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STUDENT VOICE

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Graduates released in improved job market



Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services, interacts with students who are preparing to graduate and enter the job market through her position. The students she meets will vary from students who are graduating that semester, to freshmen who are planning ahead for their futures.

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Employers who have been surveyed have indicated that they will be hiring 10.2 percent more college graduates than in the year 2011, according to The National Association of Colleges and Employers. With graduation only weeks away, soon-to-be graduates have been facing the challenges of finding and securing a job after receiving their degree.

Employers are looking for college graduates that are team players and who have strong verbal communication skills, according to respondents to the NACE job out-

look 2012 survey. “What is so critical in the job search process is maintaining a polished and professional presence throughout the job search,” said UW-River Falls Career Services Director Melissa Wilson.

UWRF does not begin the majority of data collection for the post-graduate employment survey until about six months after commencement, according to Wilson.

“It takes time to collect the data. Therefore, data on the current graduating class would not be available for months after a student has graduated,” Wilson wrote in an email.

Graduating senior and

marketing communications major, Morgan Czekalski has been searching for jobs since March and has not yet found a job in her field.

“I feel that some professors have given us a false sense of what we should be looking for fresh out of college,” Czekalski said.

Czekalski has been using the website Hire a Falcon in her search for a full-time position, as well as uploading her resume to the site for Career Services to pass on to various companies.

“Although it’s typical for college grads to have a large number of resumes out, I am still worried about not finding a job,” Czekalski said. “It

seems as though every company wants experienced candidates, but nobody wants to give experience.”

Career Services does not directly place students in jobs, according to Wilson. They provide students and alumni with the tools and training necessary to be successful in the job search process.

“Daily throughout the year we meet with clients and provide feedback on their job application materials such as their resume and cover letter,” Wilson wrote in an email. “There are also other events geared to educating students

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Sally King/Student Voice
The Union requested a meeting with Chancellor Dean Van Galen (above) to come up with proposals to change the campus by organizing campus personnel.

Union suggests campus changes

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The UW-River Falls Faculty Union wants to improve the campus climate in regards to budget cuts, lowered morale, hired staff and faculty along with an increase in class size.

The union has issued a proposal to the administration that focuses on improving the results of budget cuts and morale.

According to a press release, Kurt Leichtle, president of the union, said that the proposal covers issues like lowering of faculty salaries and positions unfilled as a result of professors retiring or leaving the University.

If there are no faculty hired for lost positions or willing to teach at the University because of the issues surrounding budget cuts, a direct affect on students will be seen.

“Our department has been forced to go every other year with some classes because of no resources available,” Kerry Keen, professor of environmental science and geology said. “This leads to not a very good educational experience because of limited resources.”

There could be classes cut or classes will have an in-

crease of students, which will limit the amount of classes available and ultimately not allow students to graduate on time.

“When you do that in programs, it is more difficult for students to finish in four years,” Keen said.

This has been the new trend that programs and departments throughout campus have been adopting to work around budget cuts and retired faculty.

At the beginning of this spring semester, Joseph Harboub, the then vice chancellor of administration and finance, said that the University has vacancies in departments that the University does not want to fill which will affect the services students receive.

In a department like English, this is not favorable. Soon to be retired English Department Chair Laura Zlogar said that teachers are stretched enough as it is, with no extra room.

The Modern Language Association and the ADE states that teachers should only be teaching three composition courses per term with 15 or less students. In the English department this year, there

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Focus on U campus TV show incorporates many students

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If you are looking for a show that has entertainment mixed with news, the campus based media show Focus on U might be the thing for you. Focus on U is a variety/talk show that is taped live with pre-taped segments which range from informational to fictitious. Focus on U is taped on campus at UW-River Falls in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

“We’ve had people do segments on current affairs and local events, to basically short films and comedic sketches,” said Axel Sunstrom, a student at the University and executive producer of the show. “We have had guests on to talk about upcoming events many times, and continue to do so.”

A lot of the guests come from campus and around

town like the mayor and the city engineer who talked about the road construction. There have also been guests from the Twin Cities including Twin Cities Live’s John Hanson, and people from all over the country. A few semesters ago the show had some independent producers from National Geographic. There were also some musical talents from around the area.

“We are important to the campus in many ways,” Sunstrom said. “As a media outlet, we have had a lot of important guests on our show to share information with the rest of the campus.” There have been a lot of guests from all sorts of places and have many different views of the world.

The show is also a means of promotion for local and school wide events, such as UWRF theater production,

charity events and more. Student involvement is encouraged when it comes to putting the show together.

