



SPORTS, PAGE 6
Check out a recap of Falcon athletics this season

BLAKE, PAGE 5
Columnist advises people to take advantage of credit cards

CULTURE, PAGE 8
Students celebrate, highlight diversity on campus



STUDENT VOICE

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New campus org encourages students to become active

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With its 2009-2010 motto, “Students, Service, and Success,” the Falcon Fellows is one of the newest organizations on campus that is striving to help students become active in their community.

“The program was first developed on the UWRF campus in 2005 and its purpose is to provide first generation and/or low income college students the opportunity to develop a peer network and provide support that enables students to serve as agents of civic change to respond effectively to local community issues,” Gina Sevick, Falcon Fellows coordinator, said.

This program is a collaboration of non-profit services with the help of Student Support Services on campus.

“The Falcon Fellows Program is a partnership between the national program, AmeriCorps, Student Support Services (SSS) at UW-River Falls along with various non-profit organi-

zations who serve elderly populations in River Falls/ St. Croix communities,” according to the Falcon Fellows brochure.

“AmeriCorps is the national service movement that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to address the most critical problems in our nation’s communities in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs,” according to the Falcon Fellows Web site.

The 40 students that participate in the Falcon Fellows program include a group of freshman and sophomores that are guided by a small group of upperclassmen who act as mentors for the group.

The program is centered on the idea of community service, and that is one of the main requirements for those enrolling in the program. Each member must work with senior citizens for a minimum of 8-10 hours a week, and must have completed 300 hours of community service and training at the end of the

See Falcon Fellows page 3



Sally King/Student Voice
Gina Sevick is the UWRF Falcon Fellows coordinator. Falcon Fellows is a new organization on campus that joins other non-profit services to make a difference.

UWRF campus honors, celebrates diversity



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice
Nkauj Hmoob, a group within UWRF’s Asian-American Student Association, performs during the 8th Annual Culture Fest Wednesday. The event featured skits, a comedian, singing, dancing and poetry for the audience. For additional coverage about the Culture Fest, see page 8.

UWRF plans to offer new LGBTQ course

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A course addressing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) issues is currently being developed by the Coordinator of women’s studies, Michelle Parkinson, and UW-River Falls psychology professor Todd Savage.

A listening session was held Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, in which students, faculty and other interested parties were invited to come and assist in the process of developing the LGBTQ course.

“The session was sparsely attended. However, concerns were brought up about what would be included on the syllabus,” Parkinson said.

Ashley Olson, sociocultural coordinator of Student Affairs, helped at the listening session and believes this course offers a unique opportunity for LGBT students and heterosexual students.

“Not only will it allow for LGBTI identified students to explore their own identity, but also provide straight identified students with an opportunity to learn more about LGBTI history, theory and much more,” Olson said.

According to Parkinson, the course would cover a missing part of the curriculum of women’s studies. It would include information about social issues that the LGBTQ population faces and what they face every day. It

“We do need to make this campus a better and a safer place for everyone and that includes the LGBT population.”

Michelle Parkinson
Coordinator of women’s studies

(GSA) on campus to come and speak with the class,” Parkinson said.

The recent hate graffiti displayed on campus makes Parkinson believe that there remains a lack of awareness of these types of issues on campus, she said.

“We do need to make this campus a better and safer place for everyone and that includes the LGBT population. This course is built to not only inform people but also to create a place academically for LGBT students to feel safe, speak openly and

See LGBTQ page 3



Todd Savage

Res Life implements policy for students staying in dorms during break

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This year, students planning on staying in the dorms over winter break will need to sign up electronically and agree to pay a weekly fee, regardless of the number of nights spent in the dorm.

In the past, all students paid extra in their housing contract to cover the cost of a few students that stayed in the dorms over J-term. This year, only students who are staying in the

dorms over break will pay the fee. According to Sandra Scott-Deux, director of Residence Life, there are two main reasons for the change in policy.

The first is safety. Scott-Deux said Residence Life received concerns and complaints last year from students and parents regarding the number of individuals residing in the dorms over break and having no way of knowing who was supposed to be there and when. This plan allows better monitoring and more ef-

ficient staffing based on the number of students who sign up to stay. A couple of years ago, roughly 900 students indicated that they would be staying in the dorms over break, while only a couple hundred actually stayed over break.

Scott-Deux said last year students could only stay if they signed up. The new student identification cards are another effort to raise the safety level of the dorms.

“We [Residence Life] will have a much better handle on the situation,

so students will feel more safe and secure,” Scott-Deux said.

The second reason for the new policy is sustainability. As part of the University’s mission to continue its “green” efforts, returning to a contract for occupancy model with J-term helps to determine whether or not it is necessary to consider condensing buildings during J-term to conserve energy.

“This year students are allowed to stay in their own rooms, but we will monitor numbers carefully so

we can make good decisions in the future about ways we may be able to conserve energy by putting students who need to stay for J-term in clustered locations,” Scott-Deux said.

Condensing the students in the dorms over break would also allow repairs to be made to buildings while students are not occupying them. Scott-Deux stated that working on something such as tiling the basements is hard when students are

See Residence Life page 3

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Classroom video conferencing connects UWRF globally

Katie Herr
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Video conferencing has made its way into the Organization and Administration of Physical Education class of Health and Human Performance lecturer, James Gostomski. Every Wednesday, his 19 UW-River Falls students sit in a classroom and video conference with a class of 28 students from the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The students meet in room 329 of the Agricultural Science building and are able to see their foreign counterparts via video on two large screens located at the front and back of the room. The students sit at long tables and have computer screens located in front of them and are able to see the students that way as well. The class involves writing lesson and unit plans, curriculum evaluation, assigning students from UWRF with students from the University of Trinidad and Tobago for unit plan collaboration and presentations related to physical education. Students from both universities are physical education majors. Gostomski said he taught at the University of Trinidad and Tobago last year and that he contacted a university professor there to come up with this idea of a joint class.

