention the

common annoyances that were clearly expressed in the article.

Brad, your article will be hanging on my bedroom wall as long as I live there so that as many people as possible can read it, and love it as much as I did. I’m excited for next week’s column where it continues, the madness continues! Thank you again for such a “moving” column on those damn smokers! I swear I’m not crazy, just passionate about the things I care about. Go Twins!

Nathan Anderson, student

Something on your mind?  
Be heard. Write a letter to the editor.  
Submit your letter to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com) or deliver it to the box outside 304 North Hall.

Smoking ban infringes on smokers’ rights

I’ve had a change of heart, and therefore will be switching gears.

Anti-smokers with little experience around chain-smoking cigarette wielders aggravate me about as much as the chain-smokers themselves. As I mentioned last week, I can stand the hazy environments of Main Street’s bar scene, and I can definitely handle my hoodies skunking up my apartment bedroom with stale yesterday-evening secondhand smoke fused with its fiber material.

I can take it, and if I just so happen to get caught behind a cigar munching dude on my way to class in the middle of campus, I don’t complain. Sometimes I relish the moment where I try to name the brand—even if it’s just a Swisher Sweet (cherry flavor, preferably).

I don’t smoke, but I can smoke, so, on some very hazy, moderate level, I do smoke, but in extremely rare situations. I can see why the few nicotine maniacs around here might get all bent out of shape at the thought of the all-campus smoke ban. This would be like Minnesota’s totalitarian approach to smoking where they quarantine smokers either outside or keep them out of its inner restaurant scene all together; only here, the act would illegalize smoking from our entire, lovely outdoor campus.



Brad Brookins

Here’s my problem. We’re outside where the air, thanks to Momma Nature, moves freely, and you, the anti-smoking extremist you are, can maneuver away and around the theater major in front of you with a cig in his hand.

Seriously. You complain that the secondhand smoke will kill ya, well, work

it outta your system by taking the long way and walking along Cascade to get to class. If you don’t like it, use your rights as an American and choose to find another way. It’s not like you’re confined to the sidewalks. And as far as the

groups huddling together in the negative degree weather—don’t look at them if you don’t like them. God. Look elsewhere and forget their existence. Complain, complain and complain all you want, but as Bill Hicks once said: “non-smokers die everyday.”

No matter how hard you try, these addicts are going to follow you wherever you go. They’re going to congregate in the same Wisconsin bars you do, and, God forbid, they may even strike a conversation or even a long lasting relationship with you. Damn. And I understand the laws of logic. Those who smoke around tiny children ought to be smashed with a diamond fist—but that never happens around

here, or at least I’ve never seen it happen.

Here’s another reason the campus smoke ban is ridiculous: it’s cold around here most of the year, and we spend most of our time INSIDE, where smoking will never be tolerated, so what’s the big deal? When it’s negative 18 degrees outside, the last thing I’d be thinking about (if I weren’t smoke adapted) would be about the air I was breathing. I’d actually be spending my thoughts on figuring out the quickest and warmest route to my class. I don’t think, for a second, that I’d give one ounce of my intellect complaining about the stench of burning tobacco.

I’ve heard other myths about this thing called “thirdhand smoke,” too. The thing is—I know nothing about it, other than the fact that I don’t have a third hand to extend toward the body of limbs that are the negative effects of smoking.

How is this even possible? What ever happened to “what you can’t see can’t hurt you?” Why do we have to be super-hyper-extremely-aware of everything nowadays?

I remember when it was cool to strike a match on my chin. I’m not saying go strike up the habit, just leave these people alone and take comfort in the fact that the secondhand smoke, the headaches caused by it and the annoying justifications smokers tell you about themselves is far greater than wasting your time and money sucking down a tube of nicotine in habit.

Want your opinion published?  
Be heard. Write columns for the Voice.  
Submit your work to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com). The best entries may be published in a future issue of the Voice this semester.



College experience provides insight into societal norms, fallacies

The situation I’m about to describe to you is a true story...and by true, I mean false. It never happened. But it would be funny if it did, and it might save us a lot of late-semester stress and uncertainty. So here goes.

To begin the story...it’s a bright, sunny day at UW-River Falls. The grass is getting greener, the sky bluer, the bee and squirrel attacks more violent. But none of this cheers up the young UWRF student—let’s call her “Katie”—who is trudging down the path to Hagestad Hall. Her pretty brown eyes, which once twinkled with excitement, are now dull with exhaustion. Her dark hair is thrust into a rather desperate ponytail, since she didn’t have time to wash it this morning. An invisible rain cloud seems to hang over her head today, although her tank top and sweat pants remain dry.

For the first time, Katie is going to Counseling Services. It’s not something she wants to do. But despite her best efforts, assignments are piling up and finals are looming ever closer. She’s sick of it all, and doesn’t know where to turn.

By the time she manages to find the office,



Nathan Sparks

she’s 10 minutes late for her appointment. But the counselor has been waiting patiently. Behind a large and insanely cluttered desk, a tall leather chair spins around to reveal ... Nathan Sparks.

Brilliant and devilishly handsome, he is clad in his usual ensemble of gray and/or blue. He examines his latest patient with a warm smile. “Good morning, Miss...Smith? Katherine Smith?”

Katie nods, dropping her overloaded bag and slumping into the chair opposite him. “Yeah...sorry I’m late, my schedule is killing me. I have things due next week that I haven’t started, and...I’m not feeling good about finals.” Her fatigue turns to irritation. “I don’t think I even need to know all this stuff! I mean, what’s the point?”