“What I think the most important aspect of our show is though, is student participation,” said Sunstrom. “We are a student org, and are open at all times to new members.”

Anyone on campus has the ability to broadcast his or her ideas. People can come and produce their own segments on whatever subject they feel passionate about. If students don’t know how to work a camera or edit footage, they will be helped through the process. It is an opportunity for students to create something important and learn new skills and have fun at the same time. There are also other ways for students to get involved.

“To get involved, just come

See Focus page 3



Maggie Sokoloski/Student Voice
Unity in the Community was hosted at UW-River Falls to connect the community to the campus through various events. Some of these events included a campus wide picnic, an egg roll sale, and tables displayed in the University Center’s Falcon’s Nest by a variety of different groups in the community. There was also an art display to celebrate the event.

SALSA strives to create a sustainable campus

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UW-River Falls has close to 200 student organizations. One started this year is SALSA, which stands for Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture.

President Bethany Gapinski is a junior majoring in crop and soil science, sustainable agriculture option. She said she started the group because of her major and existing groups were for conventional majors, with nothing about sustainable agriculture.

“The idea is to host speakers, show films, volunteer in the community, have dreams on campus and a student farm to have food to sell to dining services,” Gapinski said.

Junior Jabez Meulmans who is co-founder and vice-president with Gapinski, said the organization’s purpose is to promote principles and practices of sustainability in agriculture.

“So far we have attended multiple sustainable agriculture conferences such as the MOSES Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wis., and Student Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture (SISA) in Appleton, Wis.

Gapinski went to the MOSES conferences where there were over 35,000 participants. The group went to different workshops and spent the weekend there.

The group’s advisor Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing said she got involved because she has worked a lot with sustainable agriculture as an Extension Specialist in Illinois.

“Advising and encouraging students to participate is one of

my passions. Our club officers have been really great at coordinating activities in the short time of the club’s existence,” Ortiz-Rivving said.

The group is participating in Go Kids Day, which is a national organization that works with local communities, contributing to the sustainability of communities by strengthening local business and giving to local schools. According to the Go Kids Day Network website, “Go Kids Day Network contributes to the sustainability of communities by strengthening local business, giving to local schools and causes, and supporting local environmental conservation.” The network supports communities through their buy local, give local services.

Gapinski said there are currently 80 businesses in River Falls participating and SALSA hopes to be part of it one day. As a fundraiser, the group is selling Go Max Cards for \$5 each.

The cards support local merchants and coupons are available with them online. All of the profit from each card purchased goes to SALSA. Cards can be used through the end of June and then can be renewed, Ortiz-Rivving said.

The group wants to expose students to sustainable and local agriculture while promoting sustainability on campus. They meet every other Monday in room 330 in the Agriculture Science building, advisor Veronica Justen said.

“Our main goal for the future is to establish a student-run organic garden on campus where students can get hands-on educational experience growing healthy, sustainable food,” Meulemans said.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department

- April 16**
- The rear window on a vehicle was reported broken at the W lot.
- April 17**
- Alyssa Jee Anderson reported her wallet stolen at the Nelson Center.
 - Patricia Bailey Zimprich reported her camera stolen at the Nelson Center.
- April 19**
- Disorderly conduct by four male students was reported at the Chalmer Davee library.
- April 21**
- Vandalism in the form of wall graffiti was reported between the second and third floors at Grimm Hall.

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

News briefs

RADD Jazz presents ‘Universal Language VIII’ at UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls RADD Jazz Series presents “Universal Language VIII,” an annual program that explores a synthesis of jazz, improvised music, and indigenous folk music from throughout the world, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 in the Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

The concert features the UWRF Jazz Ensemble, directed by David Milne, and features guest artist Babatunde Lea, master drummer/percussionist.

Babatunde Lea’s vast experience of more than 50 years as a master percussionist, as well as the spiritual depth and resonance he brings to everything he does, has made him one of the most esteemed musicians of the past half century. Babatunde has performed and recorded with a wide range of artists. Babatunde serves as Program/Artistic Director for The Educultural Foundation, a California 501(c)3 educational non-profit organization, dedicated to facilitating critical thinking about social and cultural issues through music, the visual and performing arts, narrative and dialogue. Babatunde has served as a performer, instructor and artist-in-residence in a wide range of educational settings, including Gettysburg College, Santa Rosa Community College, Sonoma State University, California State University, University of California-Berkeley, and the Healdsburg Jazz Festival.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information or accommodations, call 715-425-4444 or visit <http://www.babatundelea.com/>.