“We came up with the collaboration of having students work on a joint project and review the physical education curriculum of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as a review of a few United States physical education curriculums,” he said. Gostomski said that a few of the goals of doing a joint class like this would be the students gaining a global awareness of different physical education curriculums, working collaboratively on lesson plans in sports activities that are specific to that country while meeting students from another country and utilizing video conferencing technology in the subject area of physical education. Jen Terry is a fifth-year student in the class and said that, overall, it is a great experience. “The technology is great because it is giving us new ways to communicate with other students,” Terry said. “This is the first time in five years that we have used any sort of technology like this in HHP.” Lisa Strachan is a student at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. She said that she has mixed feelings about communicating with UWRF students on a weekly basis and collaborating on projects. “The time change causes some frustration when you are online and your partner isn’t,” Strachan said. “But it is also really cool because you get to meet this great person who

is going through the same stresses as you to achieve the same ends as you, only they are in a completely different land and culture.” Two students from the class will travel to Trinidad and Tobago in January to teach in a high school. Dylan Wakefield-Dagen, a non-traditional senior, and Stefan Berg, a fourth-year, will spend part of J-term teaching U.S. sports at a high school in Trinidad. Wakefield-Dagen said he sees this as an opportunity that will greatly benefit his ability to teach physical education. “I am excited to put my teaching skills to the test in an unfamiliar territory,” he said. “I will be teaching lessons that students there have never participated in, as well as teaching lessons that they are very familiar with and I am not.” Nick Dangeur, TV services coordinator, said that this semester there are 10 ITV or Distance Learning classes. In these classrooms, the teacher has control to pan the room or zoom in on an individual student with the camera. Students are able to speak into a microphone located on the table in front of them when they want to communicate to other students. Physics professor, Eileen Korenic, has used the Distance Learning classroom every year to connect as many as four high school classes

at one time. “It’s beneficial for the distance students to get to take a college course and get a jump-start on their college careers,” Korenic said. “We can all see each other and talk to each other in real time.” Gostomski said there are many advantages to using video conferencing in the classroom. “One advantage is that it allows students to share and reflect on their physical education major while gaining new international friendships,” he said. Rebecca Troop, a senior in the class, agrees that making new connections is one of the benefits of video conferencing. “I think this is a great way to meet new people,” she said. “I have two group members from Trinidad who I really enjoy talking with about stuff besides class. I really enjoy learning about their culture.” Gostomski added that another advantage of video conferencing is that it is a valuable technology tool that brings global awareness to students. “Students in River Falls are able to compare similar strengths and struggles the students in Trinidad have.” The course will be evaluated at the end of semester to decide if the collaboration with the University of Trinidad and Tobago will continue.

Falcon Fellows: Students must meet set requirements to qualify for program

from page 1

year. If this goal is completed, students can receive a \$1,000 AmeriCorps education award to put towards their tuition. Students that are interested in the program have a certain list of requirements that they must complete before being enrolled in the program, including acceptance into the Student Support Services Program, maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and recruiting at least five additional volunteers from amongst peers to participate in one service activity, according to the brochure. The program is enriching for the students that participate in it allowing students to grow as members of their community. “Serving my community is a life changing experience. As a group we cheerfully serve our elderly community. It can be said that if you are not cheerfully volunteering, then one is not volunteering,” student mentor Hubert Brown, said. These students work with three main non-profit organiza-

tions in the area: WALK ON Therapeutic Riding Program, the Lutheran Home Association, and Treasures from the Heart and the International Fire Relief Mission. Each of these programs highlights a different aspect that the Falcon Fellows wish to touch on in their community. “The program taught me how to give back to the community and how much it means to the community and myself. I’ve gained the power to volunteer and in return, I gain the power to allow myself to respect others who give back to the community,” Falcon Fellow Vieng Chang said. This year students active in the Falcon Fellows participated in a service trip for Spring Break that consisted of traveling to six different states including, Minnesota, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Iowa to complete community service projects. “By spending spring break serving communities they’ve never before visited and devoting a whole year of service to the River Falls community, the Falcon Fellows created impacts those communities will never forget,” Se-vick said. Falcon Fellows entices other students to join by showing what is important to the program. Reasons to join the program include: development of a strong supporting network, building your resume, foster an appreciation for lifelong community engagement and to learn more about yourself and your community, according to the Web site.

“The program taught me how to give back to the community and how much it means to the community and myself.”
Vieng Chang
Falcon Fellow member

LGBTQ: New course likely to be offered next fall or spring semester

from page 1

network with others,” Parkinson said. The original idea of developing this type of course was brought up and agreed upon by the entire women’s studies committee. “It’s really its own topic. We felt that intellectually and academically we needed it. UWRF has the social justice series and the GSA group, but is missing the academic piece,” Parkinson said. This course would count as a multidisciplinary in the general education requirements and possibly in the American cultural diversity category. It may also be added to the women’s studies major curriculum. The course is in the process of development and may be of-

fered either next fall semester or more likely spring 2011. “Once we build up the course, we will hopefully be able to offer a certificate in LGBT studies. This could take a few years, but it would be beneficial for those looking to work in the area or in a non-profit organization,” Parkinson said. UWRF Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Co-Chair Jennifer Lambert is ecstatic about the LGBTQ course offering and believes UWRF will greatly benefit from it. “I think students on this campus will gain a lot from this course, a much broader understanding of the LGBTQ community, as well as how these identities intersect with class, race, gender, and many other identities an individual can hold,” Lambert said.

“I think students on this campus will gain a lot from this course, a much broader understanding of the LGBTQ community.”
Jennifer Lambert
UWRF GSA Co-Chair

Res Life: New policy attempts to conserve energy in dorm rooms

from page 1

there, especially since food services are not available over break and the kitchens may be needed by students. Students wishing to stay in the dorms are divided into two groups, according to the Residence Life Web site: University affiliated, which includes students taking J-term classes or those who work for a University department. The University affiliated students will pay a \$35 per week fee. The other group is University non-affiliated, which includes students working off campus during break and international students, who are automatically approved. These students will

pay a \$70 per week fee. Athletes are also able to stay, but their housing request has to come from the coaches. So far, only six students have signed up for housing over break, but Scott-Deux said she estimates there will be close to 200 that sign up. Residence Life is considering making break housing an option in the housing contract, giving students the option to sign up for 10-12 months when they complete the regular contract prior to the school year. “I’m not opposed to that at all,” Scott-Deux said. “If the international population grows as it is expected to, then it may be considered more.”

The Student Voice is now hiring. Pick up your application outside room 304 in North Hall. Applications are due Dec. 2.

Find Freddy’s Feather

Find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice!
E-mail the Voice at editor@uwrfvoice.com



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EDITORIAL

Student compassion for faculty lags with economy

UW-River Falls, like all UW schools, is the unfortunate victim of economic hardships. The University was recently told to give \$3 million to the State as part of windfall budget cuts, a fiscal blow that has left UWRF reeling trying to restructure budgets and fairly divide what money there is left. Campus instructors, therefore, have been denied an upcoming pay increase and, in turn, been forced to suffer a three percent pay decrease.