“Well, that depends, Katie,” says the crazy progressive-minded miscreant. “Do you want the long answer or the short answer? The short answer is that you’re doing all this work to build character and discover healthy life skills in a diverse and proactive learning community. By performing to your maximum capabilities, you can graduate and succeed in the work force, thereby fulfilling

your hopes and dreams.”

Katie groans and rubs her aching forehead. “Geez...you sound like my parents. I want the long answer!”

“I thought so.” Nathan leans forward on the desk. “The long answer is...you live in a society that is built on the illusion of equal opportunity. You see, there’s already a corporate upper class that holds most of the wealth and influence in this country, and they don’t like sharing. A lot of the good jobs are given out to those who know the right people, not necessarily the ones who work the hardest. But the people in charge still push the ‘hard work equals prosperity’ shtick because it sounds better, and they don’t want you to know what’s really going on.

“Universities make you do all this work with the idea that it will secure your future. But in fact, the game is already rigged against you—and that goes double if you’re from a minority group. But the colleges operate at a distance from the ‘real world’ and make a ton of money off tuition, so they don’t see any reason to challenge the current system.”

Katie is surprised, but not quite shocked—she’s suspected most of these things were true for a long time. “But...that’s just messed up. If you’re right, doesn’t that mean we’re suffering through all of this for no reason?”

“No. You see, that’s the beauty of it,” Nathan brightens up. “As long as we combine our education here with an awareness of how the world really works, college is still useful. UWRF is especially well off because it’s small, community-oriented, relatively cheap and has some professors who really know the score. Combine the old clichés of ‘book smarts’ and ‘street smarts,’ and you’ll stand a chance of finding a way around the system and maybe—dare I say it?—accomplishing your hopes and dreams.”

Katie thinks about it. Slowly, she begins to smile again for the first time in days. “I guess that makes sense. College isn’t that huge path to success that people make it out to be...but going to the right kind will still help us. Thanks a lot. You’re a pretty good counselor.”

Nathan shrugs. “Actually, I’m not a counselor. I just snuck into the guy’s office while he was on a coffee break. But I was glad to help. And by the way, you’re pretty hot.” He gives her a cheesy wink.

Katie rolls her eyes and strolls happily off to the library. She has work to do, just like us—only now, maybe we have a better reason to do it.

Nathan is a perpetual miscreant majoring in journalism. He enjoys death metal and the color blue.

Stupid people decide with stupid reasoning

You know what I’m tired of? Stupid people. I was driving home from work the other night. I pull over into the next lane, to pass the car in front of me. I look forward and see a car’s headlights coming straight in my direction.

These two lanes of traffic are going one way. This stretch of road goes through five stop lights, which makes me wonder, did the individual driving the car not understand that the lights were on the other side? Did you not realize that to your left are two more lanes of cars that are driving the same direction as you and you’re on the other side of the median? Alright, you’re going the wrong way and you almost hit two cars.

You not only don’t move out of the way, you maintain your speed and continue down the road. Hello? Did you not notice the five cars that swerved off the road when you passed?

What about the people who complain about being overweight? You see them eating fast food for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Please don’t sit here and tell me how you can’t lose weight when you are literally feeding yourself the pounds. In the same sense, people complain about having no money. You don’t have enough money to fix your car. Then you go and get a new tattoo and change your hair color. You don’t have money to pay for school, but you have to buy your cigarettes.



Cristy Brusoe

Don’t complain to me that you’re broke when you go out and spend \$30-40 a night on liquor. I hate those conversations that begin with “I have so much homework and I literally have no time to do it.” Then I see that on Facebook that you just spent three hours filling out the 100 random questions survey.

I don’t experience this much, but my friends tell me that the fire alarms get pulled often in the dorms. Two in the morning and you’re out in the snow, wearing your Spongebob pants. What is the need to pull the alarm? What is so fun about it? I just want to say to those people, you’re stupid!

I watch my classmates drag themselves into biology lab on Friday mornings after a long night of drinking and crazy stunts. I understand having fun, but drinking to insanity the night before you know you have lab at 8 a.m. every Thursday is stupid!

I have respect for most people in this world, but I must admit that there are a lot of stupid ones out there. This is not directed at everyone. This is directed towards those select few who hurt, mess with, upset and make others’ lives worse because of the stupid decisions they make. The stupidity needs to end. Use common sense, don’t do it, or at the very least, stop complaining about it please.

Cristy is a sophomore majoring in journalism. She enjoys lemon with chicken and professional wrestling.

Columnist believes politics, religion inseparable

Last week, a column by Nathan Sparks proclaimed that religion and morality had no place in the issue of same sex marriage. To that, I say he is so wrong. Such thinking, that you can and should separate morality and religion from politics has promoted the moral decay of this country and corrupted and confused the foundations on which it was built—you know, the good old U.S. Constitution.

It must be first understood that beliefs—religious and moral—are the precursor to laws, principles and government structure. Our beliefs give birth to them, and without beliefs, those things wouldn’t exist nor would they serve any purpose. These things tell us what is right to do or wrong to do, how we can and should live and within what limits.

This country was founded on Christian beliefs and it should not be deceptively denied (read the Bible and the constitution and their relationship is clear). The constitution states: “they are endowed by their Creator [God] with certain unalienable Rights...”

When the Founding Fathers suggested a separation of the church and state, it was not to say that religion should be removed from laws but that the government did not have the right to impose a religion on any person. The intent was to keep the government out of God not to keep God (religion) out of the government.