Changes come to tuition billing statements

UW-River Falls tuition ebilling statements are now available from the billing statement link in the finances section of your eSIS student center. There are several changes. Statements will always show total charges and payments by term instead of monthly transactions. There is a new pending aid link in the finances of your eSIS student center; pending aid will no longer be printed on the billing statement. Current billing statements will no longer be available in eSIS QuikPAY.

Please provide your authorized payers with billing information until further notice. New ebilling statement access for authorized payers should be available later this year. Authorized payers will continue to see current balances and can make online payments in eSIS QuikPAY until further notice.

More ebilling information is available from the tutorials link on the eSIS login page. Contact Student Billing & Financial Aid at billing.finaid@uwrf.edu .

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, April 27
to win two free movie tickets to the
Falls Theater.

Survey reveals campus limitations for disabled



Jessie Behrman/Student Voice

Senior social work class toured the UWRF campus determining how well the University meets disability indusivity.

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The UW-River Falls 2012 senior social work class surveyed the campus and how disability friendly it is or is not.

The class is doing this survey as a follow-up on a previous survey done in 2003 by the then senior social class, which found campus to be limiting, social work professor Nora Bedard said.

“Mainly, we have signs all over saying we’re an all inclusive campus, and then there’s these limitations,” Bedard said.

The class from 2003 had a checklist for each building on campus and specific lists for the access into the building, interior building access and the bathrooms. The 2012 class used the same checklist and found little to no improvements since 2003.

Social Work major Erin Bachaus focused on buildings Hagestad Hall and the Karges Center.

“The most significant issue found in both buildings were the lack of signage pointing out the handicapped accessible entrances, brail on doorways and elevators,” Bachaus said.

The class found signage to be one of the biggest issues and the most affordable solution with a significant change.

“We have a lot more suggestions but we know they’re expensive so we’re looking to do this which would be the biggest change, some things aren’t as easy like bathroom stalls being remodeled,” senior Brianna Waldvogel said.

According to Bedard, the class used an average measurement for wheelchairs and went around measuring 26 inches of

width on the ramps into buildings, into classrooms, bathrooms and bathroom stalls and found obstacles in many situations. Some buildings such as North Hall have bathrooms on every other floor and the single elevator is on the other side of the building.

The checklist shows other things looked at were: handles on faucets, is toilet paper reachable, accessible doorway powered, height of water fountains and telephones and signs marked in Braille.

Waldvogel said signage is their main focus at this point, and that they are simply nonexistent on buildings.

“I focused on Centennial Science Hall. Something our class found as a whole that would be the biggest change and the least amount of money is signage,” Walkdogel said.

The class has made a goal list of immediate priorities and future goals. Another large issue found was the size of bathroom stalls.

“We’re hoping to actually make a change this time, because people don’t realize it’s a problem and we didn’t either until we thought about it. We want to improve the students’ and visitors’ experience on campus,” Bachaus said.

The class is graduating this spring so until then they’re simply trying to raise awareness and get the project undergoing. Their hopes are to get the University and student organizations involved.

“We’re raising awareness, submitting the survey results to someone with the University and getting student organizations involved. A small change can make a difference,” Waldvogel said.

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Donation to CHILd Center gives music to children

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Children at the C.H.I.L.D Center and University Pre-school at UW-River Falls are benefitting from a large donation of money for the purchase of new instruments for advanced learning.

“During music, when you get to play music with the instruments, that’s what I like to do,” said Cecilia, a 4-year-old from the Center.

The purchase of the new instruments for the center would have not been possible if not for Hilree Jean Hamilton and her husband, Kyle Brokken. They donated a total of \$20,000 to both the childcare centers and the music education department.

The donation to the music education department totaled \$5,000 and the two donations to the childcare centers were \$7,500 each.

The children at the center are able to have new instruments to play with and continue their music lessons with Camilla Horne, lecturer of music at UWRF, because of the large donation.

“You have to listen to her rules,” said 4-year-old Cooper. “If you don’t listen she takes your instrument away until you do.”

Miss Horne, as the children call her, volunteers her time to teach the children about music. She teaches them things such as rhythm, beats and melodies.

“She tells us to be patient because you have to wait your turn,” said Genevieve, a 5-year-old at the center. “She says to put it [instrument] down in front and put it in your lap.”

The center has an activities area for the children to participate in music time, where there are a few shelves for the instruments and a stack of musical books that the children were eager to show each other.

The new addition to the center also includes outdoor musical instruments. These instruments are designed to be outdoors and withstand weather conditions.

The children are able to take the attached mallets or

music sticks and hit the hal-lowed out wood, pipes or metal chimes to create a musical sound.

“I like all of them,” said Zoe, a 4-year-old.

