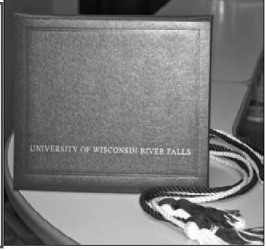




SWIM/DIVE, PAGE 6
**Swimming and diving
finishes strong at
WIAC Tourney**

LAMERS, PAGE 5
**National
chocolate-covered-anything day, other
interesting holidays**

GRADUATION, PAGE 7
**Graduates anticipate
the date: Dec. 18**



STUDENT VOICE

December 16, 2011

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 98, Issue 12



Charissa Squire/Student Voice
Reenovations are set to take place beginning next semester. UWRf buildings will improve classrooms and technology through the Falcon Promise. Cascade Avenue is also scheduled to begin renovations in 2012.



UWRf website
Thomas Barnett, music professor at UWRf, was charged with second degree assault at the Hudson 12 Theatre back in August. His trial is scheduled for Feb. 2012.

Fall 2011 semester filled with challenges, growth

Andrew Barker
andrew.barker@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls has had some low points this fall semester, but a lot of growth has also happened and the University is looking forward.

The semester started off with Professor Thomas William Barnett being charged with second degree sexual assault, after an alleged incident at the Hudson Theatre. Along with that event the budget repair bill, which kicked in this semester, caused major cuts in salaries and hurt the morale of professors and staff through an almost \$4 million cut throughout the University. With all this, it's hard to see the good that has happened this semester.

Aside from all these negative things there have been a lot of positive growth happening throughout the University, one being the Hudson Center which has grown over the last year.

"Last fall we were teaching 14 classes there," said Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor, "this fall however we have increased that to 25 classes."

Change has also begun to occur that will improve student's learning environments with the new Falcon Promise, which enhances various rooms throughout campus. Selected classrooms have already started to see a few changes in technology and seating and are scheduled to be completely finished by the start of the spring semester.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen said, "Over time this will transform to provide a better learning environment, some of these classes are 30 years old and this will allow us to take a step forward."

A Falcon Promise logo will be placed outside each one of these classrooms to show students and faculty which classrooms were renovated. The Falcon Promise has also begun to recruit students for the Falcon Scholars program which will grant students an opportunity for more scholarship support.

A UWRf Foundation fundraising campaign is also scheduled to start in the spring which is geared towards two goals, one being scholarship dollars and the other is the new health and human performance building. A goal of \$2 million from fundraising is set for this new building while most of the planning also begins in the spring.

Another improvement on campus will be the increased dor-



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice
Chancellor Dean Van Galen hosts a town hall meeting to discuss the budget lapse that has been affecting the UW-System.

mitories with the new South Fork Suites II building. This will house an additional 240 students who are of sophomore status and will be a coed residence hall.

"Currently the new South Fork Suites II is ahead of schedule and should be all ready for students next year," said Fry.

A house has also been donated to UWRf which will be used for special events hosted by the University and also visiting scholars will be allowed to stay there.

UWRf students connect with others through video games

Michael Brun
michael.brun@my.uwrf.edu

Hundreds of UW-River Falls students travel abroad each year, where they will interact and communicate with people from different cultures. Others do that every night, without even having to leave the dorms.

Online multiplayer games like "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" allow players to compete and chat with people around the world. These games can be a healthy activity if played in moderation, but Student Health and Counseling Services warns students not to overdo it.

"I think there are probably a lot of things that go into determining whether this is a healthy or not-so-healthy pastime," wrote Student Health and Counseling Services Director Alice Reilly-Myklebust in an email statement. "Different factors include the number of hours played in a day, the nature of the game and if they are being played in favor of students' academic responsibilities."

The impact and prevalence of video game playing at UWRf is hinted at in the 2009 National College Health Assessment, a survey administered every three years by Student Health and Counseling Services in conjunction with the American College Health Association.

In 2006, nearly 30 percent of UWRf students reported spending more than three hours per day on computers for uses other than school or work. According to the assessment, 14.4

percent of UWRf students reported Internet use and computer games affected their academic performance, up from 7.4 percent in 2003. In comparison, 11.5 percent of UWRf students reported that alcohol use affected their academics in 2006.

At the national level, 48 percent of gamers reported that video games kept them studying "some" or "a lot," according to a 2003 Pew Research study on gaming technology and entertainment among college students. The study found that students are integrating video games into their daily lives by allotting time for gaming between classes and using it as a break from homework.

Along with leisurely diversions, college students use video games for socializing as well. Nearly 20 percent of polled students felt "moderately or strongly" that video gaming "helped them make new friends as well as improve existing friendships," according to the Pew study. Additionally, 65 percent of students reported that video gaming "has little to no influence" taking away time spent with friends and family. Nearly the same amount said that video games helped them spend time when friends were unavailable.

More than half of all adults in the U.S. play video games, according to a more recent 2008 Pew Research study. This includes games on computers, video game consoles and cell phones.

In Crabtree and Johnson Halls, video games and online multiplayer are a part of the daily routine for students.

"A lot of the games today are geared toward online play,



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Shane Doyle (left) and Nate Bloechl (right) play a video game. A National College Health Assessment study says students are gaining relationships through video gaming.

which is great," said Steven Amusan, the president of Crabtree Hall. "It gives students the opportunity to play with gamers all over the nation, and even the world."

"Video games in Johnson Hall get pretty intense," Hall President Dylan Johnson said. "I like it, because it allows students to share their interests with others. Plus, the occasional competitive scream makes me laugh."

Campus marketing research program targets Twin Cities population

Sarah Hellier
sarah.hellier@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls marketing program is trying to make the best of the little budget they receive each year. Between billboard advertisements and newspaper ads, the program is finding the most financially efficient ways to attract students.

The first year the marketing program actually received a budget was last year. Amy Christensen, UWRf marketing specialist, said that last year, 100 percent of the budget went to awareness marketing.

"Some of the things they have been working on are ads in the Pioneer Press and Minnesota Public Radio and then also billboards aimed at the Twin Cities market," said Christensen.

According to Christensen, there are exactly 14 billboards between St. Paul and Minneapolis promoting UWRf.

Each billboard costs about \$6,000 - \$8,000 to keep erected for a six-month period, although Christensen said that some locations cost much more, sometimes even ranging up to

\$40,000 per sign.

Currently, instead of 100 percent of the budget going to awareness marketing, 78 percent goes to brand awareness and 22 percent goes to targeted program marketing. Brand awareness has expanded to theater ads in Hudson, Rice Lake, Oakdale, Hastings and Apple Valley.

"We also are sponsors of the Saint Paul Saints," said Christensen. "We have a billboard and a booth at every game."

As for the 22 percent going to program marketing, the department helps the Dairy Science, Elementary Education, Biology and the Masters Business Administration programs market their majors to the students that are interested.

"So instead of marketing the whole University, we help these departments market their program to prospective students," said Christensen.

For the upcoming year, Christensen said the marketing board has yet to meet to discuss the budget for the upcoming year. However, she expects a greater increase towards pro-

gram specific marketing, possibly with a 65/35 percent split with less programs to focus on. She also anticipates that the program will shift down to less brand awareness and more on targeted programs.

In order to save money for the marketing program, Professor Darryl Miller's Marketing Research class is currently working with University Communications to repeat the 2008 Woychick Design marketing survey.

"The University hired a company (Woychick) in 2008 to design the look of UW- River Falls. They designed the website, picked the colors and gave the 'feel' to what people think of our college," said Christensen.

Now, the Marketing program is asking students in Professor Miller's Marketing Research class to do the same thing.

"The objective for these students is to assess where we are at with meeting some of the marketing goals, identified when our brand was developed by Woychick and determine how our

New technology introduces potential students to campus

Melinda Mendez
melinda.mendez@my.uwrf.edu

Starting this year prospective students will have a different way of visiting the campus. The Admissions Office at UW-River Falls is planning to launch a new program which will allow prospective students to be able to tour the campus virtually with the option of being able to chat with an online staff person at the school to answer any questions a potential student may have.

“We are working with a company called Virtual Rabbit, which specializes in de-

veloping virtual tours for college campuses, businesses, recreational areas, etc.,” said Jennifer Sell, an admissions counselor/marketing coordinator for UWRF Admissions. The UWRF tour will include over 30, 360 degree images of campus.

The photos were taken in late summer/early fall 2011. The Admissions Office and DoTS coordinated the photo shoots and worked with developing the campus map.

“Separately we have launched a chat service on the Admissions webpage last month, which gives prospective students immediate

access to admission counselors,” said Sell. “This chat service was developed by DoTS for prospective students, and we are one of the first offices to use it.”

Prospective transfer students have been the most active users so far.

“I would have loved to have this kind of program when I was looking at colleges,” said Alyssa Vircks, a senior at the University. “It would have been nice to get a feel for the college before actually going there, and it helps you to weigh your options.”