As a possible solution to the stagnated campus economy, UWRF has slightly increased its enrollment numbers. With the country’s job market shrinking, more and more people are flocking back to classrooms, and it seems that UWRF is more than happy to keep its doors wide open to all prospective students. But that enrollment increase is tempered with a state-wide hiring freeze that forbids any Wisconsin University from hiring any new faculty or staff unless prior approval from the State is obtained.

The result here at UWRF is that instructors are being asked to teach larger class sizes, advise more students and incur the work of a larger faculty and student body. In essence, the student population and workload are increasing, yet the faculty is remaining static. This causes the faculty to become overworked and exhausted, fatigue that is sometimes more apparent in later classes when professors have had to teach all day with little breaks.

The Student Voice Editorial Board would like to commend the professors and instructors here at UWRF for the admirable job they are doing in these tough times. It cannot be easy to continue meeting this University’s high academic standards while struggling with classes bursting at the seams with inpatient and unappreciative students.

It is becoming far too commonplace that students, ignorant to the blight instructors are facing, are disrespectful towards their professors, setting unrealistic expectations, such as demanding assignments be returned by the next class period. Our instructors, bastions of knowledge, don’t deserve to be ridiculed for not exactly being speedy with their feedback given their present state of affairs, so before you criticize a professor for being tardy think about the pressures they are under.

It is easy to attack what one doesn’t understand. But before you lash out at an instructor, take a step back and put yourself in their shoes. The faculty here at UWRF is doing the best they can to make it through the economic recession, budgetary cut-backs and booming class sizes. Instead of finding ways to complain about your professors, take a moment to shake their hand and thank them for being her every single day, providing you with a future.

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

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

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI, 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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

By Jon Lyksett

Accepting biased ads as truth a mistake

Pro-Life Wisconsin (PLW) expressed outrage at Marquette University for rejecting the April 17’s “Advertising Supplements” it (behind the guise of Minnesota’s Human Life Alliance) submitted to The Marquette Tribune. I am writing today to express my outrage at the Student Voice for not doing the same. Apparently, Marquette has higher standards for sifting and winnowing false advertising and money laundering.

The purported “Advertising Supplement” featured medically inaccurate descriptions of abortion care and the same ideologically driven conflation of birth control and abortion that has jeopardized access to birth control for college students and rape victims throughout Wisconsin.

According to Human Life Alliance (HLA) distribution coordinator Jillian Roemer and Virginia Zignego, communications director for PLW, Pro-Life Wisconsin reimbursed HLA the \$570 fee for the insert, as well as additional overhead costs to cover the printing and shipping of the inserts. These inserts, which were characterized by Pro-Life Wisconsin as “educational

inserts” of “solid pro-life content,” are intentionally designated as “Advertising Supplements” on each page so student newspapers will distribute PLW propaganda, according to Roemer.

Shame on HLA and PLW for using such calculated maneuvers to spread their rag on UW-River Falls. And editor, shame on you too for not taking the time to think about what exactly is being “advertised” by the so-called “Advertising Supplements” you choose to accept.

Nothing was being advertised here; instead, you contributed to the dissemination of 12-page tasteless booklets of disinformation designed to denigrate and shame women who receive abortion care.

Nikki Shonoiki

Issues besides smoking on campus need addressing

I am a custodian here at UWRF and I honestly enjoy coming to work each day. I will be the first to agree that a smoke-free campus would provide a pleasant environment for anyone.

I visited Winona State this summer and it was very nice, and easy to obey the rules.

However, when you state that you

want the campus to be tobacco-free you fail to mention anything about smokeless tobacco products—of which I’m sure a number of student athletes use. On a daily basis, I clean it off the walls of residence halls and find in bottles in the lavatories.

So before you kick me to the curb and make me stand on the other side of the street, be sure you mean what you say and say what you mean.

Last time I checked, I still live in-merica and pay my taxes, especially on cigarettes - what cost \$5 last year now costs me \$8.

I would abide with any decision the University makes, it’s just that I take umbrage with the idea that smokers appear to be made out to be modern day pariahs, while binge drinking and public urination seem to be the accepted norm by some of the people who want me to go smoke somewhere else.

Tom Uldrich

CORRECTION: Last week the words “React. Share. Feel. Act.” were omitted from Jordan Harshman’s Letter to the Editor. The words should have been at the beginning of the letter in the Nov. 6 edition.

Gift-giving can benefit those in need through micro-lending organizations

Goodbye, Halloween, excuse me, Thanksgiving and hello, Christmas. Whether we agree with it or not, the consumers’ world rings one theme now that November has topped our calendars: buy your way to Christmas.

Reminders of what a failure the holiday would be with the wrong gift are peppered throughout stores and advertisements.

Better start the gift planning now, or come Dec. 26, you might be weeping on your mother’s cold doorstep-ostracized for that lame spatula set you gave her.



Laura Krawczyk

Kiva is an organization considered to be the world’s first person-to-person micro-lending institution. Micro-lending involves loaning individuals living in poverty across the globe small amounts of money in order to help them start and/or sustain a small business. In time the money loaned is paid back, sometimes with interest. This system encourages socioeconomic development, and Kiva’s mission “to connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty” does just that. Other Web sites such as World Vision Micro and MicroPlace offer the same opportunity.

Lenders can browse entrepreneurs’ profiles and choose individuals to lend their money to, receive e-mail journal updates of those helped, and even track payments. Kiva partners with other microfinance institutions to reach more people in need of assistance. These partners review and select the qualified entrepreneurs, uploading their profiles to Kiva for lenders to help.

Many micro-lending organizations work to keep the lending process transparent, so those who have borrowed money can see their loan helping small business owners in impoverished conditions and make the entrepreneurs’

lives a bit better. Kiva also offers gift certificates, a perfect opportunity to do some good on a holiday focused on giving to others.

The recipient of a gift certificate can choose the profile to lend the gift of money to, watch it in action and receive that money once it is paid back, usually within 6 to 12 months. For a minimum of \$25 a person could give someone the chance to help someone else across the oceans-yet still get the money after it has done some good.

The recipient of a gift certificate can choose the profile to lend the gift of money to, watch it in action and receive that money once it is paid back.

While I munch on the dark part of the turkey and scoop up the stuffing this coming holiday (I remember you, Thanksgiving), I know I’m going to feel more good than guilt with my Christmas purchases. The point of Christmas is to give, to help, to show love...we all know that. Check out www.kiva.org and see if you can make a gift for one person help many this season.

Laura Krawczyk is a junior majoring in marketing communications and communication studies. She enjoys the smell of gasoline.

Something on your mind? Write a letter to the editor:
Submit your letter to editor@uwrfvoice.com
or deliver it to the box outside 304 North Hall.