Zoe and her 5-year-old friend Ellie were enthusiastic about playing the instruments when their pre-kindergarten teacher, Amy Norelius asked them what their favorite instruments were.

“We play the instruments,” Ellie said.

Miss Horne is a music education professor who volunteers her time to teach the children about the different aspects of music because she believes that it is an important part in child development.

“From birth to age nine, kids are music sponges,” Horne said.

In order to progress the children’s cognitive development, music theory and musical patterns are taught to the children through the use of music and listening skills.

One activity that Horne did with the children was give them each a drum and have

them play a sound of a word on it. Horne used words like apple and watched the children catch on quickly and enthusiastically to the idea of playing the syllables that they heard spoken.

“What I’m trying to get them to be aware of is everything has a sound and pattern,” Horne said.

There is a greater chance of children to become top of their class because of early musical development according to many research studies said Horne. The way this will work though, is if the musical development continues on through elementary school-aged levels.

“Any participation in music will help in cognitive development in education such as their test scores,” Horne said. “Scores have shown an increase in the ACT or SAT of students who grew up learning music.”

Norelius has been a childcare teacher for 13 years and has worked in many different environments teaching children.

“This is the most intense musical programs I’ve experienced,” Norelius said. “Music comes natural to them and helps with their math and language skills.”

Minda Matthys is the director of the C.H.I.L.D Center and said that the new musical instruments are very appreciated and much needed for the children.

“We are blessed with a lot of great items,” Matthys said. “We even have instruments for the infants.”

Hamilton was a music professor at UWRF and was the one who first started to give the children of the care centers music lessons. She taught music lessons to the childcare center children for several years according to her husband.

Hamilton was diagnosed with cancer in November 2008 and went through treatment until 2010 when it came back. Doctors gave Hamilton one month to live but she survived one year until she died in January 2011.

In the event of the cancer returning, her and her husband, Kyle Brokken, set

aside three different donation funds for the two childcare centers and the music education department at UWRF.

“She was a little kid inside and had a real appreciation for music and children and what ties the students together,” Brokken said.

Because of her health, Hamilton wanted to keep her work going by giving back to the children who gave her so much throughout the years.

“Hilree believed that music helps develop social skills, self esteem and self confidence and togetherness among children,” Brokken said. “She wanted them to feel good about themselves and their abilities.”

The condition of the instruments the two childcare centers had was rough and was in need of replacement. Brokken said that he asked for the help of Horne to purchase the instruments the children would need.

“Hilree was a strong and dedicated woman, she definitely lived her job and loved it,” Brokken said.

Union: Proposed ideas presented to administration in upcoming meeting

From page 1

are teachers teaching four composition courses per term that have 25 or more students.

“We try to work around that and hire new people,” Keen said. “We are down three people so there is a hodge-podge of hiring and covering classes.”

There are some sections of economics that are taught by adjunct teachers who are part-time.

“Teaching methods and technology changes,” Schultz said. “It is harder to read the overall sense of how well students respond in lectures in larger classes.”

One-on-one time with stu-

dents and extra help is difficult for a professor to achieve in with a large class, Schultz said.

There is the idea of office hours where students can come visit and talk about problems with an assignment or points brought up in class.

“There are office times so I can go talk to them if I need

to,” Melissa Van Grinsven, an English major said.

Other than class size, there are issues pertaining to salary and benefits for faculty and staff in the proposal presented to the administration. The union will meet with the administration and talk to them about the proposal and await their approval on it.

Employment: Job options improved in comparison to previous years

From page 1

on how to successfully navigate the job search.”

Graduating senior Maranda Mahr was recently offered and accepted a position at the

Homecoming events,” Mahr wrote in an email. “Due to my involvement on campus with Falcon Programs and my internship abroad I had the skill set to qualify for the job.”

Mahr started looking for

jobs this semester by networking with others while continually searching job sites.

“I learned a lot in class but it was my involvement outside the classroom that prepared me for my position,” Mahr said.

Knowing what you want in a position and continuing to look for jobs that excite you are important to finding a job in your desired field, said Mahr.

“Know yourself and your

strengths and how you can use them in your career,” Mahr said. “It is easy to sell yourself in an interview when you have the skill set and passion for the position.”

Focus: Students direct campus show

From page 1

to our meetings,” said Ben Perez, a student at the University and director of the show. “In our meetings we brainstorm about the content of the upcoming shows and critique and comment on our previous shows and that’s how we get better.”

Meetings are held every week on Tuesdays and Thurs-

days at 4:45 p.m. in room 112 at the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

“We urge people out there to watch the show, and to support campus media,” Perez said. “It’s on channel 119 on campus and 19 out of campus at 9 a.m. 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.”