For years the Admissions

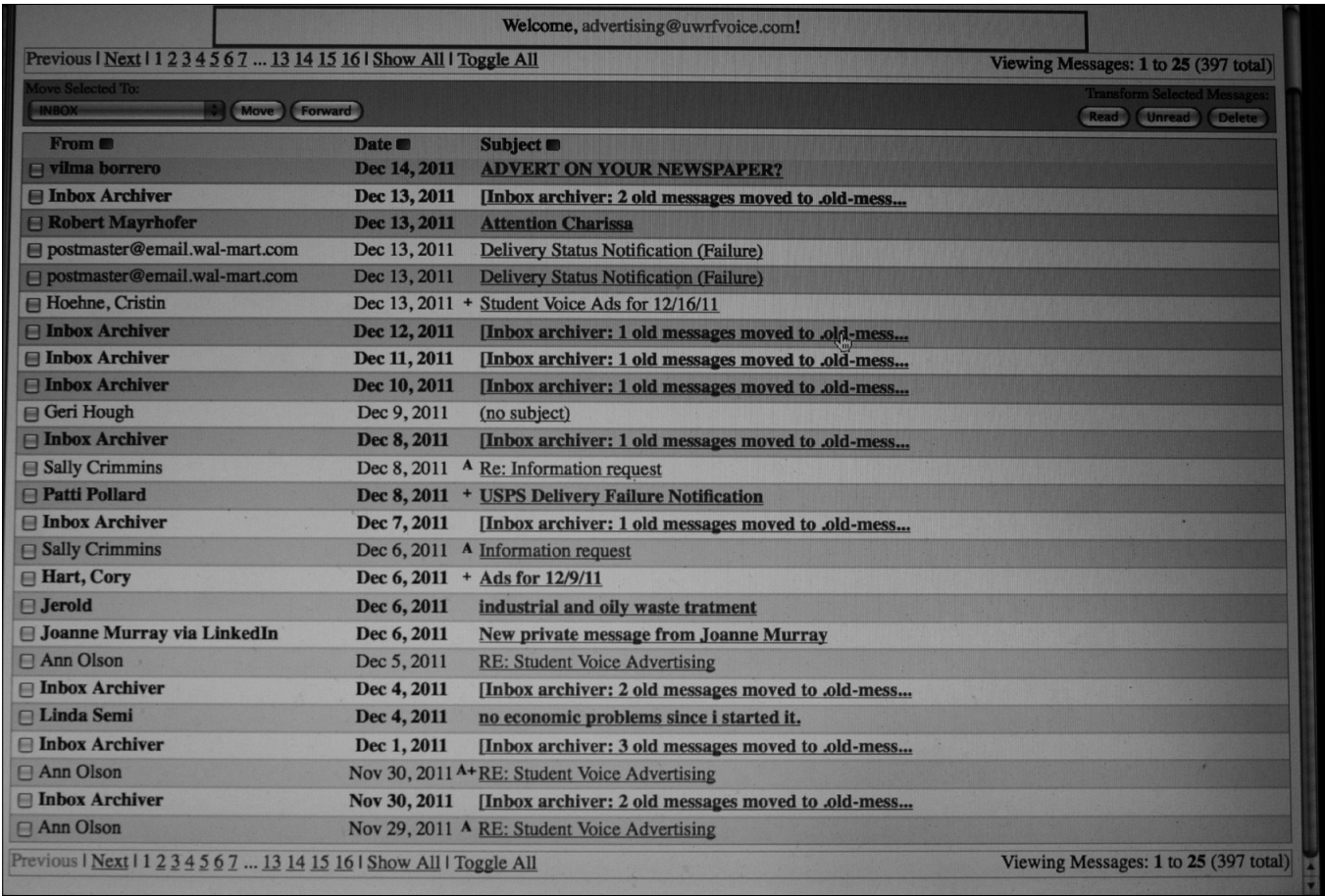
Office has tossed around the idea of offering a campus tour virtually.

They had wanted a way to showcase the campus online to potential students, as well as for students who had lived too far away to be able to easily visit the campus.

“We are launching the program this semester because the timing and the cost was right for this new initiative,” said Sells.

The finishing touches of the tour are scheduled to be completed by the end of the semester.

New email overhaul settled, reactions mixed



Chris Rohling
christopher.rohling@my.uwrf.edu

Returning students and faculty on the UW-River Falls campus will have noticed a major overhaul of the campus email system by now.

Students’ email from their previous SquirrelMail accounts will have migrated to their new Microsoft Outlook account. This has caused a change in email addresses for students and staff. Addresses which used to read: firstname.lastname@uwrf.edu now read: firstname.lastname@my.uwrf.edu.

Messages sent to the old SquirrelMail addresses currently forward to the new address, but that will cease to function come the first of the year according to the Division of Technology Services (DoTS).

“The decision was made in the interest of stability, keeping the email system up and running,” said Student Support Coordinator for DoTS Steven Meads. “We had some

issues with our SquirrelMail system so we made that decision in the interest of the students and the staff to try and create a more stable environment.”

Another reason that the switch was made is that UWRF is migrating to a Microsoft-centric environment, known as Active Directory.

Even with migrating to a Microsoft environment, Meads said Macintosh users should see very few issues, if any. “We haven’t seen any issues for students because it’s primarily web based and it’s hosted by Microsoft off site,” said Meads.

The current email system is primarily browser based. “As long as you have a web browser, you have access,” said Mead. DoTS has seen more browser specific issues, as opposed to operating system issues.

“All of these browsers go through iterations, and go through betas, so that’s where we’ve seen some issues,” said Meads. “A new

version of [Google] Chrome will come out and there may be some issues.”

One of the strengths of the current Microsoft Exchange email service according to Meads is that it works well with smartphones. “Exchange itself, natively, obviously works with Windows Mobile right out of the box, no problem,” said Meads. “All the Android devices we’ve seen also work, with the exception of a couple.” The device having issues is an older model, T-Mobile’s G1 Android phones, according to Mead.

“It’s a couple of settings and it auto-configures itself and it really pulls in all that information,” said Mead. According to Mead, he has seen no issues with getting the new email system working on iOS devices like the iPhone and iPod touch.

Nicholas Sertich, a UWRF senior, said that he uses the email app on his iPod touch quite a bit. “Getting it to work at first was like pulling

teeth,” said Sertich. “But once I managed to figure it out, it worked just fine.” Sertich isn’t quite as pleased with the Microsoft Outlook email system.

“It’s definitely prettier,” said Sertich. “But it has the problem that a lot of Microsoft Outlook does. The interface is kind of clunky, it’s easy to lose some things.”

Marie Benzschawel, a UWRF senior, said that email is a vital part of her studies and said that the switchover from SquirrelMail to Microsoft Outlook was fairly simple. “At first it was hard to get used to, but now after you kind of learn its quirks then it’s alright,” said Benzschawel. “My folders didn’t crossover from the old email so I had to re-categorize everything.”

Benzshawel said other than notifying people of her changed email address it’s been a smooth transition to the new email system.

News briefs

J-Term classes still open

Students can register for J-Term classes through Tuesday, Dec. 27. For more information on how to register, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/jterm/>.

Poultry Club chicken sale

The UW-Rvier Falls Poultry Club has a limited number of whole chickens available for sale for \$2 per pound. The chickens are between 4 and 6.5 pounds and were freshly frozen. If you would like to purchase one or more or have questions, contact bonnie.s.walters@uwrf.edu or call 3704.

Students present physics seminars

At noon on Friday, Dec. 16, in 113 Centennial Science Hall there will be a physics seminar: “Polar vs. Nonpolar Liquids on Leidenfrost Ratchets,” by UWRF student Jacob Noble. Then, at 3 p.m., in 113 CSH, the physics seminar: “Measuring Increases in X-Ray Emissions From Tape Peeled in a Vacuum at Varied Peeling Speeds,” will be presented by UWRF student Kyle Jero. Open to everyone.

Focus on U Live

7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16
Falcon’s Nest, University Center

The semester’s final Focus on U segment will be aired live in the Falcon’s Nest, complete with audience participation and live musical guests! With questions, email fpspecialevents@uwrf.edu or focusproduction@uwrf.edu. Visit <http://uwrf.org-sync.com/org/focusproductions/home> for more information on Focus on U.

Fall commencement held Dec. 18 in Knowles

The fall 2011 Commencement Ceremony is at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 18 in the Robert P. Knowles building.

Here a few reminders regarding the details of the ceremony from the Registrar’s Office:

Plan to arrive around 12:30/12:45 p.m. down in Hunt Arena, where you will fill out a name card and start lining up. Bring your cap, gown, and correct-colored tassel with you. A list of the colleges with the corresponding tassel is available on our website, www.uwrf.edu/registrar, or at the University Bookstore/Falcon Shop. The bookstore will have extras for sale on the day of the ceremony, but not enough for everyone so please purchase these items BEFORE the ceremony. Any questions regarding caps and gowns, please contact the Falcon Shop at 715- 425-3962. Adequate seating is available; therefore, tickets are not required. Seating for family and friends will be folding chairs on the floor and there will be no bleacher seating. Seating for the students will be according to college (College of Business, College of Education, etc.). All of the campus parking lots will be available for the ceremony, but they do fill up and can become congested quickly, so please plan accordingly to allow you and your families extra time before and after the ceremony for parking. Handicapped spots are also limited, so please contact the Parking Office at 715-425-3333 for special arrangements. The ceremony will last about 1 to 2 hours, so please take that into consideration when making your post-commencement plans.

Diplomas will be mailed out around mid-January for those completing their requirements at the end of the fall semester. Students completing requirements at the end of the winter term can expect their diplomas by the end of February. Please update your home address on eSIS if you need to, as we will be sending diplomas to the address listed on eSIS. If you have any questions, you can contact the Registrar’s Office at 715-425-3342, Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., visit our webpage <http://www.uwrf.edu/Registrar/CommencementInfo.cfm>, or visit our Facebook page, UW-River Falls Commencement.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department

- Dec. 9
- Olivia Martinetti, 19, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at 700 E. Cascade Ave.
 - Morgan Christine Mellesmoen, 19, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at 700 E. Cascade Ave.
- Dec. 11
- Katrina Lynn Highman, 18, was cited \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Grimm Hall.
- Dec. 12
- April Leigh McLellan, 19, was cited \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Grimm Hall.

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

Find Freddy’s Feather

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

Email the Voice at
editor@uwrfvoice.com

Be the first person to report the find AFTER 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 16, and win two free movie passes

Listen to 88.7 FM WRFW

the only on campus radio station produced and directed by UWRF students

Student Senate president accomplishes goals, looks to future



Maggie Sokoloski/Student Voice
Student Senate President Tyler Halverson leads a Student Senate meeting as he finishes up the semester. Halverson has been a part of Senate since 2007.

Michael Brun
michael.brun@my.uwrf.edu

Finishing up the last semester of classes, preparing for student teaching in the spring, practicing for a senior trumpet recital, planning a wedding and, oh yeah, representing the entire student body at UW-River Falls. This is a taste of what Student Association President Tyler Halverson had on his plate this semester.

Halverson said he is proud of the accomplishments made by the Student Senate under his leadership this semester, but admits there were challenges along the way and still plenty of

work yet to be done.

“I feel that we have performed well, but there is always room for improvement,” Halverson said. “We started out the semester with very heavy legislation, and took stances on issues such as state budget lapses, state bills, and University and city policies.”

By the end of October, the Senate passed motions to restructure the Allocable Fees Appropriations Board, reform student organization funding and require a higher vote threshold to raise student fees.

Halverson said his greatest personal success was leading the Senate in taking a stance against the budget lapse cuts placed on the UW-System in October by the state government. “I coordinated the circulation of a press release (of the Senate’s stance), which was run by several prominent news agencies around Wisconsin,” said Halverson.

Although this is Halverson’s first year as Student Association President, he participated with the Senate since 2007. His years of experience as a senator helped him prepare for the responsibilities as president, Halverson said.