World Series of Poker generates greater interest, entertainment

Can you imagine being on the winning side of capturing the Lombardi trophy, or hitting the walkoff home run in game seven of the World Series? It goes without saying that experiencing something like that would be intensely euphoric, something that you, and the world, would never forget.

It's too bad that there isn't some sort of event out there that your "average" person can enter for a shot at fame, glory, and stamping their name in history. Oh, wait, what's that? There is? Indeed my friend, and it's called the World Series of Poker. Let's talk about the World Series of Poker, its explosion in popularity, and current events.

I first want to address what attracted me to the game of poker. Growing up, playing cards was always sort of a family oriented thing for me. We would play at different holiday gatherings and whatnot, but the most fun I remember having playing cards was during hunting season after everyone would get back to the shack. Truth be told, I cared a lot less about the chance at shooting a deer than I did at the chance to play cards and hang out with my family. When the high school years came around, we started playing cards every other weekend. Having a group of guys that are always up for playing poker was a great thing in a small town, because as many people know, you have to entertain yourself.

My group of friends all got into poker by watching it on ESPN. We quickly became familiar with names like Doyle Brunson, Phil Hellmuth, Johnny Chan, and many others. To this day I thoroughly enjoy playing Texas Hold 'Em, but it's sad because I haven't really found many people on campus that

are big poker players, so I have to wait to go back home to get my poker fix.

The World Series of Poker didn't start until 1970, and the championship "main event" prize money was somewhere around \$30,000.

No more than a few days ago, Joe Cada became the youngest ever to win the WSOP Main Event with his cash earnings totaling more than \$8.5 million. So in its near 40-year existence, there have obviously been some big changes to the wealth that people can claim. Many poker players, believe it or not, do not look to win these major events (the WSOP consists of 50+ events) for the cash.

If you watch interviews of all the professional poker players, they'll often say, "I just want the bracelet," which is the equivalent a Super Bowl ring. Obviously, the bracelet commands respect and says "I'm kind of a big deal, people know me."

Currently, the record for most bracelets ever won is held by Phil Hellmuth, at 11. There are many "established" poker pros that have won millions upon millions of dollars, but still are looking to win that one prestigious piece of jewelry.

For 30 + years, the World Series of Poker mainly consisted of professionals and high rollers that were willing to put up the \$10,000 buy-in to be in the main event. It wasn't until 1982 that the Main Event actually had over 100 players. Most recently, in 2009, there were 6,494 entrants.

I had to wonder what could have possibly triggered people from all over... to want to come to Las Vegas and put up \$10,000 to enter this tournament.

When I first started watching poker on ESPN, I had no idea that the number of entrants was so small in the early years of the WSOP. I had to wonder what could have possibly triggered people from all over the world to want to come to Las Vegas and put up \$10,000 to enter this tournament. The invention of the "pocket cam" is what started it all. This pocket cam allows you to see what hands the players have, thus allowing you to learn different strategies in playing the game.

ESPN didn't use the pocket cam until the 2002 WSOP, and the numbers of entrants tell the rest of the story. In 2002, the number of main event entrants was 631, and by 2004, the numbers sky rocketed to 2,576 people. The craziest stat though, in my mind, is that in 2006, over 8,000 people entered the main event, and the prize for first place was \$12 million.

In the end, it can easily be said that the popularity of poker has exploded in the past decade more than anyone thought it ever would.

You can't turn on your television without seeing an advertisement for a poker Web site, not to mention networks like ESPN, The Travel Channel, GSN and NBC all have poker shows in their lineups. I'd definitely recommend catching an episode of the World Series of Poker, just to see what the hype is all about.

Someday, who knows, maybe you'll be the one with stacks of cash surrounding you holding up your newly won bracelet to the cameras of ESPN. It could happen.

Matt Torkelson is a senior majoring in marketing communications. He loves playing piano in his free time and often frequents area bed and breakfasts, playing tunes for customers.



Matt Torkelson

STUDENT VOICES

Do you have a credit card? How do you watch what you're spending?

Michael Hellen, sophomore

"I don't have a credit card. I have a debit card. I build up money over the summer. I guess I'm not very good at budgeting... I don't pay that much attention to it."



Connie Wang, senior

"Yes, I have a credit card. I don't use it much."



Kaitlin Valenziano, freshman

"I have a credit card. I go online to watch my money."



Jared Schmaedeke, sophomore

"Yes, I have a credit card. I use it sparingly. I budget."



Chandelle Begalke, senior

"I have a credit card. I don't really use it. I use my debit card... I save my receipts."



Student Voices compiled by Sarah Schneider

Credit cards not difficult: stay out of debt while earning money through rewards

There is a lot in the news about consumers getting ripped off by credit card companies. Those companies are irresponsible, but at the same time, so are the consumers. To a certain extent I feel we are the ones who should be held accountable for our own debts instead of blaming

the banks, the government and the credit card companies.

What is funny is that families are in a sweat about their debt, when in reality the consumers should be making the credit card companies worry about losing money. We, the consumers, can be making bank off of the credit card companies by simply avoiding fees and interest charges, then taking the card's rewards.

In order to do that you have to know at least a little bit about credit cards. From what I've seen in the news and heard from my peers I'm convinced many don't have the slightest idea.

Rule number one to exploiting credit card companies: read the fine print, and if you can't understand what APR, minimum payment due and available credit mean, then ask somebody or Google it.

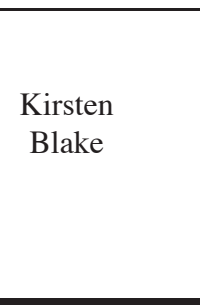
Rule number two: Pay the full statement balance every time. This way the credit card company cannot make money off of you by charging interest on that unpaid balance. Interest is where they make their money - your money.

Rule number three: Pay your balance on time. If you do this, the company can't charge you late fees and it takes away one of their excuses to raise your Annual Percentage Rate. Paying on time is easy. Write it on your calendar, put it as an event in your phone or sign up for automatic payments online.

Sometimes payments aren't made on time because the money simply isn't available. If this is the case, I would seriously consider getting rid of the credit card or finding a way to cut expenses.

Now all that's left to do is spend money and earn rewards. Make regular, day-to-day purchases. Food. Gas. Electric bill. Then pay for them - the whole bill every month. Earn

points on things you need to be purchasing anyway and earn rewards. With my credit card I have the opportunity to earn cash back (CASH!!) or Amazon.com gift cards. Other cards give free travel miles, gas cards or nights in a hotel.



Kirsten Blake

The rule that must be followed, above all others, is to never charge more money to a credit card than is in the bank.