However, let’s stick to the issue at hand: marriage. It is not about discrimination, gay or civil rights, the



Shawna Carpentier

constitution, insurance policies or even someone’s happiness. It’s about marriage, its purpose, definition and significance.

To Christians, marriage is much more than a “legal arrangement.” Marriage has existed since the beginning of time, long before any political institution did. Marriage was a gift given by God to be shared between a man

and a woman. It was and is meant to be a spiritual union, something that is greater than love or happiness. Therefore, it is first and foremost religious. All matrimonial legalities that followed were indeed based off this truth.

Denying marriage to gays or lesbians is not about denying them freedom or equality. Mr. Sparks compared the denial of same sex marriage to women’s right to vote and slaves’ freedom, but did this fallibly.

Women cannot choose their sex nor can a person choose the color of their skin, but people can choose their sexual preference (there is no proof it is genetic). Gays, lesbians and the like

are free to live as they choose but they don’t have a right to redefine marriage.

The issue is about not condoning something believed to be wrong or aiding in its manifestation. It is about preserving the sanctity of marriage. In order to do that, laws such as those which ban same sex marriage are imperative. That’s why I’m standing up and I’m asking if we allow same sex marriage, where are we going to draw the line? Will we OK polygamy? How about bestiality, will that be OK? Marriage will mean nothing if we allow it to be corrupted by definitions and unions outside of its sacred purpose.

I agree with Mr. Sparks on one point: we need to contribute to the solution, not the problem of this country. Unlike him, I believe the problem is too many of us are bystanders, we follow and we don’t lead. We watch as God is being taken out of this country. As for me, it is my prayer that we will stand up for God, keep this nation under Him and save marriage for us, our families and the generations to come.

Shawna is a conservative Christian voice who actively encourages girls to cherish their purity and find confidence in a modest beauty.

STUDENT staff voices

Does your degree make you feel confident in finding a job?

Ben Brewster, Editor

Somewhat. Print newspapers are dying, but journalism degrees are applicable in many other areas.



Ken Weigend, Assistant Editor



“I think my education is great. But my shaky confidence in finding a job is more intrinsically linked with the poor economy, not my degree. But I do feel UWRF has prepared me well.”

Eric Pringle, Front Page Editor

Yes. I think the skills that I have learned through journalism courses could apply to many different career choices.



Aaron Billingsley, News Editor



“No. I’ll probably still be working at Applebee’s or living the life of a hermit up in Bemidji, Minn.”

Abby Maliszewski, Viewpoints Editor

“I feel that I’ve properly used my in-class knowledge in internships and extracurriculars to gain real-world experience. But I can’t help but be nervous in this economy.”



Justin Magill, Sports Editor



“Not right now in this tough economy-it’s hitting the newspaper industry pretty hard. But we’re getting educated in multi-media components which should help.”

Jenna Nelson, Etcetera Editor

“I feel there are a plethora of opportunities just waiting to be discovered. You just need the motivation to get out and unlock the doors.”



Sally King, Chief Photographer



“In some ways. I feel that working for the Voice will help me find a job in the future.”

Andy Phelps, Chief Copy Editor

“Absolutely not. When I’m serving fries at McDonald’s, I will be able to analyze satire and English literature for you. I hope I win the World Series of Poker”



Cristy Brusoe, Online Editor



“No, a degree’s just a piece of paper. It’s all about the interview and the skills you have.”

Kirsten Blake, General Manager

“I feel the University is preparing me for a career with my degree the best it can. But, the professional world is changing so fast, sometimes I wonder if education is up-to-date.”



# Falcon softball gains ground in WIAC

Joe Engelhardt  
joseph.engelhardt@uwrf.edu

After losing four straight games to division powerhouses UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater, the Falcon softball team seems to have righted the ship with a win over Bethel University (Minn.) and two wins over UW-Stout.

“We felt like we needed to win over Stout” senior Mindy Rudiger said. “After losing the first four games of the conference season, it was important for us to get back on track.”

The two games before Stout were at non-conference opponent Bethel. In the first game, Bethel scored three runs in the bottom of the second inning to lead 3-1. UWRF scored a run in the top of the third thanks to an RBI single by Rudiger. The Falcons took the lead in the fifth, when Dana Book drove in two runs with a triple. The Falcons controlled the rest of the game, winning 6-4. Jamie Klein gave up two earned runs over six innings to earn the victory for UWRF. She also walked just one batter while striking out five.

In game two against Bethel, it was able to score early and never looked back. Bethel scored one run in the first and third innings on RBI hits by juniors Lynnae Thompson and Lauren Habisch. The Royals increased their lead to 4-0 in the fifth on a two-run home run by Habisch. The Falcons were able to scrape a run across in the top of the fifth before the homer by Habisch. However, it wasn’t enough as the Falcons lost the second game of the doubleheader, 4-1.

Over the weekend, UWRF played a doubleheader at home against Stout. In the first game, the Falcons scored first, with two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Patty Olson scored on a wild throw, while Sarah Fern delivered an RBI single.

UWRF added another run in the bottom of the third with an RBI single by Rudiger. Falcon starter Jamie Klein was able to keep the Blue Devils scoreless over three innings. When the Falcons went to the bullpen, Heidi Emmer came to complete the game, giving up two runs, but still able to save the win for UWRF 3-2.

In the final game of the doubleheader, UWRF was once again able to score early and often. Fern started the scoring in the first inning, driving in two runs with an RBI single. She delivered another RBI single in the bottom of the third.