“Having been on the Senate for the past four years, I had a good idea of what to expect,” said Halverson. “Although, there are always little bumps in the road that test ability, patience and perseverance.”

One of the greatest challenges this semester was reducing the size of the Senate reserve account, Halverson said. But with the recent creation of an ad-hoc committee tasked with reducing the account, Halverson said he feels confident the issue will be resolved successfully.

“I think the Student Senate has been very active this past semester, working with a wide range of issues that affect the

student experience at UW-River Falls,” wrote Student Senate Faculty Advisor and Student Life Director Paul Shepherd in an email statement. “Halverson approached his position as president with a high level of enthusiasm and passion, which has led to some good conversations within the Senate about important issues.”

Nearly half of the senators this semester were serving for the first time. One of them is Jessica Pett, the nontraditional representative and ethics committee chair.

“I feel this semester we were able to get a lot done that pertained to the student body as a whole, and that we were able to weigh in on important issues that had a state wide impact,” said Pett. “Overall I think that Halverson has done an admirable job as president.”

Along with his responsibilities on the Senate, Halverson said he is in the early stages of planning his wedding with fiancé and Senate colleague, Facilities and Fees Board Chair Beth DeLong.

“We are both at the same stage academically and heavily involved in student government, so it has been challenging to make sure we still have time for each other and maintain a healthy relationship,” said Halverson. “I would say we have more than risen to the challenge.”

With the semester coming to a close, Halverson said he is looking ahead to what is next for the Senate.

Along with overseeing the reduction of the Senate reserve account, “the non-allocable and allocable budgets will be the largest and most publicly recognized issues this next semester,” said Halverson. “A large amount of our time will be spent on these issues.”

Cascade Avenue to be renovated next semester before spring break

Andrew Barker
andrew.barker@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls is going to be affected greatly by the Cascade Avenue renovation come spring break next semester.

Contracting for the Cascade Avenue project is scheduled to begin in the middle of February. During this time a final estimate of how much things are going to cost will be available. New lighting is also already planned to be used that will improve safety for pedestrians at night.

“The city will be putting in LED street lighting,” said Michael Sifter, director of facilities, “we’ll be adding some additional path lighting around North Hall, South Hall and Q lot”

The new Cascade Avenue will act as an entrance way to the University with two clean and welcoming roundabouts placed in the intersection of Cascade and Sixth Street, Cascade and Second Street and Cascade and Wasson Lane.

“The roundabouts will be very prominent and there will be some very good, high quality lighting,” said Stifter

With the placement of these roundabouts a slowly affect will be caused that will make it safer for students and community members to cross the street. Parking will also be taken off Cascade Avenue which will also improve safety with less obstructions and people on the actual road while exiting their vehicles.

“With this new design, taking the parking off the street and improved lights I think this will be a much safer setup,” said Joseph McIntosh, ground maintenance supervisor.

There have been some rumors circulating of a tunnel being

placed between North Hall and South Hall, however these are all false.

“There had been talk at one time of a tunnel or a possible overhead walk way at the early stages of the design,” said Stifter, “but over the last couple years it has been dropped from the table.”

Throughout the construction process and final stages of planning beginning in February, frequent updates will be placed on a website that will be released in January. This website will have archived versions of all the previous plans as well as what stages the project is at and maps of alternative parking.

Some final work may take place during the spring of 2013 which will include signs, crossing work and spring plantings.

Reconstruction of the Q parking lot is also scheduled to take place during part of this time. As of right now the parking lot construction will begin mid-May and continue to mid-August.

According to the River Falls engineering specifications and descriptions page on the River Falls City Hall website, this project’s estimated cost will over \$8 million. The website also states that approximately 232 cars park in on street spots or on Cascade Avenue while 221 cars park in off-street spots coming to a total of 453. An after the project estimation states the number of on street spots will be reduced to 42 while off-street spaces will be 451. Sections of Cascade plan on being expanded wider and parking places are to be included in outlets to keep cars from parking on the street which is another way pedestrians will remain safe.



Charissa Squire/Student Voice
Cascade Avenue in River Falls is scheduled to begin renovations next semester before spring break. Roundabouts and parking are some goals of construction.

Marketing program: UWRF sponsors ads around Twin Cities

From page 1

key messages are resonating with prospective students, current students, alumni and parents,” said Christensen.

Not only is the marketing program using students to be financially efficient, Christensen said the department is also implementing a stronger push towards using social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and a new website they will be introducing called Read-

about.me.

“Readabout.me. is currently being used by some other UW schools and will create a Facebook-like page for students that will highlight all of their achievements,” said Christensen.

Christensen said Readabout.me will serve as a great way for students to promote themselves and a great way for UW-River Falls to promote itself.

Thank you
for a great
semester!

-Student Voice

Staff

Don't forget to
look at the Student
Voice online!
www.uwrfvoice.com

Advertise in the
Student Voice
next semester!

Contact the Voice Ad
Representative at:

advertising@uwrfvoice.com

EDITORIALS

As semester closes, students should plan for future

Many students will agree that this semester seems to have flown by, and as the end approaches we here at the Student Voice wish to encourage successful utilization of time over the course of J-Term. Some students will spend the majority of their break working, others will be taking courses, the lucky few will be spending time abroad, whereas some will enjoy their time simply relaxing. Regardless of what is on the docket for you, it is never too early to start planning ahead.

UW-River Falls offers many different opportunities for students to make the best of their break. As the UWRF website contends, J-Term offers opportunities to sneak in a brief study abroad experience, focus more intensively on a class, or complete a non-credit, professional development course. Focusing on a J-Term course can help you raise your grade point average, graduate sooner, or experience programs your schedule doesn't allow for during fall or spring.

Internships are a great way to enhance your resume, gain valuable experience, and start preparing for the future. Employers value internships and extra-curricular activities because they show that you have skills and abilities beyond typical academic work. It is never too early (or too late) to start looking for internships.

As such, Career Services is a student-focused office that provides holistic comprehensive career planning services to UWRF students at all levels of study. By providing expertise, resources, and support, career services empower individuals to make and implement well-conceived career and life plans. Career Services fosters a welcoming, accessible environment where diversity is celebrated, and the uniqueness of each individual is valued.

Regardless of what your plans are this J-Term, use your time wisely, and be sure to plan ahead to ensure that you accomplish your academic goals in a timely and cost-effective manner, and so that you can accomplish all of your career goals.

Thank you for reading the Student Voice this semester!
Happy Holidays!

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

STUDENT VOICE

Editor	Ashley Goettl
Assistant Editor	Kara Johnson
Front Page Editor	Cassie Swenson
News Editor	Rebecca Rudolph
Viewpoints Editor	Jessica Nash
Sports Editor	Ashley Hall
Etcetera Editor	Chris Rohling
Chief Photographer	Megan Rodriguez
Staff Photographers	Charissa Squire
	Desiri Danforth
	Maggie Sokoloski
Cartoonist	David Recine
Chief Copy Editor	Ben Lamers
General Manager	Charles Korenchen
Ad Manager	Charissa Squire
Faculty Advisor	Andris Straumanis

Read the *Student Voice* online at www.uwrfvoice.com

The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year. 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. Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



David Recine/Student Voice

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alumna encourages help to close achievement gap
We often hear about the achievement gap. We know that it exists. But, does it really affect us? Is there anything we can really do to combat it? Well, for Minnesotan students it's something that affects them before they even enter Kindergarten. They can't get away from it. A Nov. 20 Minnesota public Radio article states that "The Minnesota Readiness Study finds children of color and children who live in poverty are less likely to be considered ready for kindergarten than white students and those living above the poverty line." That doesn't sit very well with me. So I did something about it.

My four years as a UW-River Falls student didn't teach me to sit back and do nothing when I saw injustice in my community. After graduating in 2010, I made a decision to be part of the solution. I am working as a Reading Corps literacy tutor at the Heights Community School in St. Paul, Minnesota. Minnesota Reading Corps (and our sister program Minnesota Math Corps) is taking real, tangible steps to close the achievement gap. Our research based strategies for learning are aimed at helping students succeed and achieve. We, as literacy and math tutors, are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the students in our communities.

Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps are AmeriCorps State programs that provide targeted tutoring using research based interventions and strategies. Often described as the domestic version of Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is a national service organization with about 100,000 members serving in a variety of programs throughout the United States each year. Minnesota Reading Corps tutors work with students age three through grade three to improve their reading skills. Minnesota Math Corps tutors work with students in fourth through eighth grade who are struggling with math.

Piloted in 2003, Reading Corps has since expanded from 25 to 770 members and is reaching about 20,000 children at over 450 different sites across Minnesota during the 2011-12 school year. Since 2007, Math Corps has reached close to 2,000 kids by training and placing much-needed tutors in schools in St. Cloud, East Central Minnesota and the Twin Cities. With nearly 70 tutors placed in the 2011-12 school year, the program is projected to reach even more students than previous years.

Reading Corps members work as one-on-one or small group tutors to students who are below reading proficiency or at risk of falling behind. Throughout their year of service, tutors receive extensive training to work with, track and guide struggling readers' progress toward literacy. Math Corps curriculum focuses on what each individual student needs to improve on, and on building confidence in the student that he or she can learn and succeed with math. Tutors receive ongoing training in math instruction methods and support during their service. They are never left to invent their own lessons or assessments.

Reading Corps and Math Corps positions are not permanent jobs; they're a temporary service. Members make an 11-month commitment during which they receive a modest living allowance and education award. Full-time members may also receive health insurance.

My year with Minnesota Reading Corps has forever changed me. I have seen students succeed as a result of the one-on-one literacy tutoring that they receive every day. The statistics don't lie. The achievement gap exists. But, I'm not willing to stand by and let it widen. Are you? Take the next step and learn more about Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps. Your decision could affect students across Minnesota.

The application for the 2012-13 school year opens on Dec. 15. Go to joinreadingcorps.org or joinmathcorps.org to apply. Or if you would like more information on either program, email recruitment@mnedc.org.

Caroline Buechter
Alumna

Walker administration threatens care for poor
The Walker administration has set in motion plans to deprive an estimated 53-65,000 Wisconsinites of their access to affordable health care. The state has requested permission from the federal government to make changes in Medicaid-related funding that would cut costs by \$554 million over two years by raising premiums and tightening eligibility requirements for BadgerCare and other programs for the poor. The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau projects that this could result in 65,000 people losing access to health care, including thousands of children.