If you want to get money from the credit card companies, it is important to understand that a credit card is not money in your pocket. It's money being borrowed for just a few short days that has to be paid back. Imagine that instead of swiping your credit card, you are writing a check - and if you won't have the money in your account by the end of the month to pay then you should not be making the purchase.

I will admit that I'm not an economic specialist, so who am I to write this? I'm not a banker or any kind of professional, but I understand that in order to stay out of debt, a person can't spend money that they don't have.

I also like to save money and find a good deal. But if I buy a shirt on sale with my credit card, then don't pay the balance and it gains interest, I end up paying more for that shirt than what it was worth.

I don't understand how Americans can buy these things, not pay right away then end up owing far more than the original value of those purchases.

The entire reason we are experiencing this economic recession is because America hasn't been living within its means.

Maybe this isn't really a recession after all. Maybe it is a reality check and our current spending is closer to where it should be than it was before.

The truth is, no one needs a credit card. Cash and check work just fine, which is why a lot of people have decided to avoid getting a credit card altogether. That works too.

Kirsten Blake is a marketing communications major with a journalism minor. She pronounces her name "Curse-ten"... as if you were to swear to the tenth power.

How men can attract dream girl, dream job

How is it going River Falls? I hope the plethora of stress that usually accompanies exams and midterms hasn't overtaken anyone! However, no one is completely immune to stress, and thus it's important to understand and practice some relaxation techniques.

When I'm feeling stressed out, I just move my body! Get yourself off your bed or chair, and just shake your booty (at least enough to get that heart pumping)!

Anything from going for a run, dancing to some music, or jumping to some jumping-jacks is enough to clear one's mind and will help one focus on what's truly important - school, friendsband fashion (of course).

Last week's article, the little black dress, received a lot of positive input and last weekend I did spot a lot of hot-looking ladies sporting their own 'little black dress.' Keep up the good work, ladies!

This week will focus on the guys on campus, and offer useful advice to dress fashionably to attract both that dream job and that dream girl.

Maybe you're that guy on campus who doesn't like the whole button-up, or cardigan sweaters deal—you're thinking, "that's just not my style!"

Well even though there is nothing wrong with experimenting with fashion that you might consider outside your comfort zone, this week's item of the week is for the guy who likes t-shirts and comfort.

Item of the week: graphic tees

Graphic tees can be an ideal choice for any college student as it offers the comfort of a tee shirt while adding enough color and designs to capture the eye. Graphic tees can range anywhere from a mental concert shirts to an "Ed-Hardy" or designer shirts.

Layering:

However, no matter how "insane" or "mellowed-out" your shirt is, it is important

to layer it over another color. For example, if your graphic tee is a black shirt with white graphics, layer your graphic tee over a white crew-neck shirt. I would recommend folding the sleeves of the white, crew-neck shirt over the sleeve of the graphic tee, showing off both the colors.

I can guarantee you that you will get compliments with this look, as just a small change can transform your look and make it look more polished.

Blazer/front-zip up: Wearing graphic tees with a blazer or a striped/

colorful front-zip sweatshirt is a great look for a graphic tee with designs that are centralized on the front of the shirt. The blazer will sophisticate and bring the focus right to the designs. It will also give the appearance of broader shoulders, making a guy appear more masculine and attractive.

A zip up sweatshirt will give the outfit a more relaxed look.

Great places to purchase interesting and affordable graphic tees online are: Overstock.com, Ebay.com and Karmaloop.com.

For more higher end shirts, check out "Armani Exchange" or "Nimany" online. Outlet shops such as Macys, TJ Maxx and Marshalls also offer great deals.

This week's featured student is Robbie Huot, a senior at UWRF who sports his graphic tees and button-ups with great style and poise.

His stylish clothes and outgoing personality makes him the ideal feature. Read up on his style, and check out his photoshoot, and comment/ask questions on the Student Voice Web site, uwrfvoice.com.

Next week's feature is Martha Torning, one of the most stylish ladies on campus. This "hottie with a body" is an avid shoes shopper with over 30 pairs of and a "little black dress" that can knock your socks off.

Priya Kailash is a biology major and chemistry minor. She enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, as well as wearing four-inch heels.



Priya Kailash

Women’s basketball team begins season hopeful



Senior guards Kelli Hilt (left) and Jenna Hanson (right) stand with Head Coach Cindy Holbrook. The team has high goals for the season. They tip off in a home game on Nov. 17 against Crown College at 7 p.m.

Renee Thony
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After finishing sixth in the WIAC last season, the Falcon women are looking forward to the 2009-10 season to make an impression in a competitive conference.

“We need to be the best team we can become throughout the season,” tenth-year head coach Cindy Holbrook said about the team’s goals for the upcoming season. “We have the potential to be very good, maybe top three in the WIAC.”

Holbrook is returning every member of last year’s squad. In addition, five freshmen are looking to make a mark at UWRP.

“[The freshmen] bring a lot of talent,” sophomore guard Tiffany Gregorich said. “They can all come in and help, depending how they adjust to everything.” Gregorich also said the freshmen add quite a bit of height to the roster.

Brittany Gregorich is a 5’9” forward, hailing from Altoona, Wis. Nikki Guhr, 5’7” guard, joins the Falcons from Muskego, Wis., and Tracie Gillund is a 6’0” forward from

Blaine, Minn. Lindsey Olson is a 6’0” forward from Plainview, Minn. Each player will add depth to the team.

Melissa Carmody is a 5’7” guard from Barneveld, Wis., and she said one of the biggest differences between high school ball and Division III basketball is the level of intensity on the court.

“I’ve had to work on getting a lot quicker on defense,” Carmody said, “and much more physical.”

Holbrook said she expects the freshmen group to make an impact in the women’s basketball program at UWRP.

“We have a very good freshmen class that will help our depth this year,” she said.

With all five starters returning as well as every member off the bench from the 2008-09 season, Tiffany Gregorich said she’s looking forward to a better season this year.

Gregorich, who averaged 12.3 points per game, was named to the 2008-09 All-Conference Team as an Honorable Mention as a freshman. She finished in the conference’s top

ten lists in assists (2.50/game), field goal percentage (.485), three-point field goal percentage (.350), steals (2.42/game) and three-point field goals made per game (1.38).

“My goal for our team this year is to do better than last year,” the Altoona, Wis., native said. “We have everyone returning, so I would hope we do better and grow as a team.”

Gregorich said that during the off-season she, personally, worked on getting a quicker release on her shot.