UWRF was able to add more runs in the fourth and fifth innings, winning the game after five innings, 8-0. Klein pitched a complete game shutout for the Falcons, walking two and striking out three.

“Getting a sweep of Stout was really great for us,” Falcon Head Coach Jody Gabriel said.

With the victories over Stout, the Falcons moved to fifth in the WIAC standings.

Gabriel talked about the difficulty of the conference in an e-mail interview.

“We play in one of the toughest conferences in the nation and every team shows up to play so we have to be at the top of our game for every conference game,” she said.

With 11 freshmen on the roster, this is a different Falcon team than in the past. The senior leaders and the coaching staff spend more time

teaching the game and the way Falcons play softball.

One of the necessary improvements for this team to excel, according to Rudiger, is to make fewer errors in the field.

“Both team wise and personally, we need to learn how to play good defense without making too many errors, which gives our opponents extra outs for them to work with,” Rudiger said.

The Falcons play next at UW-Platteville April 18 and at UW-La Crosse on April 19. Their next home game is April 23 against Hamline.



*Renee Bergh/Student Voice*  
**UWRF softball players Cassie Peterson, Tara Conlin and Mindy Rudiger work on hitting drills off a tee during practice.**

## SPORTS WRAP

**Cranston second in Coach of the Year honors**

Falcon women's hockey Coach Joe Cranston was the runner-up for this year's American Hockey Coaches Association Coach of the Year award.

Cranston, in his 10th year with the Falcons, led the team to a 20-7-3 overall record and a berth in the NCAA National Championships. The Falcons went on the road and beat No. 1 ranked Gustavus Adolphus, 2-1, to advance to the NCAA Finals in Middlebury, Vt. The 20 wins tied a school record for victories in a season.

Cranston was also the runner-up to the national award after the 2003 season when he also led the Falcons to the NCAA Tournament.

**Track and field competes at Gustavus**

The Falcon men's and women's track & field teams competed at the Lee Krough Invitational hosted at Gustavus Adolphus last Friday.

The Falcon women tallied 15 top 10 individual finishers, led by Jenny Aronson who won the long jump (18-1/4) and placed eighth in the 200-meter dash (27.79).

The Falcon men had 12 top 10 finishers, led by Clai Catto who finished third in the high jump (6-71/2). Team scores were not kept during the meet.

There were a number of notable finishes for the Falcons. On the women's team Sammi Nyre finished fourth (16.81) and Megan Rasmussen finished ninth (17.33) in the 100-meter hurdles. The pair also placed in the 400-meter hurdles where Nyre finished third (1:07.63) and Rasmussen fifth (1:08.01).

Notable finishers for the Falcon men's team included Chad Ernst who placed sixth in the 1500-meter run (4:09.01). Dan Rodewald was 10th in two events, the 200-meter dash (22.99) and the 400-meter dash (50.31).

# Tusa has solid first year

Justin Magill  
justin.magill@uwrf.edu

It has not taken Rose Tusa, freshman pitcher for the UW-River Falls softball team, long to adjust to the collegiate game.

The St. Anthony High School (Minn.) standout pitched most of her team’s games at the prep level, but now gets a day off here and there with the Falcons having a full pitching staff.

“I’ve learned a lot,” the Roseville, Minn. native said. “In high school I had to pitch almost every game for my team, so I knew that I was going to be out there a lot. Now I am on a team that has more pitchers and I get a rest every now and then.”

With rest, Tusa said she will be more effective toward the end of the season because her arm will not be worn down when the year comes to a close.

Tusa was an All-Conference, All-Section and All-State pitcher during her high school career for St. Anthony.

One of the most important events that took place this season for Tusa was UWRF’s road games in Florida during spring break, where the Falcons got the chance to get to know each other, especially for the freshmen.

“We spent a week just by ourselves,” Tusa said. “It was great for us. I have found out that teams spend a lot more time with each other in college sports. Our team eats together all the time and we did not do that too much in high school. It’s great.”

What Tusa said she has quickly learned is the WIAC has some of the best talent

in the nation, with UW-Whitewater being a traditional powerhouse and 2008 national champions, UW-Eau Claire, in the conference as well.

“There is no doubt that the competition in this conference is better than the one I played in high school,” Tusa said. “I come from a smaller school where you play teams that might have a good player. Here, every team has players that were good in high school. Whitewater and Eau Claire are filled with a lot of great players and they were two of the better teams last year.”

Eau Claire is rated fourth in the nation and Whitewater holds down the No. 11 ranking in the national poll.

“There is just no comparison to what my team faced in high school,” Tusa said.

The Falcons started their WIAC season against Eau Claire and Whitewater and lost all four games. They swept UW-Stout 3-2 and 8-0 last weekend for their first conference wins of the season.

Despite the tough competition, Tusa has gotten her feet wet and has produced some stingy numbers.

In 12 appearances this season she has 38 strikeouts, second on the team to Jamie Klein’s 56. She is also second in innings pitched, meaning she can be called on at any time for the Falcons.

She has a 4-2 record, with the best overall winning percentage of any UWRF pitcher.

Brittany Rathbun, current assistant coach and former pitcher for the Falcons last season, said Tusa has the ability to learn at a fast pace and has the drive to become one of the elite pitchers in the

game.