The state has requested this waiver in too short a time to realistically expect approval from the federal government. If the feds aren't able to respond by Dec. 31, then according to current state budget law, the entire BadgerCare Plus program shuts down, leaving 53,000 low-income adults uninsured.

Under either scenario, the people of Wisconsin (especially the poorest among us) lose as the Governor continues to balance the budget on the backs of those who have the least.

If you're concerned about public health in our state, join me in signing the Save Badger Care petition, which has already gathered nearly 15,000 signatures. You can find it online at http://signon.org/sign/save-badgercare?source=s.em.cr_by=360303_id=1355.

We must insist that our elected state officials prevent the implementation of this cruel policy. Our state senators and representatives should remember their many constituents who depend on Badger Care and reject these cuts.

We must put them and the Governor on notice that this is not an acceptable way to treat our most vulnerable neighbors. I'm not broke, most of us aren't broke, and Wisconsin is not broke. We can afford to do right by all our citizens.

Thomas R. Smith
River Falls Resident

Special thanks to unknown hero
It was 1:30 a.m. when I went to my car on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. When I got to my car I was greeted with about 3 inches of fresh powder to scrape off, so like any Minnesotan, I grabbed the ice scraper and I went to work. I got the driver's side pretty clear, but when I stepped on the curb to clean off the passenger side I met my match: ice. I slipped and fell off the curb, and my foot went under my car. I heard a snap and felt an immense amount of pain, more pain than I'd felt before from any normal fall.

All I could do is scream. I frantically searched for my cell phone, but I was bellowing in pain and couldn't find it. Another student heard my screams, and after a brief screaming conversation across the street, he came over to me to see what was going on. I'd never met this student, but he acted heroically. We briefly tried to decide what to do, because my car exhaust was blowing in both of our faces. He helped get me out of the way of the exhaust, and then sat behind me the whole time as he called 911 for an ambulance to come and take me to the hospital. After the ambulance arrived the student disappeared into the darkness and the paramedics took over.

The holiday spirit is that of giving selflessly of oneself to see joy come across another's face, right? Had this student not had the courage to walk across the street and help a screaming girl out, without knowing what he was going to find or whom he was going to see, I wouldn't have gotten to the hospital when I did. I may have been in the cold much longer, and the injury would've worsened as I wiggled in the snow looking for my own phone, alone, in the dark and the cold. He stayed with me, he kept me company, and he tried to keep me calm. The word courage is so frightening to many people, but it takes courage to save a life, and as "The Princess Diaries" tells us, courage is not the absence of fear, but the knowledge that something else is more important than fear. This man that helped me Sunday night is a picture of courage, and a load of thanks goes out to you. Thank you for being nothing short of a hero.

Brianna Klaras
Student

Lifestyle Enthusiast on the town:

Early morning pranking in a forgotten cemetery



Christopher Pagels
Columnist

It’s 3 a.m. and I’m hanging from a rope. The rope is attached to the swinging bridge in Glen Park swaying over the Kinnickinnick River. Ultimate trust fall, Mike holds my life

in his hands and the blood alcohol level is not in my favor. I tuck the inch-thick purple rope tight around my hip to my backside as I belay down to Junction Falls. A golden light is hanging suspended in the air like an orb in the distance highlighting some tan buildings I had never seen before. I had walked that bridge so many times in my life and had never seen the sewage plant on West Maple. To the southwest of the plant is a hill crowned with oak trees and tombstones. A forgotten cemetery filled with people whose last mark of remembrance is crawling with lichen and black stains. At the time, I do not know that I’m looking at Foster Cemetery in that chilly morning many falls ago, but I remember that time. Another early morning, a different Mike. He spent his nights holding the shutter open on his camera saturating the

glow from the campus lights. He would leave the camera’s shutter on for half an hour trying to absorb the light molecules. When developed, the lights looked like golden fountains pouring onto the dark quad. The night I joined him and Kyle, the air was crisp as a Christmas morning. Instead of snow, the dew pushed an earthy cleansing smell from the ground to our noses. I convince them that any nighttime stroll wasn’t complete without walking through a cemetery. We began our walk from Sixth Street heading towards West Maple. Kyle, at the time, preferred to carry his water in a wine bottle, cork and all. Everyone needs a trademark. Mine is an Irish walking hat, two times replaced, spliced with many earth colors that blend into a dark brown color. As for Mike, his charisma has a personality of its own. When we passed the bridge over Lake George the street-lights started to come less frequently. Acorns crunched under our feet and I tried to remember where to make the right turn. Was it down this hallow with no lights? The guys started to lose faith in my internal compass when I see a blacktop road that resembles the pockmarked surface of the moon. Two or three lampposts line the entirety of the street that has only one house hidden deeply into the forest. The blacktop should-ers dissolve into the limestone gravel dug from the quarry next to the sewage plant. When we reached the dirt path that

curtains the fence for the sewage plant, we realized that no one had a flashlight. Ten years earlier we would have been screwed, luckily cell phones were invented. I led the group with my backlight, constantly refreshing the screen, casting light only a few feet ahead. The trail was familiar, but in the darkness not complete. Our eyes dilated like peanuts. At the end of the fence, the hill begins to climb up. A big granite slab marks the entrance that is inscribed with a long explanation of the cemetery’s history and the preservation of the land. The trail loops around the crown of the hill and opens up towards the west overlooking the Kinnickinnick valley. Our backlights did nothing to reveal much besides the headstones, but the moon glowed in between the oaken boughs brightly. Punks and vandals like to tend a small fire pit on the overlook, usually leaving a couple cans and candy wrappers. The wind creaked the tree trunks and I hushed the guys and started pointing through the woods, “I see something moving in between the trees. Do you see it?” They close in alongside me and stare where I point, nothing. “Don’t you see it?” They focused their eyes a few feet ahead of my index finger. They say they want to leave emphatically. A mile away from the cemetery, heading back to the apartment, I tell them something. I wasn’t pointing at anything. Their jaw drops said it all.

Expand your thinking:

The benefits of productivity, making the most out of this J-Term break



Jaime Haines
Columnist

A quick week-end, cramming for finals, wrapping up responsibilities, packing and then going home for the holidays! While a full month off seems to offer endless

time to be productive, many students find themselves scrambling the last few days of January to finish their J-Term to-do list. Everyone has different priorities, be it money, volunteer hours, academics, relaxing, or socializing. Whatever your needs, try being more proactive with your goals this year: know what needs to be done and when you will accomplish it. Many students spend their J-Term working. It is always a good idea to call up your employer and ask for some extra hours. Whether you receive one or five days a week, money of any amount helps pay the inevitable bills. The extra income helps relieve financial pressures and prepare for future expenses. Another common commitment comprises of focusing on academics. This time offers an easy way to catch up or get ahead. Many students do so by taking a J-Term class

(registration is still open), but others may study to establish a firmer foundation for the next semester’s classes. While studying sounds horrible after an exhaustive semester, a simple hour each day could make a huge difference in understanding future classes and preventing frantic catch-up games after classes start. Once you choose important ways to remain productive over this month-long break, be sure to not forget the real reason for J-Term: to relax through laziness and socializing. Take time to recover from fall semester’s burn-out and to refresh for the spring with a lazy day. Dedicate an entire day to do nothing but enjoy life in a stress-free, chill way. For some, this involves pajamas, cookies and a movie marathon. Others may focus on a hobby that they neglected during the school year. With this wonderful day in mind, remember to also include a day to bond with family and old friends. During hectic school months, reliable friends can make a huge difference in your sanity, so keep relationships strong. Whatever your method of relaxing, set aside some days for mental rejuvenation. If, after work, school, and relaxing, you still find empty days in your calendar, do things you never have time for during the school year. Volunteer for a day at Feed My Starving Children, visit a science or art museum, catch a play at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, walk through the zoo exhibits,

or simply explore different towns. Plan a few Kodak-worthy days to develop fond memories and fun stories to share when you return to campus for spring semester. This activity is essential because it balances the seriousness of work and academics with the laziness of relaxing; it brings fun and joy into your life. Finally, small daily improvements are easy to make over J-Term. This month offers a time to create a healthier lifestyle since it lacks the craziness and distractions of college life. Add daily exercise, journaling, or meditation to your life—a habit that can continue into the school year to keep you feeling centered and ready to work hard. Question your involvements on campus and whether they truly enhance your life. Search for ways to improve your life, big or small, and make the necessary changes. With J-Term just around the corner, use a cramming break to list all you want to do over vacation. Include everything on this list from obvious must-dos like working or classes, to new daily habits, to fun and relaxing times. Leave nothing out. Then, hang this list on your mirror or fridge so you remember to make this your best J-Term ever. Enjoy! *Jaime is an exuberant puppy-lover and “House” addict and plans to use her psychology degree to encourage activism and well-being through counseling, workshops, speeches, and the written word.*

STUDENT VOICES

What is your favorite memory from this semester?

Compiled by Megan Rodriguez

Courtney Wilson, freshman

“My half of the floor did a bunch of loaded questions, and that was fun.”



Helen Sobczynski, junior

“The Holiday Swing dance.”

Beth Hacken, senior

“Hanging out with Friends.”



Alec Phillipi, junior

“Being a Resident Assistant.”

Becky Rudolph, junior

“Spending every morning at 8 a.m. with Professor Evans, Kraus and my friend Ashley.”