Amongst the full list of returners are sopho-

more forwards Taylor House and Alise Holst. Holst placed in the conference’s top ten rebounders, averaging 7.2 per game; she also finished the season with 45 assists. House was part of the conference’s top five shot blockers with a total of 41 on the season, giving her an average of 1.58 per game.

Also returning are guards Katie Theisen, Tess Lardie, Lauren Pellowski, Jenna Hanson, Kelli Hilt and forward Maranda Dohrn. Lardie and Hanson averaged 6.0 and 7.1 points per game, respectively, for the Falcons last season. Pellowski averaged 2.4 rebounds and 3.3 points per game. Hilt was named to the 2008-09 All-Conference Sportsmanship Team, and Dohrn finished in the top-three for rebounds in the WIAC, with 200 on the season, an average of 7.7 per game.

The Falcons will have a total of 14 names on its roster for the 2009-10 season.

Tiffany said the team conducted its usual routine in the summer and fall.

“We had lifting and running three times a week,” she said. “We also had open gym four times a week. We all had to work on getting in good shape.”

Holbrook said it’s equally important for the players to work independently in the off-season as it is for them to work together as a team.

“Our players work individually to become better players during the off-season,” she said. “They lift and run and play as much as they can. That’s really the time the best players separate themselves by working hard independently while others might be slacking off. That’s how you pass people from season-to-season.”

Having told her players they could potentially see a top-three conference finish this year, the team seems to have its sights set high.

“I think it would be cool to be one of the top three teams in the conference,” Carmody said. Olson, too, said she hopes the team can finish in the top-three.

“We’re athletic, versatile and hardworking. I like our team a lot,” Holbrook said. “Everything depends on how driven our players will be to play to our strengths, trust the system and do the little things right on a daily basis.”

“Our goals are simple,” Pellowski said. “We want to do things right, play hard and be the best we can be.”

The Falcons open their season at home against Crown College at 7 p.m. on Nov. 17.

Soccer team loses in semifinals of WIAC playoffs to UWEC

Blaze Fugina
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The UW-River Falls soccer team won the first round of the WIAC playoffs before losing in the semifinals against second seeded UW-Eau Claire by four goals Nov. 5.

The Falcons, who were the third seed in the playoffs, faced the UW-Stout Blue Devils in the first round Nov. 3 in front of roughly 80 fans. The game went to a shootout, which the Falcons won after a 1-1 tie. The lone goal was scored for the Falcons by senior Kayla Scott, her third goal of the season.

The goal was the first of the game, which came at 14:37. The Blue Devils evened the game at 39:48, and the two teams remained tied through regulation. They also remained tied through two overtime periods, which re-

sults in a shootout in a playoff game.

The Blue Devils only scored on three of their five attempts against goaltender Rachel Thompson, while Cassie Stang, Eryn Lansverk, Megan Church and Carlin Bunting all scored in the shootout to give the Falcons the victory.

The Falcons won the shootout against the Blue Devils 4-3, to put them in the semifinals in the WIAC playoffs.

According to the box score, the game was similar to a 1996 WIAC playoff game, when Stout and River Falls went into a shootout after a 1-1 tie. UW-Stout won the game in a shootout, also 4-3.

Head Coach Sean McKuras said it was a team effort that came in the first round playoff win.

“Everyone on the team made a contribution

to the game,” he said. “Our team does a great job of supporting each other.”

Scott, who scored a goal in the first round game, also commented on the team’s ability to come together in a close game.

“We have to count on the whole team to play a good game and do their part,” she said. “As a team we come together and win, even through tough situations.”

After the win, the Falcons started preparations to face the second seeded UW-Eau Claire team, who won the last contest 5-2 in the regular season.

After playing them already once in the season, the players said they knew what to expect from the Blugolds.

“They are a very quick team with a good passing game,” senior Jessi Larson said. “We know what to expect, and we’re looking to go

into Thursday’s game with a focused mentality and will to win.”

McKuras said that the Falcons team had a shot at getting revenge on them by beating the team in the playoffs.

“Eau Claire has been at the top of the league for several years now,” McKuras said. “As a team we need to realize that we have the talent level to beat them.”

The game against the UW-Eau Claire soccer team went very differently for the Falcons, getting shut out by goaltender Emily Kidd in front of 100 fans. The Blugolds had 20 shots on net in the game, while the Falcons only had six.

The final score of the game was 4-0, which put the Blugolds in the championship game Nov. 7 against the top-seeded UW-Stevens Point team.

Weekly sports wrap

Cross Country
-Senior Chad Ernst was named the 2009 WIAC men’s cross country scholar-athlete. Ernst, a conservation major and criminal justice minor, maintains a 4.0 grade point average. He is the first Falcon men’s cross country runner to receive this award since 1978. He placed 28th at this year’s WIAC meet with a personal best time of 26:34.

Volleyball
-Kelsey Scheele and Gina DeRosa were named to the 2009 All-WIAC first volleyball teams. In addition to her 32 aces and 47 blocks on the season, Scheele led the team with 462 digs. DeRosa led the team with 346 kills and 24 solo and 108 total blocks this year. Andria Vetsch was named to the All-Sportsmanship team, and finished the season with 245 kills, 42 assists, 56 digs and 75 blocks.

Women’s Hockey
-The Falcon women won their home opener 5-0 against Augsburg College on Nov. 7. Katie Flanagan scored two goals, and Jamie Briski, Abby Sunderman and Alyssa Black each had one goal. Goalie Melissa Deardorff made 17 saves. The Falcons face off against Gustavus Adolphus College at 7:05 p.m. Friday at Hunt Arena.

Men’s Hockey
-The Falcon men topped Augsburg College 1-0 Nov. 7, en route to a 4-1-0 record on the season. Sean Roadhouse, who scored the only goal of the game. Goalie Bo Storozuk made 34 saves during the game. The team is on the road Friday to face UW-Eau Claire at 7 p.m.

Football
-After an Oct. 31 win over UWP, the Falcons were defeated 45-15 by UW-Stevens Point on Nov. 7. B.J. Letourneau completed four passes for the Falcons in the third quarter, including one for 25 yards to Eric Brewster, who scored a touchdown. Taylor Edwards led the team with 39 yards rushing, and Cole Lowell and Matt Gajewski each recorded nine tackles. The team plays its last game of the season at 1 p.m. Saturday at home against UW-Eau Claire.

Soccer
-Freshmen Janae Baron, Cassie Stang and sophomore Eryn Lansverk were named to the All-WIAC first soccer team, while senior Kristen George was named to the All-Sportsmanship team. Lansverk led the team with 11 goals and 26 points. Baron was second with 10 goals and 25 points. Stang finished fourth on the team in scoring with three goals and nine points, and George had one goal and three points on the season.