“Rose has many strengths, including her mental game, her ability to learn quickly,” she said. “Rose understands the game, the situations she faces and she knows what she is capable of. As a freshman, this is hard to come by because the transition from high school softball to college softball is such a huge jump. Now you are facing a line-up that has the best of the best, and Rose has done a nice job of understanding the mental part of the game. She possesses a drive to be the very best day in and day out. She is constantly working on making herself better as an overall pitcher. She asks a lot of questions and works hard until she gets to where she needs to be.”

Rathbun has been by Tusa’s side all season and she said having a former player, who is right out of the college game, is a great fit for her.

“Brittany has been so important to me,” Tusa said. “She understands what I am going through because she was in my position not that long ago. She really knows what is going through our heads.”

With Tusa being able to adapt to changes, Rathbun said she is helping her with new pitches.


“We are simply working on developing a couple of new pitches,” Rathbun said. “And perfecting the ones she already has. She has been so open to new ideas and is such a quick learner, which makes it easier for me to focus on fine tuning rather than the beginning mechanics.”

Tusa has appeared in 12 games this season for the Falcons, which has a 15-11 record this year.

## Sports Wrap courtesy of UW-River Falls Sports Information


SPOTLIGHT HOME GAME

Softball



UWRF

vs



Hamline


4 p.m. April 23

Ramer Field

River Falls, Wis.

STANDINGS

Softball	W	L
WIAC Standings		
Whitewater (23-3)	10	0
Eau Claire (20-7)	8	2
Oshkosh (15-9)	8	2
La Corsse (21-9)	6	4
River Falls (15-11)	3	5
Stout (12-16)	2	6
Superior (10-10)	1	5
Stevens Point (13-11)	0	6
Platteville (4-20)	0	8



# New stadiums create new problems

I’m here to talk about a tragedy not only in many professional sports.

Most of us who are sports fans dream of seeing our favorite team live and we never forget that first time we went to our favorite team’s game. The fact that we went into our piggy bank, dragged out a fist full of quarters, slammed them on the counter at the stadium and got a seat right off the third base line. Sadly, these dreams are becoming quite faint as sports moves into the next decade.

Fans tend to get really excited about new stadiums. I remember running around screaming at Miller Park in 2006 when the Minnesota state legislature passed the bill that would enable a new Twins stadium to get built.

However, it’s starting to become so corporatized and cheap that the games are no longer the center of going to a game of any sport.

The first problem is that stadiums are putting in way too many amenities that sacrifice the overall effect of the stadium.

My example is Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City. Kauffman was an absolutely gorgeous stadium when I vis-



**Chris Schad**

ited it in 2004. The first thing I noticed when I walked in was how green the grass was and the huge waterfalls in center field. I was really excited when they announced that they were making renovations to the stadium which originally opened in 1973. However, I turned on ESPN and saw some highlights from around the stadium and was disappointed. Those waterfalls in the outfield have been surrounded by club level seating and restaurants, leaving them barely noticeable and largely detracting from the natural beauty of the stadium.

The second problem is corporate sponsorship of stadium names. Before I was born, there were many cool names to stadiums. Comiskey Park, Arrowhead Stadium, Metropolitan Stadium and Candlestick Park were just some of the poetic names that these stadiums have had to offer.

To look at the current culture, all you have to do is look across the river and see the names of the two new monstrosities that are scheduled to open in the next year. On the University of Minnesota campus we have TCF Bank Stadium (which is the sixth stadium in

the football championship subdivision to be named by a corporate sponsor) and shoved neatly in downtown Minneapolis is the new Twins stadium, Target Field which is right next to the Target Center and the soon to be built Target Plaza. This is ridiculous. Corporations pay for the luxury suites inside these stadiums, so this sadly will not change anytime soon.

Last, but most certainly not least is the ticket prices for a game. This is a really bad problem in football.

Pittsburgh and New England recently built new stadiums and although they’re really nice, the true fans have been pushed up from the lower deck and into the nosebleed seats in the upper deck. (NOTE: Because of the limited space in this column I won’t even start on the ticket prices of these nosebleed seats.) The lower bowl is now filled with corporate hotshots who really don’t care about the game.

This is something that the owners of these stadiums have lost sight of, the pageantry of the game.

However, all they care about is their bank accounts. Unless if they come up to the back ends of the stadium and see how much the blue collar people pour into their team because they care, not because they want to seal the deal with the Cincinnati office.



'Monsters vs. Aliens' appeals to one of two target demographics



José Cruz, Jr.

Animation is certainly making a comeback, and has been gradually for the past decade (debatable, of course). While 2-D animation is taking a backseat, CG animation reigns supreme. Animated films nowadays are facing a different demographic than they were before. Rather than keeping the children's attention, studios realize that more can be gained from appealing to adults (features like "Shrek," "Shark Tale," etc.). Dreamworks Animation takes yet another stab at walking the line between entertaining kids and adults with "Monsters vs. Aliens." While on her way to her wedding to a local weatherman, Susan Murphy (Reese Witherspoon) is struck by a meteor and turned

into a giant. The military soon arrives, captures her and takes her to a top-secret facility. There she meets other beings that have been deemed monsters, including a gelatinous mass named Bicarbonate Ostylezene Benzonate, or simply B.O.B (Seth Rogen), an amphibious missing link (Will Arnett) and a cockroach scientist appropriately nicknamed Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D. (Hugh Laurie). While the other monsters are content with being on lockdown for the past 50 years, Susan finds it unbearable and isolating. An alien named Gallaxhar (Rainn Wilson, of "The Office" fame) sends a probe to earth to detect the radiation from the meteor. No conventional military force can stop the probe, so they seek the help of Susan and the other monsters to defeat it in return for their freedom. Everything goes according to plan,

but Gallaxhar soon makes multiple clones of himself to take over earth, and it's up the monsters to defeat him. Most kids will definitely find this movie fun and enjoyable. It is filled with plenty of physical humor, as almost every scene involves someone getting hit by something. There are a lot of flashy action sequences with explosions and fighting (which are as violent as a PG movie will allow). But adults might not find "Monsters" to be as absorbing. Sure, it has references to various monsters movie of the '50s and '60s, but presumably only a certain percentage of adults will get said references. Susan is a 49 1/2 foot woman, which is homage to "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman," and B.O.B. is "The Blob." We get it, but that does not nec-