A surprise holiday to brighten the last week of school

When you think of holidays in the month of December, the ones that generally come to mind are St. Nick’s Day and Christmas. Well, I am here to tell you about a December holiday which you have probably never heard of, but could quickly become one of your favorites. Dec. 16, is National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day. Yes, you did read that right. So for those of you who think you need an excuse to pig out on various chocolate items, today is your day. Chocolate covered raisins, chocolate covered potato chips, chocolate covered candy canes or anything else that floats your boat. Well, not anything. I would advise against eating chocolate covered insects, but only because Oct. 14 is National Chocolate-Covered Insects Day. You wouldn’t want to ruin that holiday by covering insects in chocolate today. The history of this wonderful holiday is relatively unknown. Amongst all of the research I did I found that some candy company probably created the holiday for the obvious purpose of selling more candy. Regardless of its origins, Chocolate Covered Anything Day is sure to be a favorite of all who know about it. Chocolate Covered Anything Day also conveniently falls on the last day of classes for this semester. What better way to celebrate having no more classes, other than those pesky finals, than to cover your favorite food in chocolate? If you



Benjamin Lamers
Columnist

have ever wondered what pizza, for example, tastes like covered in chocolate, today is the day for you to find out. Maybe, instead of experimenting, you would rather go with the delicious, but very unhealthy, route of smothering ice cream in chocolate. I’m sure that would be positively delicious. For those of you who don’t like chocolate, for whatever reason, don’t worry because this is another holiday celebration going on today as well. Aside from being National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day it is also Barbie and Barney Backlash Day. Yes, I’m serious. So if you have anything against Barbara Millicent Roberts or the purple dinosaur known as Barney, today is your day to rant and rave. Maybe you were traumatized as a kid by a large talking dinosaur or the fact that Barbie was in your face 24/7 on TV commercials. Today is your day to retaliate. So whether you enjoy chocolate covered foods or have an immense hatred for children’s heroes, or both, today should be a great day. What better way to celebrate your last day of classes than celebrating two of the best unknown holidays in America. *Ben is a sophomore majoring in journalism and minoring in history. He is a huge Colts and Brewers fan.*

Staying stress free, getting enough sleep essential for finals

Now that we are just one weekend away from finals week, it is very likely that every student on campus is going to be spending the majority of their time with a textbook, notebook and their homework from over the course of the semester. Finals week can be incredibly stressful, especially for those who have more than one test each day. But how does one perfect their study habits for finals? Easy. Make sure that you take advantage of the quiet hours in the dorms and the library. You will find students campus-wide sitting in their favorite places to study throughout the entire week. I am no expert on studying and finals, but from my own personal experience, I find it best to study for your finals in the order that you have them. Take this weekend to make an outline of everything that you need to do for each exam and study each topic one by one. Make sure you stay organized with each class so that you aren’t jumbling everything together. I know that it can be exhausting to study for hours on end but remember that you can take breaks. Every hour or so take a five to 10 minute break and get something to drink, or eat a snack. Sitting for so long too can be quite uncomfortable. Don’t forget to stretch and take a short walk down the hall or something to get your blood flowing. Making sure you are comfortable and energized is a huge help when studying for finals. Another important thing is to make sure you get enough



Sam Mayberry
Columnist

sleep. One of the stereotypes of college students is that pulling all-nighters are a weekly thing. Although there are some of you out there that this might be the case for, sleep is a necessity. The average college student gets around six to seven hours of sleep a night. Making sure you get to bed at a decent hour so that you aren’t completely drained the next day is very important, especially when you have exams to take. I understand that finals are important, but make sure you give yourself time for you. Get some of your friends together for a movie or even a game to release some of the stress you may be experiencing. I always find that getting away from studying for a little bit is extremely helpful when I am stressed out. Last semester, my friends and I played “Apples to Apples” just to get our minds off things, and it was successful. If you’re afraid that you will get too distracted, set a time limit that you have to follow. Remember to make use of the library, the University Center, the study lounges in the dorms and your own place of living. Finals week is never a fun time for any student but remember that you’re not alone. Making sure that you don’t completely swamp yourself is always helpful. Remember to get a good amount of sleep so that you feel refreshed in the morning and for your test. Good luck on finals everyone and happy studying. *Sam is a junior and is majoring in journalism. She is from Rochester, Minn. and loves to read, listen to music and take pictures.*

Swimming and diving anticipate close finish

Jessie Behrman
jessie.behrman@uwrf.edu

The Falcon men’s and women’s swimming and diving team have had a competitive season and are anticipating a close finish, Head Coach Ryan Hawke said.

In the WIAC there are only six schools out of nine with swimming and diving teams. The WIAC is competitive in all aspects and it’s hard to beat out more teams when there aren’t as many competing. Hawke said there is strong competition between the six teams that do compete: UW-Eau Claire, UW-Lacrosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Whitewater.

“Out of the six teams, five of them sent people to nationals and three of those teams finished in the top 15 at nationals,” Hawke said.

The Falcon men’s and women’s teams both finished last in the conference last year. Earlier this season, the women’s team beat Oshkosh in a dual meet, and the men’s scores were close, Hawke said.

Hawke does not have captains for the team, instead he asked for the upperclassmen to step up and move to where they excel. Hawke also talked about how every individual on the team plays a role and there are no key athletes that the team is depending on. He said from last year to this year that the team is

working a lot harder, and is more dedicated and that’s making a big difference.

Junior Sarah Koch said the team works hard every day to improve individually and to work together as a team.

“Everyday we strive to be our best as a team, we push one another to reach our full potential,” said Koch. “One of our teams goals this year is to beat Oshkosh at the WIAC tourney, earlier this year the women’s team was able to pull of a win against them and this is the first time in 16 years that the women’s team has beat them.”

The Falcon’s swim team was on the verge of being cut in 2009. The team continued to practice and compete and traveled to the River Falls High School to use their pool for practice. Hawke admitted since then that it is a challenge to recruit without having an on-campus pool, but it is within a mile walk of campus and the facility is nice.

Koch said there has been a decrease of numbers because of class scheduling and the inconvenience of location, but teammates continue to carpool.

“Everyday we strive to be our best as a team, we push one another to reach our full potential.”

Junior
Sarah Koch

Junior Isaac Milkey said if UWRF had their own pool, practice times would be more flexible. But even without a pool, the men’s and women’s team has nine freshmen.

“We have a lot of freshmen that joined this year. We are really looking to build up our program and reputation as not only a good school, but also a good team,” Milkey said. “The freshman are very dedicated and I think that comes partially from our upperclassmen being disciplined and working hard.”

Hawke said that the team upped their recruiting efforts and expectations and are working on having a sense of ownership and pride of the team, even without their own pool.

“We are trying to be more active in the community, make our presence known and make a bigger name for ourselves, to see school pride through our sport,” Hawke said.”

The Falcon men’s and women’s swimming and diving team hosted their Falcon Invitational on Dec. 2 and 3 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

The women’s team travels to UM-Morris Jan. 14 and the men’s team competes at Macalaster College Jan. 16.



Jessie Behrman/
Student Voice

Left: The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams focus on their backstrokes for their upcoming meets on Jan. 14 and 16.

Right: The women’s swimming and diving team wants to have an unbeatable time for the freestyle. They have had a lot of competition this year in the WIAC. Both men’s and women’s teams are wanting to build up the UW-River Falls swim and dive team’s reputation for future recruits.



Falcon ‘Good Works’ initiative helping River Falls community

Jessie Behrman
jessie.behrman@uwrf.edu

New to the UW-River Falls Athletic Department this semester is Falcon Good Works on the athletics website, informing the public on the good things going on in the department, said Jim Thies, sports information director.

The description on the Falcon Good Works page reads; “Falcon student-athletes and their coaches are involved in the community! Enjoy reading about what Falcons do to benefit the community outside of their athletics events!”

Thies said that the idea behind Falcon Good Works is to emphasize the positive things the athletes are doing outside of their sport.

“Too many times in athletics you hear about the negatives and not the good things going on, we worked as a department to highlight these things, get the positives out,” said Thies.

Most recently, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted their Kids Day Out on Dec. 11. This is a time

for parents to drop their kids off so they can get in some holiday shopping or errands done. Athletes from all sports volunteer to help chaperone while the kids play games, eat, and watch movies.

The softball team volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children Organization on Dec. 13 and the women’s basketball game against UW-Stout on Dec. 14 was called “Playing for the Cure.” Bob & Steve’s BP Amoco Shops made a donation of \$12,500 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation, on behalf of the UWRF and UW-Stout game.

“It doesn’t have to be a major thing, it could be on your drive home from a game and the team pulls over to help someone with a flat tire,” said Thies.

Thies said UWRF is located in a great community and the student-athletes are involved in a lot of things. This is a way for the athletes to say thanks by raising money for various causes and giving back to the community.

Coming up this year is the Polar Plunge being put on by the NCAA and their partnership with the Special Olympics. It

will be on Feb. 26 at UW-Eau Claire and all UWRF athletes are encouraged to participate. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Special Olympics.

The men’s and women’s track and field teams plan on participating with the Polar Plunge, said sophomore Kimberly Lueck, who is on the women’s team.

“It shows that we are dedicated to more than just the sports we play and we care about the community and the school as a whole,” said Lueck about Falcon Good Works.

There are annual events such as SAAC’s Trick or Treat for canned goods, which have been going on for years, and there are events like the women’s softball going to Feed My Starving Children Organization, which is new this year.

Thies said that the athletic department encourages teams and coaches to let the department know about these situations so the University and community can hear about them.

More information and events can be found on the UWRF Athletics website.

Falcon athletes of the week

Men’s Hockey



Forward Geoff Shewmake played well for the Falcons in a two-game series at Eau Claire Dec. 9 and 10. Shewmake scored two power-play goals in the team’s 6-1 win on Dec. 10. The first goal came at 14:58 of the first period and proved to be the game-winner. He scored again at 15:19 of the second period and that gave the Falcons a 5-1 lead at the time.

Men’s Swimming and Diving



David Zaske competed and swam well in several events at the two-day Falcon Invitational held Dec. 9 and 10 at the University of Minesota. On Dec. 9, Zaske swam a leg of the 200 free relay and had a time of 23.65. He also swam a leg of the 400 medley relay and had a time of 1:02.05. He came back on Dec. 10 and swam a leg of the 200 medley relay in 27.75.

Women’s Basketball

Post player Holly Riesselman had two solid games for the Falcons off the bench as the team won twice to remain undefeated this year. Rieselman scored a career-high 10 points in a win at Oshkosh, and grabbed a career-high seven rebounds in a win at Martin Luther. In the two games she scored 19 points shooting 5-8 from the field and 9-12 from the line.



Women’s Swimming and Diving

Sarah Koch competed in several events at the two-day Falcon Invitational held Dec. 9 and 10 at the University of Minnesota. On Dec. 9 Koch finished in 2:24.54 in the 200 fly. She also swam a leg with the 400 medley relay team and finished in 1:06.39. On Dec. 10 she swam a leg of the 200 medley relay in 30.73 and a leg of the 400 free relay in 1:01.97.