Men and women’s hockey start seasons strong

The men’s hockey team struggled in the 2009-09 season, while the women’s team made it all the way to the Frozen Four. So far this season, however, both teams are looking strong. The men are currently 4-1-0 overall, and the women are 2-0-0 in overall play. *Student Voice* sports columnist Derek Johnson discusses the positive starts to both seasons in his column. Head to www.uwrfvoice.com to check it out.



Derek Johnson

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN River Falls

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Go Falcons!

Anti-war satire thrills viewers

The last (near) decade has bared witness to a cavalcade of rallies, protests and anti-war sentiment poured out of



Ken Weigend

“The Men Who Stare at Goats,” George Clooney and director Grant Heslov’s warped military farce that proves that speaking out can be easy, as long as Clooney wears shaggy wigs and Jeff Bridges gets trippy on acid. Sign me up.

‘Goats’ tells parallel stories that finally converge into one psychotropic message of ‘make love, not war.’ The first piece revolves around journalist Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor). After his marriage fails, and while desperately trying to regain a handle on his life, Bob journeys to Iraq in search of his big break. While there, he runs into Lyn Cassidy (Clooney). It turns out Cassidy is a recruit in the New Earth Army, an experimental branch of the military that focuses on parapsychology.

The movement was founded by acidhead vet Bill Django (Bridges). His ideology, born in the fires of Vietnam and later baptized in the hot tubs of the hippie movement, believes that wars can be fought with eagle feathers, and that soldiers transcend their physical limitations to mentally travel across the world, pass through walls and even stop the heart of a goat.

Realizing the makings of a juicy feature story that can launch his career, Bob tags along with Cassidy on

a secret mission that will take both men across Iraq and into Cassidy’s past: the formation of the New Earth Army.

The second story takes place 20 years earlier, when Cassidy trained under Django to become, what Django affectionately dubbed, a Jedi warrior. (McGregor, complete with a dead-on deadpan look, admits he doesn’t know what a Jedi is - little joke) It is in these flashbacks that we are also introduced to Larry Hooper (Kevin Spacey), another New Earth recruit jealous over Cassidy’s success and hateful over everything he stands for. It’s Larry that eventually gets Django kicked to the curb and New Earth faded from history.

With me so far? No worries. It is the film’s irreverent and zany approach to everything from storytelling to characterization that will keep you hooked. This is only Heslov’s second time behind the camera, and it shows. The plot hops between successful parody and feigned sincerity, but the situations themselves are absurd enough to propel the movie forward, and the script is zippy enough to not get bogged down to much by its message of world-wide peace and harmony.

But the real stars here are

the stars - the cast, bound together by their obvious appreciation for farce and satire, don’t waste this rare opportunity to shed their cool cat personas and just have some fun. Clooney embraces his inner clown and Bridges channels his former Lebowski as they run around on screen with reckless abandon - veritable Looney Tunes making mockery of the apparent length to which the military will go when they think there is payoff on the other end.

“The Men Who Stare at Goats” is, therefore, content resting on the laurels of its cast. The performances are go-for-broke and the lunacy is too much fun to care, even when the plot strains credibility.

Ken Weigend is a senior marketing communications and journalism double major. His minor in film studies gives him the authority to arbitrarily assign star rankings to represent film quality, but statistical analysis has shown him to be 99.9 percent accurate.

Falcons, I don’t even need to see this movie. Nope, and I know what you’re thinking but seriously, I don’t. I already know in my heart of



Katie Heaton

this glorious piece of cinematography, this brilliant and shining work of picture entertainment will be the best of the best. Why? Let me put it out there for you in two of the simplest and most beautiful words I know: George Clooney. I have to thank my co-reviewer Ken Weigend for this one, for there is no debate tonight on what we will view this

weekend-there is only me, Ken, an hour and a half, and a love for a man that knows no bounds. Oh, what a night it will be...

12 Hours Later... Ok, I might have been wrong. It might have been necessary to see the film. Necessary only because I feel obligated to tell you that some things in this world are just meant to fit together: cheese and macaroni, peanut butter and jelly, rice and roni,

George Clooney and goats... That’s right. If you haven’t guessed already, the film in question was Grant Heslov’s, “The Men Who Stare at Goats.” Based on some form of truth from someone’s life, the movie is about journalist Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor), who after being left by his wife for his editor makes a decision to do some serious investigative writing near the Iran/Iraq border. Though attempting to escape the life he had back in Ann Arbor, one particular story seems to follow him. Before leaving, Bob was asked to interview a town eccentric that claimed during the 70’s he was involved in a military operation that trained him to use psychic powers as a weapon during the war. Writing him off as unbalanced, Bob continued on his

journey only to run into Lyn Cassidy (George Clooney), a fellow eccentric and psychic soldier. Together, Bob and Lyn uncover an old secret about Operation Jedi and the new direction it’s beginning to take within the middle-eastern conflict. Also starring Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges, ‘Goats’ is a movie with by far the most unique look at how to find personal peace during times of war.

Undeniably interesting, and seriously funny, “The Men Who Stare at Goats” takes on a lofty subject and recaptures it into some-

“Goats is a movie with by far the most unique look at how to find personal peace during times of war.”

thing both entertaining and thought provoking. While obviously, I’m bound by love to find George’s

performance the best, Jeff Bridges came in as a close second, portraying a love and excitement only a child of the 60’s and 70’s could bring. This, along with the eclectic music selection and realistic look at the subjects that influence us all today, makes this movie a perfect alternative for anyone who is fed up with the Rendition-Esque. format of current wartime film.

Well, I have to admit; I feel its all downhill from here. How can anyone expect to top a guilt free wartime movie, which not only is funny, but also has one of the most beautiful men on the planet in it? Answer: you can’t.

Katie Heaton is a junior with a major in psychology and a minor in women’s studies. Dreams of Hollywood stardom fell to earth when Audrey Hepburn hit the scene, but still hopes for that second marriage to George Clooney.



Weezer fails to reconnect with unoriginal sound

If you’ve paid any attention to rock and roll at all over the past decade or so, you



Andy Phelps

sort of decent musical content behind it, but amidst a sea of terribly disappointing and head-scratching filler, there is at least one interesting nugget on this record that any guy who has fond memories of high school relationships will love. Cuomo and his band mates prove they’re still in perfect tune to the all-too-common theme of amateurish and klutzy courtships on the single, “If you’re Wondering if I Want You to) I want you to” that every high school kid has ingrained into their memories. Cuomo croons in an upbeat manner about the uncomfortable situation of meeting mom and dad. “I took you to Best Buy, you took me home to meet your mom and dad / Your mom cooked meatloaf even though I don’t eat meat / I dug you so much, I took some for the team,” Cuomo affectionately and confidently recalls over Brian Bell’s overeager, frenetic guitar strokes. This snapshot might just be the most raw and natural we’ve seen Weezer in years, free from the smothering overproduction of big studio effects. Diehard Weezer fans will fall in love with it immediately, as it’s nothing short of a time machine back to 1994.