Rottentomatoes.com

"Monsters Vs. Aliens" centers around a woman who is struck by a meteor on the day of her wedding.

essarily make it funny. If "Monsters vs. Aliens" has a redeeming quality, it is the voice talent. Adults will no doubt get a kick out of the voice talent, as it features the voices of such comedic actors as Rogen, Arnett, Wilson and Paul Rudd. The most memorable probably has to be Stephen Colbert as the U.S. President, as pretty much every line he warrants a chuckle at least. But I don't think that too many 8-year-olds watch "The Colbert Report". Overall, "Monsters vs. Aliens" is not a bad film. The animation is top notch, as action sequences are often very well executed, even if they do tend to drag on and lose some steam in a few scenes. The film attempts to entertain both kids and adults, but comes off as more for children, especially the humor.

José is an English/creative writing major at UWRF. He enjoys documentaries, horror and independent films.



Stray Cats conjoin plethora of musical genres in concert



Joe Hager

Last Friday was a beautiful night to be in downtown Minneapolis, waiting outside for a concert. Ben Brewster, the editor of this newspaper, and I were lined up on First Avenue on Friday evening to see Brian Setzer's 50th birthday show at the Fine Line Music Café. It was a reunion show featuring Setzer's famous 1980s retro-rockabilly band, the Stray Cats. The band, originally formed in 1979 by Setzer and his band mates Slim Jim Phantom and Lee Rocker, recorded a few hits in the '80s which are still around today. Namely, "Stray Cat Strut," "Rock This Town," "Rumble in Brighton" and others. Though a little chilly, Ben and I waited over an hour to get into the Fine Line to see some rockabilly. Rockabilly, for those of you who aren't familiar, is an early style of rock n' roll that was popular in the 1950s. Think Elvis. Rockabilly mixes elements of rock, country, blues, jazz and bluegrass music, but it stands

on its own as a musical genre. Everyone outside the Fine Line that was waiting along First Avenue was decked from head to toe in rockabilly fashion: rolled up Levi's, scuffed rail boots, black leather motorcycle jackets or navy work jackets, vintage glasses from the '50s, cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon and six-inch, greased pompadours piled high. It was impossible to get another beer once Setzer and his two band mates came onstage—the crowd was packed thick. There was no opening act—just the Stray Cats. Setzer came out hoisting a big orange Gretsch guitar and waved to the crowd, his blonde pompadour slicked and styled, before all three Cats tore into one of their well-known hits, "Rumble in Brighton." With Setzer onstage working the Gretsch and singing about street fights and switch-blades, I couldn't help but wish I had seen at least a little of the '50s. A few songs later, the Cats backed off and Setzer stepped forward and smiled to the crowd before easing into a wicked rockabilly version of "Black Mountain Rag," an ancient bluegrass melody that can be excessively difficult to play on electric guitar. Setzer, a gifted guitarist, missed a few notes on the way but ripped through the guitar rag beautifully.

Without missing a beat, he transitioned into the next song at the conclusion of "Black Mountain Rag," which was a seminal 1950s prom hit, "Sleepwalk." Brian Setzer, currently a resident of Minneapolis, mentioned his musical hero Eddie Cochran several times through the show. Cochran, an influential rockabilly musician of the 1950s, was born in Albert Lea, Minn., and recorded many classic hits you may know: "Summertime Blues," "C'mon Everybody," "Cut Across Shorty," and others. As a tribute, the Stray Cats played several Cochran songs throughout the set, including "Twenty-Flight Rock" and "Somethin' Else." Seeing Setzer channel the music of his idol Eddie Cochran was a special thing—especially considering he's already channeled Cochran by playing him in the 1987 movie "La Bamba." Setzer and his band also played plenty of smaller Stray Cats hits that the crowd gobbled up. I especially enjoyed the live versions of "Fishnet Stockings," "18 Miles to Memphis," "Stray Cat Strut" and "Rock This Town." In addition to playing Eddie Cochran music, Setzer also gave tribute to his other musical hero Gene Vincent, another rockabilly star. The Vincent hits that the Cats played included

a favorite of mine, "Double-Talkin' Baby," played beautifully on Friday night. The Stray Cats came out for two separate encores, the second one being a chance for Setzer to dig into a birthday cake and a Premium Grainbelt and share a few laughs with the crowd. After two more songs, the band left the stage and everyone knew it was for good. Friday night at the Fine Line was one of the best Setzer shows I've ever seen. I've seen him play with his Orchestra twice, I've seen the original Stray Cats once before, and I've seen Setzer play solo a couple times as well. I've even met the man, and this weekend he seemed to be in especially good spirits, either from his birthday or the improving spring weather. Setzer as a musician seems dedicated to his career-long campaign of modernizing and popularizing old styles of music, whether it be rockabilly, jazz, blues, folk, country, swing or even classical (check out his newest album, "Wolfgang's Big Night Out"). He does it better than almost anyone I've seen, and if any musician is responsible for my love of ancient music, it's him. If you don't know the Stray Cats or are unfamiliar with Brian Setzer I suggest you do yourself a favor and listen.