Information from then UWRF Athletics website

Calendar of upcoming sporting events

Saturday, Dec. 17
Women’s Basketball
vs. Simpson College at 3 p.m.
Live audio at WRFW 88.7

Men’s Basketball vs. North Central
University at 7 p.m.
Live audio at WRFW 88.7

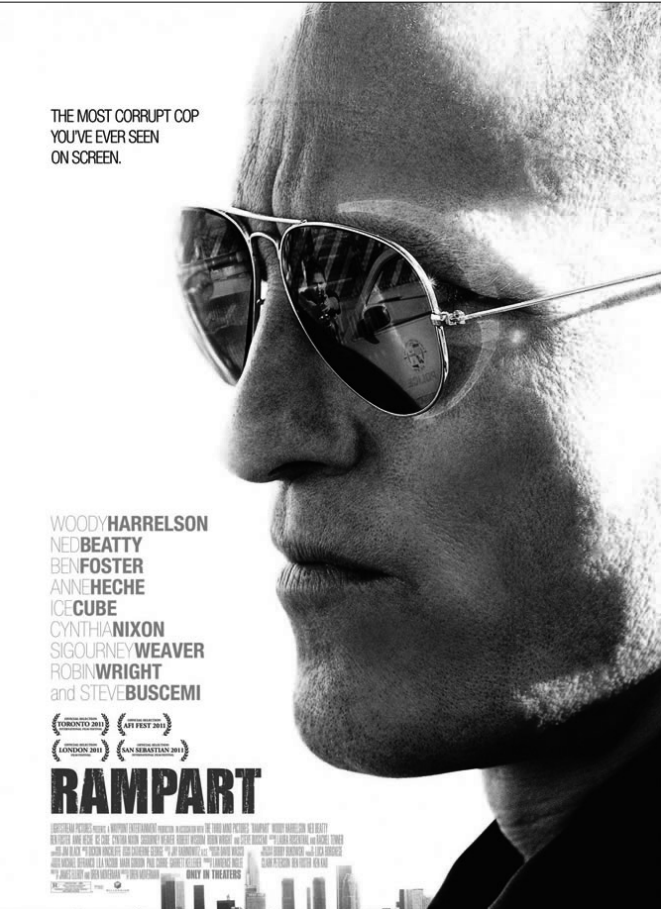
Wednesday, Dec. 28
Women’s Basketball vs. Thomas
More College in Las Vegas, Nevada at 9 a.m. Pacific time.

Thursday, Dec. 29
Men’s Basketball at Macalester
College at 7:30 p.m.

Women’s Basketball vs. Carthage
College in Las Vegas, Nevada at 9
a.m. Pacific time.

Saturday, Dec. 31
Men’s Basketball at University of
Sioux Falls at 6 p.m.

Harrelson gives riveting, fleshed-out performance



Woody Harrelson is a multi-dimensional actor who brings his “A” game in this new film. Set in the late 1990s, Dave Brown, played by Harrelson, is a part of the Rampart division that is trying to figure out a scandal from years ago that involves Brown, by possibly proving that he is a crooked cop.

With this taking over his life he must also face the struggles of his alcoholism, his family and his two daughters. He lives with both of his ex-wives that in fact are sisters, while trying to be as good of a father as he can be. His exes see through his words and soon his daughters do, too. Brown is used to being able to bend the law but is having troubles getting away from the rules in his family life.

Soon we learn Brown is more defunct than first shown and everyone seems



Dustyn Dubuque
Reviewer

to know it, but can’t prove it. He comes across crass yet always knows what to say to get him out of trouble.

Using his words to get out of every situation, we follow his life during these times. Trying to get his name cleared from a shooting, assault and drug tampering, Brown begins to take over his life and his life of being a cop seems to be dwindling. Brown is nothing without his job and will do anything to keep it.

Harrelson is great and is supported by a great cast including Ben Foster, Sigourney Weaver, Ice Cube and Steve Buscemi. Ice Cube plays an FBI agent who knows all of Browns

lies while trying to get a confession for a crime from his as an ultimatum so Brown doesn’t get convicted for everything he has done. The more stress that piles onto Brown, the more he drinks. This makes his downward spiral seem even worse through his eyes.

“Rampart” is a character study, falling in line with the style of many Oscar contenders. Often times in movies like this we get an ending that seems to come out of nowhere, leaving the audience to wonder or make their own assumptions of what happened to the character.

I am usually fine with endings that, if done right can be better than most conclusions. Yet, “Rampart” does not fit that category as the ending seems to come in right as the third act is beginning. Right as you feel the beginning of the conclusion is starting, the

credits role and you are left puzzled.

Even with this shortcoming “Rampart” is very good film that is made even better by character that is developed by Harrelson. An Oscar nomination could be in the future for Woody with this role as he again proves that he can do almost anything on screen.

Harrelson has had a good past few years with such films as “Zombieland,” “The Messenger,” and “Transsiberian.” Even with these accomplishments “Rampart” stretches Harrelson for everything he has as an actor, creating a superb performance that helps make “Rampart” one of the better films of 2011.

Dustyn is a history major and geography minor that has a love and passion for film. He watches over 100 films each year and loves Academy Awards season.

Muddled, confusing plot holds back otherwise strong film

Secrets and information are probably more dangerous than any conventional weapon. In the political world, there’s nothing more powerful than having dirt on the right people, and J. Edgar Hoover wrote the book on it, then promptly shredded it.

Director Clint Eastwood tries his hand at capturing just what made Hoover such a fascinating person in “J. Edgar” with the help of some incredibly strong performances. Sadly, the narrative structure doesn’t do the insanely interesting subject matter any favors. If anything, the non-linear set-up, which leaves multiple narrative threads for audiences to keep up with and sort out is the biggest factor that holds “J. Edgar” back from being a great film.

Leonardo DiCaprio turns in a stunning performance as the titular creator of the FBI, and champion of forensic science, from his early 20s until the day he died. There are moments when the age make-up and prosthetics



Chris Rohling
Reviewer

can be eerie and even off-putting, but DiCaprio fights through it and still manages to convey every subtle emotion necessary to play one of the most powerful men in American history.

From his calculated, but nervous movements to his speech patterns, which range from methodical and spirited speeches to Congress to the nervous near-stammering of a man trying too hard to control everything around him, DiCaprio gives a completely believable portrait of a multi-faceted titan of history.

All historical bio-pics deal with the difficult task of choosing which parts of a person’s character to illuminate and spend time with on screen, but Eastwood and screenwriter Dustin Lance Blank, (best known for his

Oscar-winning script for 2008’s “Milk”) had an extra wrench thrown into the system due to longstanding rumors that Hoover was a closeted homosexual and crossdresser. “J. Edgar” uses that particular thread as part of its story in an interesting way, and I can say that Hoover’s relationship with Clyde Tolson, an FBI agent played by Armie Hammer of “The Social Network” fame, is fascinating. This relationship forms the cornerstone of the movie and fits in perfectly with the themes of deception that Eastwood is playing with throughout the film.

Hammer is one of the finest up-and-coming actors in Hollywood and he’s in top form here as Hoover’s confidant and No. 2 man. There’s a scene near the climax of “J. Edgar” where Hammer really shines as emotions finally boil over. Later in the film, Hammer plays Tolson in the wake of a stroke with the care and attention to detail that only a devoted actor can show. It’s really something else. It’s a shame the

age make-up is as much of a problem as it is for DiCaprio.

While the acting in “J. Edgar” is top notch, the disjointed story kills a lot of the momentum and ends up making the film feel like a collection of short stories rather than a fully fleshed-out narrative. Usually, Eastwood is a master storyteller with a vice-like grip on his narrative. Maybe he became too entrenched in trying to portray Hoover in a realistic manner and let the threads of the story get away from him. While “J. Edgar” lacks cohesion, it does a wonderful job of painting a portrait of a historical figure and showcasing both the positive and negative aspects of his character.

“J. Edgar” may be a slight misstep in the long and lustrous career of Eastwood, but it is still worth a watch just to see multiple actors at the top of their game.



Chris is a journalism major with a passion for sturteiling in almost every medium. He edits the Etcetera section of the Student Voice, engineers Falcon 411 and writes for GuerrillaGeek.com.

Bring some holiday cheer to your life with these cookie tips, tricks

Let’s face it, as wonderful as the holidays are, they can be extremely stressful! Often you get tied up with shopping, wrapping, Christmas card writing, decorating and cleaning. The Chicago Sun Times on Dec. 5 said, “A poll conducted by the American Psychological Association showed eight out of 10 Americans anticipate heightened stress during the holidays.” Many feel



Brittney Pfenning-Wendt
Columnist

they have no time to enjoy one of the season’s greatest activities: baking Christmas cookies. With so much to do, it’s often tossed aside in despair; however I challenge you to give it a chance. Baking Christmas cookies can actually act as a stress reliever caused by the aroma of baking spices (cinnamon and nutmeg for example)

that are known for inducing happiness. Baking cookies are one of the few items on your to-do list that you can easily accomplish early with minimal hassle. By keeping the following tips in mind you can get your entire Christmas cookie baking done early, leaving plenty of time for last minute holiday shopping.

The first step is the planning process. Simply write out a list of what events you all need to bake for. These can be as big as a family-get together or as simple as a little stash of your own to fill your holiday cookie jar. Whatever the case, write it down. Next to each event place an estimated amount of cookies you’d like to bake for the occasion. You can estimate this by figuring about two cookies per person if there will be other food served. You can stick with one recipe, but it’s nice to have a little variety so I’d recommend two types.

Now you can get to the fun part: browsing through all of those delicious looking Christmas cookie cookbooks. Ask relatives for recommended recipes, search online, or pick up a few special edition magazines filled with Christmas cookie recipes. Pay at-

tention to the ingredients and the preparation while choosing a recipe. When baking for many events you will want to choose recipes that have a simple preparation, accessible ingredients, and appeal on a plate or packaged in a cookie tin. It’s all about keeping your event in mind. A recipe may sound delicious, interesting and unique, but if it takes more time than you have available or is messy to eat, then it’s probably not your best candidate. Pick one you feel confident and comfortable making and presenting to your family and friends.

A great advantage of getting Christmas cookie baking done early is from the assurance you’ll be able to get all the necessary ingredients. Making a list allows you to see which ingredients you will need ahead of time.

As for the baking part there are a few things you’ll want to know when you are baking cookies early: their freezer life and shelf life. This will help you decide which cookies to bake first (knowing you’ll be able to freeze them well versus the ones you’ll have to bake the day of or before the event). The dough for buttery cookies (chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal, and spritz), freeze great. All

you need to do is prepare the dough as directed on the recipe, then use a melon baller or ice cream scoop to round the dough into balls, placing them evenly on a parchment lined cookie sheet and freezing until hard.

Once the dough balls are hard, you can seal them in an airtight container and freeze them for up to 12 weeks.