It’s generally difficult for artists to fill a

“It’s generally difficult for artists to fill a single record re-using the same shtick ... but it feels more and more like Weezer needs to collectively grow up”

For their latest album, “Raditude,” Weezer once again rely on the only method they know to compose songs, one that has been faithful to them for nearly two decades: power pop. It might be hard to believe the cringe-inducing cover image of a dog leaping a living room could have any

single record re-using the same shtick without it getting tiresome, much less an entire seven-album discography, but it feels more and more like Weezer needs to collectively grow up.

Many moments on “Raditude” seem extremely forced, and ultimately come off as empty failures. “Love is the Answer,” which is completely Bollywood-infused (complete with a sitar), is horrible to a shocking degree. “Can’t Stop Partying,” featuring Lil Wayne (you read that right), puts Weezer in an unspeakably unnatural environment. Listening to Cuomo sing, “They’re bringing bottles of the Goose /And all the girls in the corner getting lose,” is akin to being stabbed to death by a dinner knife-the initial shock is followed only by excruciating, unending pain.

To a certain extent, Wee-



zer has been grasping for straws, changing their sound for the past three or four albums, each one sounding more generic and watered-down than the last. A deplorable, lazy compilation of random, childish samplings, “Raditude” crosses the line of offensiveness.

Andy Phelps is an English major with a journalism minor. He enjoys gambling and Korean soap operas. He possesses a deeply-rooted dislike for Nickelback.



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Students learn diversity at Culture Fest

Natalie Conrad
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Every year, the Asian American Students Association (AASA) hosts and coordinates Culture Fest, a celebration of diversity, showing performances and a fashion show of the various cultures represented on campus.

“The importance of this event is that it allows our campus and community to be more aware of the different cultures and ethnicities that are a part of their environment,” AASA President Bhao Nhiang Thao said. “Culture Fest will also help people learn more about themselves and others as they discover the diversity around them.”

This year the event holds a special meaning, following the racist graffiti found on campus recently. It holds special significance, since nearly all the participants in the event are members of AASA or Black Student Union, the two racial groups that were specifically targeted in the threatening graffiti.

“Some people didn’t want to have this event after the vandalism, but it’s important to make a stand and show that we’re not afraid and that we must promote diversity,” AASA Secretary Vieng Chang said.

Culture Fest will represent a wide variety of cultures, according to Chang, who is coordinating the fashion show. The show will feature the fashions of Hmong, Chinese, Laotian and Thai cultures.

“Culture Fest, following the hate-filled vandalism on campus, I feel, is a powerful way of showing and embracing diversity,” Thao said.

The event is of big importance, because it is good to be informed about other cultures, according to Megan O’Donovan, who works as the public relations for AASA. She said

that the main duty for Culture Fest is to open up the community to different artists and cultures.

Everyone in AASA has been working very hard all semester, putting Culture Fest together, according to O’Donovan.

“It’ll be nice to see all our hard work come together,” O’Donovan said.

The Black Student Union (BSU) is also taking part in the cultural festivities and doing a spoken word performance. The performance will be a combined spoken word piece that will bounce around from person to person talking about where they’re from, according to BSU member Nikki Shonoiki.

“After the events that took place November second, this year’s Culture Fest is a very important opportunity to celebrate diversity and show support,” Shonoiki said.

Culture Fest, which consists of performances such as dances, singing, a play, spoken

word and a fashion show, will take place from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday at the North Hall auditorium.

“Each year the members of AASA put a lot of hard work into making Culture Fest a good turn out and this year we are looking for a lot of support from our fellow students, the University and the community,” Thao said. “We, AASA, hope that this year will be a good turn out as the campus and the community continue to promote diversity and inclusiveness.”



Sarah Schneider/Student Voice
UWRF students participating in the diversity events at the 8th annual AASA Culture Fest that was held in North Hall on Nov. 11. Culture Fest showcased diverse ethnic dances, skits, songs and a fashion show.



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UWRF participates in global awareness week

Lindsey Rykal
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UW-River Falls and other campuses across the nation will host International Education Week (IEW), Nov. 15-20, 2009 in efforts to promote global awareness.

“The purpose of the week is to promote international education and our relationship with the rest of the world,” according to Linda Alvarez, Multicultural Service Advisor.

International Education Week is a week that was developed by a collaboration of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, according to Brent Greene, global connections director.

“Every student needs international education to be marketable as well as keeping aware of the issues and dynamics of the global community,” Alvarez said. “We can no longer be an island to ourselves. We are global citizens as well as U.S. citizens.”

This is the 3rd annual International Education Week held at UWRF, according to Alvarez.

“International education isn’t about where you went, or how long you were there—it’s about what you gained from the experience and how you can apply it to the world around you,” Ashley Iehl, global connections peer advisor, said.

IEW is meant to celebrate what is available and create awareness. Throughout the week, Dining Services will be pitching in and having a daily international food menu, according to Greene.

“We try to use mostly existing campus resources,” Greene said. “It’s a resource low, but high impact sort of event.”

Activities taking place during IEW include a showing of the film “Invisible Children” on Monday, presentations and reflections given by students and educators throughout the day on Tuesday and classroom sessions with Pulitzer Center that are open to the public and a mini global fair on Wednesday.

The mini global fair will consist of cultural dances, presentations, slide shows, calligraphy and Kenyan jewelry, according to Alvarez.

“There are many people on campus who are doing wonderful things internationally,” Alvarez said. “International Education Week offers an opportunity for our colleagues to show case and share the kind of activity in which they are involved.”

The culmination of the entire fair will be Thursday, November 19, at 7p.m. where a screening of an award-winning short film about the affects of war on children titled “Ana’s Playground.”

“The film is about a non-specific conflict in a non-specific country,” Alvarez said.

The film was made entirely through charitable donations, directed and produced by local Minnesota film makers along with contributions from Steven Spielberg and the Coen Brothers, according to Alvarez.

“This week supports and promotes all the experiences that students have previously had, and may in the future have,” Iehl said. “Not only as students at this campus, but as members of our society.”

**Check the UWRF Web site under
Global Connections to find events for
International Education Week
at
UWRF.edu/globalconnections**