Joe is a marketing communications major with a creative writing minor.

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Rapper breaks silence with self produced return



Andy Phelps

The legendary underground rapper, Daniel Dumile, most commonly known as MF DOOM, is just about as "un-commercial" as any hip-hop artist who has generated such devotional critical praise can possibly be. He has gone by many aliases (Viktor Vaughn, Zev Love X, Metal Fingers and Supervillan among them), but has almost never been spotted in public without his trademark silver face-concealing mask. After a career marked by his ability to churn out albums like clockwork, the voice of the enigmatic British emcee has been silent since his 2006 collaboration with the up-and-coming DJ Danger Mouse. "Born Like This," Dumile's self-produced 2009 return, is described by its creator as being DOOM's "definitive album, encapsulating but surpassing all of his previous work and influences under various monikers." For those of you who are unfamiliar, the character of DOOM was inspired by the Marvel Comics supervillain, Dr. Doom (which explains the mask). Dumile has established a rock-solid reputation as one of the most unpredictable, quirky and rare beatsmiths in the hip-hop universe. He is articulate to such a startling degree that he has moved past the pedestrian act of rhyming words with words. A true master craftsman of the English language, Dumile shows his ability to seemingly fuse each individual phoneme and syllable. The lines, "More rhyming, pure diamond, tore hymen, poor timing / Raw lining, Paul Simon touring...I'm in," give just a small taste of what he has to

offer. DOOM blasts off from the very beginning with his sandy flow and bizarre stream-of-consciousness rhymes. The first track, "Gazillion Ear," is peppered with a trippy Giorgio Moroder sample and overflows with nonstop nonsensical verbal aptitude. "Once sold an inbred skinhead a nigga joke / Plus a brand new chrome smokin' with the triggers broke," Dumile mentions in passing. The track "Cellz," features an excerpt from the Charles Burkowski poem, "Dinosauria, We," which the title of the album is taken from. Repetitive and haunting, the steady cadence radiates with foreboding authority. The biting hilarity of "Batty Boys" unexpectedly questions the sexual orientation of many iconic superheroes, including Batman and Robin: "Alfred come home and found them both naked / Handcuffed to each other just as he had suspected." This is followed up by a comically witty line mentioning that Aquaman may be literally "sleeping with the fishes." There are hundreds of brilliantly quotable one-liners to be found amid the 17-track layout, proving that DOOM still possess the sharpest wit, one of the brightest minds, and the most far-reaching pop culture universe of discourse of any artist. It's a little difficult to categorize this album or place it among his existing library of eccentric classics, but one thing that remains clear is that DOOM marches to his own beat, and listeners should consider it a privilege to follow along. Andy is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap operas. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.

Student Voice cartoon



By Emily Eck

Making the honor roll starts with looking the part.



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# Health Fair hosts vendors to raise awareness, provide tips



*Tennae Maki/Student Voice*  
**Dwayne Collis, from the St. Croix Center for the Healing Arts, de-stressed students with massages at the Fair.**



*Tennae Maki/Student Voice*  
**UW-River Falls hosts the Health Fair once a year. The Health Fair offers a variety of booths informing students on health issues such as tobacco, eating disorders and sexually transmitted diseases. The Fair was sponsored by Greg Peters of State Farm Insurance and the River Falls National Bank.**



*Tennae Maki/Student Voice*  
**Amongst the booths, the fair provided beauty supplies and tips, in addition to health suggestions. Those in attendance at the Health Fair received complimentary hand manicures.**

Renee Thony  
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UW-River Falls hosted its annual Health Fair Wednesday, April 15. This year’s Fair was sponsored by Greg Peters—State Farm Insurance and River Falls First National Bank.

The Health Fair is a time to promote overall health and wellness on campus, and it gives students, faculty and staff the opportunity to learn about the different aspects of health in an interactive manner.

“The Health Fair gives students, especially health and human performance students, the opportunity to have a hands-on learning experience. This year, students in the wellness class are responsible for creating a booth on a health topic of their choice,” Stacy Dekkers who works for Student Health and Counseling Services said. Dekkers is also a health educator at UWRF.

In addition to each of the student groups having a demonstration throughout the Fair, students of the wellness class had booths arranged.

Amongst these booths were wellness students Taylor Dressen and Bill Scholz whose booth was about over-the-counter drugs. Students McKenna Richards and Kyle Lechleitner had an arrangement about the hazards of smoking.

“We brought in a petition for students to sign for a smoke-free campus. We also have a healthy pig’s heart to represent a healthy human heart as well as an unhealthy one to represent the ‘smoker’s lung’,” Lechleitner said.

In addition to displays, different vendors and organizations put on demonstrations.

“One of the highlights from last year was the demonstration put on by the River Falls EMS. Another yearly favorite is the push-up and wall-sit competitions,” Dekkers said.

Those competitions were back again this year, and door

prizes were given out to the winners. In addition to contests and prizes, the Fair offered snacks. UWRF Dining Services donated a fruit and vegetable tray. Individual booths handed out individual refreshments as well.

Both on-campus and other vendors hosted the other booths. Some vendors included the Hastings Beauty School, who were doing manicures, and groups giving hearing, screening and body composition tests.