I recommend labeling the bags with the type of cookie and the oven baking temperature. As soon as you want to bake them just let them defrost for about 10 minutes on the cookie sheet while the oven preheats and you’re all set to go. Other cookies freeze well after being baked. Some common ones are tassies, which are a cream cheese and butter based cookie that are filled with a variety of fillings including pecans, chocolate, jams, and meringues. These can be baked, packaged, and froze easily between wax paper in a sturdy container. I want to note, however, if any of your cookies call for frosting or decorating with powdered sugar, it is best to do this after they have defrosted. The frosting and powdered sugar do not freeze and defrost well.

Peanut Butter Blossoms
1/2 c. butter flavored shortening
1/2 c. creamy peanut butter
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. sugar
1 large egg
2 Tbs. milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 3/4 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
About 48 Brach’s milk chocolate stars or Hershey’s kisses

- 1.Preheat oven to 375°F
- 2.Cream the shortening, peanut butter, brown sugar, and sugar. Add the egg, milk, and vanilla. Beat well.
- 3.Sift flour, baking soda, and salt in a separate bowl and then add to the creamed mixture. Beat this on low speed until stiff dough forms.
- 4.Shape the dough into 1” balls. Roll them in sugar and place 2” apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 min. or until golden brown.
- 5.Immediately place a chocolate star or unwrapped kiss in the center top of each cookie, pressing it down until the top edges of the cookie start to crack. Remove them from the cookie sheet to cool completely.

CHECK OUT COACH'S SAT & SUN

FOOTBALL SPECIALS

Watch all the Games on our Multiple Hi-Def TVs & the BIGGEST Projection Screen Around!

BIG TEN NETWORK

NFL TICKET

DAILY SPECIALS

MON

40c WINGS

TUES

FREE TACO BAR (w/ DRINK PURCHASE)

WED

AYCE PASTA - \$6.99

THUR

\$1 BURGERS (w/ DRINK PURCHASE)

FRI

AYCE FISH / SHRIMP - \$8.99

SAT/SUN

STOP IN FOR STUDENT SPECIALS!

COACH'S

Bar & Grill

RIVER FALLS, WI

HOME OF THE 2 FOR 1

Daily: 4-6pm & 10pm-1am

Locally Owned

f

HOURS: Sun-Thurs. 11 am-2 am, Fri. & Sat. 11 am-2:30 am

127 SOUTH MAIN

(715) 629-7423

ET0309211

HUDSON

CEC Theatres

Since 1953

12 THEATRE

520 STAGELINE ROAD • HUDSON, WISCONSIN

NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK

PLAY DATES 12/16 THRU 12/20

Alvin & the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G)

Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows (PG-13)

Give the Gift of Entertainment

Theatre gift cards available at the box office or online at www.cectheatres.com

Movie Hotline 715-386-9697 www.cectheatres.com

GENERAL ADMISSION

CHILDREN (6-12)

MATINEES (ALL SHOWS PRIOR TO 6PM)

3D UPGRADE

\$8.00

\$4.00

\$6.00

\$2.50

ET0309211

Presenting the UWRF class of fall ‘11

Agness, Katherine Lee Ahern, Wendy Sue Aho, Amy Beth Allcox, Beth A. Anderson, Aaron William Anderson, Allison Rae Anderson, Jason Charles Anderson, Kimberly Beryl Anderson, Melissa Jo Anderson, Samuel Ryan Ashleson, Mary Beth Asp, Stacy Michelle Ausderau, Nikki Marie Bachmann, Kayla Marie Bachmeier, Abby Mae Badrol Hisham, Nur Shuhada Barker, Andrew John Bauer, Crystal Lea Becker, Christopher Allen Behnk, Kellie Elizabeth Beighley, Trenton Boone Beining, Leslie Ann Belt, Jessica Lynn Benzschawel, Marie Elizabet Bergstrom, Alana Rae Berrey, Mindy Rae Naef Besch, Laura Marie Best, Lori Roxanne Bjurstrom, Melanie Lyn Blomquist, Melvin C. Bloom, Lisa Ann Bodenner, Zachary J. Bonine, Brittany Marie Bork, Molly Marie Bothe, Jennifer Lynn Bowker, Jeffrey Alan Boyea, Amanda Marie Braemer, Jacqueline Kay Breitenfeldt, Amanda Marie Brion, Elizabeth Brown, Hubert Jeffrey Brown, Stephanie Ann Brunn, Sean Thomas Bruvold, Lynn Mackenzie Bukoskey, Nicholas James Burke, Tracy Marie Burnett, Taylor Paul Butterbrodt, Mitchell Robert Bye, Sara Mae Candler, Melissa Carol Carlini, Joe Gregry Carlsen, Anthony Steven Carlson, Chelsea Mae Carstensen, Andrew Warren Casa De Calvo, Christin Mari Cesare, Danielle Nicole Cho, Young Myoung Christenson, Andrew David Christenson, Bobbi Ann Church, Megan Elizabeth Clark, Genevieve Marie Clarkson, Christopher Gerald Clevenger, Danielle N. Conroy, Samantha Rose Conway, Martha Krassin Cook, Alicia M. Cook, Crague Eric Coughlin, Kathryn Ann Crane, Tracy Marie Craner, Nolan Michael Cruz, Jose S. Dahl, Lucy Alison Dahms, Stacey Lynn Daniels, Emelia Hope Dashow, Jennifer Ellen Daymond, Jordan Virgil De La Torre, Lizeht DeMaster Larson, Kathleen Derner, Nicholas Allen DeRosier, Gwendolyn Jean	Dettmann, Andrea Jean Doro, Jacob Matthew Dubuque, Dustyn Terrance Durnford, Kyla J. Dusek, Emily Jane Duvor, Emmanuel Dynan, Matthew Joseph Eck, Emily Elizabeth Ekern, Erin Ruth Ellingworth, Kayla Sue Ellingworth, Rick Engen, Jesse E. Engh, Ashley Marie England, Victor James Ensrud, Mark Alan Entringer, Nicholas Edward Erickson, Breanna Mae Erickson, Luke Thomas Erickson, Rachel Erin Ernst, Alissa Danielle Eversman, Laura Elizabeth Eze, Nene Cynthia Faust, Jeffrey Steven Feld, Christopher David Fenske, Kate Ellen Fenske, Megan Mary Finley, Benjamin Robert Fischer, Joe Flandrick, Marissa June Flatum, Jordan Kelly Foley, Donald Thomas Follendorf, Eric William Forrest, Stephanie Jo Fox, Tiffany Lynn Friedges, Andrew Joseph Fritz, Jenna Ann Gaffy, Monica Sue Gamroth, Rachael Ann Gander, Michael David Ganske, Joseph Randall Gappa, Julie Kay Gausmann, Shad Earl Gebhard, Rachel George, Melinda Sue Germain, Jeanne C. Germain, Scarlett Leigh Geving, Hope Adriane Gieske, Kyrsten Sara Gilbertson, Kalli Marie Gilewski, Jennifer Ann (Riva) Gilewski, Mark Leonard Gjerning, Katelyn Leigh Goldmann, Rebecca Lynn Gonzalez-Medina, Silvia Car Gould, Seth Michael Grahek, Allison Rose Grant, Levi Thomas Groettum, Kelly Josephine Gross, Michael William Groth, Carrie Lynn Gruber, Anneleisa Marie Guenther, Lindsey Ann Gunderson, Grant Gregory Haag, Chloe Jean Haase, Amanda Agnes Habeck, Katie Beth Hacken, Elizabeth Lisa Hadfield, Michael Richard Hall, Morgan Ferrell Hallin, Tiffany Lynn Hamann, Lucas Lee Hanna, Scott Lee Hansen, Linzi Margaret Hanson, Gretchen M. Hare, Hans Eric Hartung, George C. Hartwig, Bradley Robert Hase, Amber Lee Haubenschild, Derek Paul Heeg, Michelle Renee	Henk, Jordan Glen Hoag, Sandi Jeanne Hodge, Andrea Grace Hodorowski, Kelly Ann Hogeboom, Katharine Ann Holdvogt, Daniel Andrew Holmquist, Michael Dennis Horne, Anita Kay Huber, Harrison Meyer Hubin-Barrows, Dylan Charles Huot, Robert Will Huppert, Holly Ann Huseby, April Michelle Hutchins, Corinne Lynn Hyser, Stephanie Susan Ihrke, Lyndsey L. Ito, Satomi Jacobs, Aaron Alan Johnson Jacobsen, Ellen Rose Jagodzinski, Mae Kathryn Jaworski, Maria Angelina Jelen, Jessie M. Jens, Erin Elizabeth Jensen, Angela Kristina Jirele, Andrew John Mehdi Johannsen, Alexandra Ann Johannsen, Anna Louise Johannsen, Shaina Lynn Johnson, Elizabeth A. Johnson, Jennifer Lea Johnson, Mary Christina Johnson, Michelle Elise Johnson, Rona Janelle Johnson, Sean T. Johnston, Jay William Joy, HannaMaria Angel Cherish Joyce, Molly E. Jury, Amanda Kay Kamata, Marina Kaminski, Samantha Lee Katzman, Samantha Marie Kavina, Sierra Sage Keniston, Rebecca Ann Kepulis, Kathryn Jo Kerr, Alexander Clifford Kerttula, Erin Katherine Kiedrowski, Jenna Marie Kiefer, Candace D. King, Deenah Marie King, Justin Michael King, Nathan Michael King, Sharon M. Kinneman, Brady Kenneth Kitzhaber, Nicole Lauren Kjeseth, Jason M. Kleppe, John Carl Klinkhammer, Lindsey Rae Knudsen, Ashley Kathleen Korir, Nathan Kipng’etich Kostuch, Janae Frances Krueger, Kristin Ann Kozel, Stacia Aileen Krultz, Jennifer Dawn Krutzig, Jana Marie Kusilek, Joanna Marie Kuyoth, Jacquelynn Mary La Valley, Brett Ian Laing, Michelle Marie Langer, Justin Robert Landauer, Jordan Matthew Lansverk, Eryn Lindsay Lardie, Tess Elizabeth Larson, Eric Paul Larson, Samantha Marie Larson, Nicole Marie Larson, Robin D. Larson, Micheal Wayne Lechner, Cameo Beth LeClaire, Cassandra Han Leis, Jennifer Ashley	Lemon, Levi James Lengyel, Thomas Ward Lenius, Hannah May Leonard, Michael William Lewis, John Richard Limpert, Joseph Alexander Lindenberg, Cory Louis Linder, Anna Lynn Lipps, Heather LaVonne Slett Loewenhagen, Kayla Marie Litchy, Alicia June Lisowe, Lindsay Joan Lofgren, Megan Teresia Lombardo, Amanda Emilie Low, Michael Scott Luedtke, Christopher Michael Lussenden, Kara Meta Lyon, Janae Mercedes Maeda, Hitomi Malisheski, Jason V. Mallek, Kristine A. Mallmann, Jordan Thomas Malm, Nicole Amy Marich, Steven Lee Marquardt, Allison Patricia Marsh, Beth Lee Martin, Heather Lyn Martin, Isaac Daniel Matschull, Joseph David Matt, Jaclyn Lea Maybrey, Jeremy L. McCollum, Josh Michael McConnell, Scott P. McKay, Matthew Steven Mckenzie, Amanda Mae McKenzie, Hannah Meyer, Anthony James Meyer, Lori N. Meyer, Sarah Lynn Mikish, Rachel Alexis Mileski, Justyn Patrick Mitchell, Matthew Harold Mobley, Matthew Benjamin Moeller, Katherine Michele Moga, Beth Lea Mohamed, Marwa F. Monahan, Thomas David Monson, Adam Joseph Monson, Lee Phillip Moravec, Andy William Moris, Rachel Mary Mueller, James Michael Mulhollam, Cory Eugene Myre, Maggie Anne Nelson, Chelsea Marie Nelson, Jacob Duane Nelson, Joseph Steven Nelson, Paul Alan Nette, Derek Richard Nielsen, Margaret Ann Noble, Jacob Avery Nordvall, Sarah Kristine Norman, Dustin Wayne Nylen, Breton John O’Brien, Candis Mare Odden, Jacob Luane Odendahl, Mark Henry Oduori, Gilbert Asembo O’flanagan, Molly Ruth Ohmann, Jennifer Rebecca Oian, Erin Elizabeth Oian, Martin Courtney Ollig, Loreen Marie Olson, Heidi Jean Olson, Jessica Rose Olson, Michael Paul Oss, Jeanne Marie Ostrom, Nicole Elizabeth Ousley, Nancy Patten, Alexander Scott	Pavek, Allysia Pederson, Abby Rose Peissig, Whitney Susan Perkel, Shelley Lynn Perry, Jess Michael Peterkin, Brenna E. Peters, Bethany Nicole Peters, Megan Lea Peters, Nathan Scott Peterson, Andrew Robert Peterson, Charles David Piontek, Dustin Samuel Poff, Amanda Sue Polonec, Lori Ann Prew, William Robert Prokosch, Kyle Martin Quinlan, Bradley Thomas Quinn, Brenna Alison Radke, Jessica Ann Ramsey, Catherine Marie Rausch, Chelsie Nichole Reardon, Kerynda Tope Rehmke, Jaclyn Marie Reinhart, Melinda Sue Rengo, Kevin James Rezarch, Eric Jon Riley, Nathan Glen Robinson, Erin Elizabeth Robole, Donna M Rohde, Allison Rebecca Roman-Jimenez, Claudia Graciela Ronnerud, Kristin J. Rose, Steven Beckley Rosene, Wade Myron Rosenholm, Jaclyn Nicole Rowan, Tara Jane Roycraft, Benjamin R. Rukamp, Christine Angela Rykal, Chad Saeger, Stephanie Ruth Saggu, Kiranjit Kaur Salter, Erin Elizabeth Sanford, Christopher Dean Sawall, Sandra C (Kirchner) Scanlan, Kyra Patrice Schaar, Cody Lee Schaffer, Kyle Robert Schamaun, Kristin Elizabeth Schammel, Jordan Patrick Scheele, Kelsey Lauren Schep, Holly Jo Schlagenhaft, Jaclyn Merry Schleifer, Brittany Rose Schlinsog, Juliana Marie Schlosser, Courtney Jane Schlossin, Rachael Kaye Schmitz, Stefanie Catherine Schmolke, Richard Peter Schoenecker, Jessica Marie Schommer, Nick A. Schousek, Theresa Jean Schramke, Katelyn Susanna Schreiber, Kelly M. Schuerman, Bethany Ann Schultz, Lisa Marie Schulz, Seth Allen Schwartz, Aaron Patrick Serum, Eric Michael Severson, Steven P. Sigsworth, Brittney Nicole Skerven, Kathleen Marie Slick, Kyle Bradley Smith, Kristi Sue Smith, Meredith Clay Smith, Molly Jean Snyder, Nicole D. Solum, Kayla Marie Solum, Richard Gale Sonnek, Laura Renee Spencer, Travis John	Standaert, Jonathan William Stauner, Nathan Andrew Steinke, Jennifer Lee Stener, Kerri Jo Storholm, Daniel Jon Strande, Jon Eric Stromath, Shawn Stryhn, Jennifer Studenski, Kalina Louise Studt, Hannah Grace Suchla, Sarah Jeannine Sumser, Adam Loren Susa, Sandra A. Swiecichowski, Thomas John Szytura, Matt Steven Tapper, Melissa Ann Taysom, Laura Jeanette Thompson, Darcy Annette Tetzlaff, Brenda Kay Thomas, Alison April Thompson, Adam Michael Thompson, Rachel Ann Thompson, Ryan Lee Tjoflat, Hannah Elizabeth Torning, Martha Braathen Torntore, Erin C. Torres, Danae Elizabeth Tourville, Ronald G Tsuru, Naomi Turner, Alisoun Marie Turner, Matthew Lee Umentum, Kristi Anne Usset, Caitlin Jean Vail, Derrick Tilton Van Dyk, Peter William Van Ort, Kristen Marie Vanderstappen, Marty Thomas Vinar, Benjamin Patrick Vang, Ka Vikstrom, Bailey Lynne Vircks, Cherie Joy Vossekuihl, Lisa M.S. Wachter, Elias Homer Wagner, Samantha Renee Wahlin, Joshua Donald Watson, Derek Michael Weber, Brian Thomas Weber, Julie Marie Weegman, Julia Lynn Wegner, Shannon Elizabeth Wels, Gerald Wels, Whisper Wencl, Jenny Lynn Wendinger, Katie Ann Wensel, Elizabeth Ella Whittaker, Ankquinet Lashay Wilebski, Rachel Blake Will, Desirae Betty Willie, Duane E. Wilson, Carly Brianne Wilson, Erin L. Wojcik, Beth Marie Woods, Heidi Marie Yang, See You Ying, Yi-Shuan Yokoo, Minori Yost, Jessica Lynn Young, Katie Anne Zastrow, Kayla M. Zastrow, Samantha Marie Zeleny, Nikki Jo Zimmerman, Christina Marie Zimmerman, Kenneth Michael Zupfer, Jessica Bernice Zwiefelhofer, Brianna Kay
---	---	---	---	---	--

Final voyage explores hidden wonders of island state

Wow, this semester has gone by really fast! Just like any fun cruise, all good things must come to an end. As I said last time, I’ll be picking two ports that I’ve yet to visit. While I’ve been to Hawaii, I’ve never been there on a cruise. In fact, Hawaii was the last pre-cruise vacation I took nearly 11 years ago. For most people, Hawaii (along with Alaska) is one of the last states to visit due to geographical distance. For me, they were among the first. No matter when you get here, Hawaii is truly a land of paradise. So let’s begin to explore this uncharted territory together, specifically Hilo on the Big Island and the island of Kauai.

The Hawaiian Islands were spotted by British

Michael Leonard

Columnist

Captain James Cook in 1778. He was originally looking for the Northwest Passage, naming Hawaii “The Sandwich Islands.” Hawaii became a united kingdom under King Kamehameha in 1810. Hawaii is one of four states—along with Vermont, Texas and California—to be independent prior to statehood. Along with Texas, Hawaii also received diplomatic recognition internationally. In all, eight monarchs—seven kings and one queen—ruled the kingdom until 1893, when a group of

Americans and Europeans led a coup against Queen Liliuokalani. The monarchy was abolished, and it paved the way for annexation to the United States in 1898. Everyone remembers the day that lives in infamy—the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. It was also the same location of the Japanese surrender four years later. Hawaii was set to be admitted to the union in January 1959, but it was postponed because President Eisenhower was in Alaska, accepting them into the union. It might have been a good thing for the delay—“Hawaii Four-Nine” doesn’t make for a catchy TV title. If you go to Hawaii, don’t be surprised if all Hawaiian words sound the same. Their alphabet consists of only 13 letters: the five vowels plus H, K, L, M, N, P, W and the

“okina” (seen as an apostrophe). Some letters were dropped to limit redundancy of sounds, while other letters were dropped in memory of a deceased monarch.

First, here are some highlights to include on your trip to Hilo. For history, visit the Pacific Tsunami Museum. A threat for the islands, tsunamis are a common occurrence. Hilo is home to the only tsunami museum in the state. There are survivors on hand to share their experiences, in addition to photos and artifacts collected. There is an exhibit where you can create a tsunami firsthand, and learn the science behind this natural disaster. Hawaii is notorious for volcanoes, and the Big Island is home to three of the largest ones: Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Kilauea. Guided tours will

take you to see lava oozing into the Pacific. There are two gardens dedicated to the last two monarchs: King Kalakaua and Liliuokalani. Also, no visit to Hilo is complete without visiting a mix of white and black sand beaches.

Now, let’s change islands to Kauai. Kauai is known as “The Garden Island” for its lush rainforest and botanical gardens. It’s more of a quiet place to relax, but there are plenty of activities to do. Snorkeling is among the best in the state, particularly along the Na Pali Coast on the northwest side. Although it’s not accessible by car, the clear crystal blue water provides excellent opportunities to see some sea life. If you’re a hiker, visit Waimea Canyon, the state’s version of the Grand Canyon.

Further along is the Spouting Horn, where the high waves meet the lava rocks, shooting water as high as 50 feet into the air! Of course, if you feel like being lazy, head up to the North Shore for some beachcombing.

I hope you’ve enjoyed this tour of some of the greatest ports in the world. My best advice to you is this: if you have an opportunity to study abroad, take it! Be it J-Term or a semester, you will learn so much and see a lot of interesting, memorable sights—sometimes even more than in a classroom. Although it’s time for me to disembark the college cruise ship, I wish you all a successful, fun journey here at UW-River Falls. Let me say “Mahalo,” or thank you for reading my column. Farewell!

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter at

www.twitter.com/uwrvoice

Tune in to

88.7 FM WRFW