Other new vendors showed up for the Health Fair this year. “Also new this year, Pierce County Reproductive Health is offering free HIV testing,” Dekkers said.

Free massages were given by the St. Croix Center for the Healing Arts Student Massage Clinic. Students from the Clinic will be coming back to UWRF on May 11 pre-finals week.

“We’re hoping to bring about four or five practitioners back on the 11th to give out some free massages,” Dwayne Collis, a graduate student at the Clinic, said.

# River Falls Clinic joins forces with hospital, student health services

Tim Stanislav  
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The River Falls Clinic offers a wide variety of health care services and specialist care to UWRF students and the River Falls Community.

“We cover everything from pregnant moms to geriatric and have about 80,000 visits per year,” Samantha Bluhm, marketing director for the Clinic, said.

The Clinic is a feeder to the River Falls Hospital, Bluhm said. It is a first stop for healthcare and is focused on long term wellness. She said the clinic attempts to build relationships with patients through visits and phone conversation to improve overall wellness.

The clinic works in partnership with the River Falls Hospital and UWRF student health services. Student health services covers the cost of basic treatment or hospital visits for STD tests and throat cultures, Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of student health services said. Student Health Services also offers a free taxi service to and from the River Falls Clinic, she said.

Reilly-Myklebust said UWRF student health

services does not have an on-site clinic because it would not be possible to provide the full range of healthcare options and hours of availability that the River Falls Clinic offers.

Specialists play an important role in the River Falls Medical Clinic, Bluhm said. She said physicians work with families and generations of families to provide better care.

“These docs see patients for everything from immunizations, physicals, health and wellness checks, diabetes and chronic disease,” Bluhm said in an e-mail.

Bluhm said UWRF patients are not the majority but that they are terrific patients. She said student visits help the clinic be more connected to the University.

Bluhm commented on the responsibilities of the patient.

“Humans innately have the ability to know when something is wrong with their bodies. The earlier they seek care the better.”

Bluhm addressed the issue of River Falls patients without health insurance to pay for care.

“The River Falls clinic offers a free clinic where patients without health insurance can

receive absolutely the same care.”

The percentage of uninsured Americans has remained relatively the same since 1987. In 1987, about 13 percent were uninsured and in 2007 15.3 percent were uninsured. The Percentage of uninsured Americans dropped from 2006 to 2007. In 2006, it was 15.8 and 2007, 15.3 percent.

Children in a poverty rate higher among the uninsured with a rate of 17 percent compared to 11 percent for those above the poverty line. This data was collected from the U.S. Census Bureau Web site.

Reilly-Myklebust said she is advocating for required health insurance as part of tuition fees. Domestic students who already have a plan could have its cost deducted from their tuition. Those without would use the UWRF health insurance policy, she said.

“Many schools are starting to require health insurance as a term of enrollment.” Reilly-Myklebust said

International students are currently required to use the UWRF insurance policy in order to attend the University.

“I told them I had insurance already when I came to the United States and they told me I

had to use the UWRF health insurance policy,” Woojin Lee, an international student, said.

Lee said he was told by the UWRF international office advisor that he must cancel his policy, which was cheaper, and use the more expensive UWRF one or a hold would be placed on his account for registration for classes. He said he was billed during the summer between terms even though he attempted to cancel the policy because he was away in Korea.

The UWRF health insurance policy for domestic students costs \$1,142 annually and \$295 quarterly. For International students, it costs \$800 annually and \$210 quarterly. Prices were taken from the Columbian Life Insurance Company premiums listed on their Web site.

“Health care has some major problems and the ones who suffer,” Reilly-Myklebust said, “are the ones who don’t have resources to afford health care.”

For more information, visit the River Falls Clinic online at: [www.rfmc.org](http://www.rfmc.org)

# Students display talent, creativity during art exhibition

Collin Pote  
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As the spring semester draws to a close, senior art majors are showing the culmination of their college education thus far in art exhibitions held in the gallery of Kleinpell Fine Arts.

The exhibitions are the main project of Art 309 (Senior Exhibition), a class that is meant to teach art students everything they need to know in order to design, prepare and promote an exhibition of their own material. The class

is a requirement of all art majors pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

Students going for a BFA are required to major and minor in two different art media and are encouraged to use the exhibitions as a means to display their best work.

“Basically, you would choose the best works you feel represent your skill and what you learn throughout the years,” art student Judith Wickham said.

Wickham’s exhibition was focused primarily on fabrics.

Morgan Clifford, the course instructor, said how the exhibition process at UW-River Falls may differ from larger colleges.

Other campuses may opt to have group exhibitions, demonstrating the work of several students at once. However, UWRF instead has each student go individually so they may worry only about their own displays and not have to work around others.

Insofar as planning the exhibits, students must consider much more than one may think. Among the things that must be taken into con-

sideration are lighting, label, placement and arrangement.

The promotional and preparation side of the process is equally rigorous. The gallery space is reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis and the space is not used expressly by students, so slots may be reserved as soon as a semester in advance. Students must also select three teachers to critique their work, make a press release, make postcards, write a statement for the gallery and plan an opening.

According to Clifford, it is largely up to the artist’s discretion how to approach the opening.

Despite having teachers lined up to critique work on display, their evaluations have no bearing on the final grade.

According to Clifford, the BFA degree is one of the most work intensive and rigorous of the degrees offered on campus and that historically, students who get the degree go on to graduate school to further their education in art.

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