The spring finale of the show will be taped live in the Falcon’s Nest on May 8 at 7 p.m. Doors will be opening

up at 6:30 p.m. There will be games, prizes and a performance by musical guest Bad Habits Brass (formerly Ghetto Falsetto). For more information about Focus on U or about how to get involved students can contact Erik Johnson, faculty advisor of the show, at erik.johnson@uwrf.edu or Ben Perez at Benjamin.perez@my.uwrf.edu)

McNair scholars aim for academic careers

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As graduation draws nearer for University of Wisconsin-River Falls students, a handful has decided to continue with their education. Sixteen of the graduates are from the McNair program.

Graduate school is the next step for Grace Adofoli, a psychology major at the University. She has completed two research projects while at the University and a large one titled, “Distance learning, Gender, and Equity in African Higher Education: A comparative Study of Selected West African Countries of Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal.” She has previously attended Cornell University to work on the research and has been afforded the opportunity to travel to the African coast.

Adofoli, originally from Ghana, is the first in her family to attend college.

“I knew I wanted to get my Masters or PhD. With a higher education like a PhD, I feel I can go above and beyond and make a bigger difference.” Adofoli’s accomplishments here at the University, were made possible with the help of the McNair Scholars program in the Academic Success Center, which has been the launching point for her graduate school aspira-

tions.

Njia Lawrence-Porter, McNair director, has been with the program since 2005.

“Earning a PhD is something that most first-generation students who did not grow up in a household or family where parents have gone to college, never imagine themselves being able to achieve such an accomplishment,” Lawrence-Porter said.

According to a study published in USA Today, only 11 percent of first generation students are projected to graduate college with a bachelor’s degree as compared to the 55 percent of nn first generation college students. The number that go on to graduate school is even less.

Like Student Support services, McNair Scholars helps students who are first generation, low income students continue with their education.

McNair Scholars program is one that students must apply to be accepted into on campus. Each year about 15 undergrad students are taken for two years and groomed with intensive mentoring, seminars and summer internships. The program also comes with a number of benefits for the scholars: they have their graduate school fees waived, national and regional options for summer

research, and faculty mentors and eligibility for graduate fellowships and assistantships of up to \$25,000/year. The result: a student fully prepared for graduate school.

“It becomes a way for students to set up for the next step in their lives. McNair helps those who are natural intellectuals, those who are always curious and always learning become confident and work towards their Ph.D,” said Lawrence-Porter.

Since she has been enrolled, Adofoli has had many doors opened for her. The McNair funding has allowed her to give presentations on her research, not only in River Falls to the University’s chancellor and provost, but also at Penn State last fall.

“Because of funding from McNair, a lot of the scholars travel and get a full experience and at the same get the chance to see the work you need to put forth into graduate work,” says Adofoli.

With the semester coming to a close, those students in McNair are preparing to move forward with their education, while keeping Lawrence-Porter’s advice in their minds: “Imagination is limited by exposure.” They are aiming for new heights and are taking what they have learned to the next stop on their journey.

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EDITORIALS

New Strategic Plan revealed

Over the course of the last year, UW-River Falls students, faculty, staff and community members from the St. Croix Valley area have come together to develop the University’s next five-year Strategic Plan, “Pathway to Distinction.” Strategic planning determines where an organization is going over the next year or more, how it’s going to get there and how it’ll know if it got there or not.

The Strategic Plan celebration was held Thursday, April 26 in the Ballroom at the University Center. The event featured displays, activities and a film all highlighting strengths UWRF possesses in areas related to the plan’s three goals: distinctive academic excellence, global education and engagement, and innovation and partnerships.

According to UWRF’s 2011 Strategic Plan update, the previous 2007-2012 Strategic Plan “Living the Promise” was a comprehensive and broadly supported strategic plan that aimed at enhancing our culture of learning as well as developing an infrastructure capable of supporting the University in order to meet every type of challenge. “Living the Promise” guided the University through significant fiscal challenges and a number of changes in leadership and personnel. Having a Strategic Plan has meant that the University could continue to make progress despite external threats and internal changes.

The framework followed in creating “Pathway to Distinction” involved first coming up with a vision statement as well as a mission statement, completing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunity, threats) and an external environmental scan, formulating and implementing the strategy, and later evaluation of the strategy following implementation.

Several initiatives have been proposed as part of “Pathway to Distinction” and were voted on by the Faculty Senate on Feb. 29. One approved initiative involves developing a full-semester education abroad program in Central and South America called the International Travelling Classroom—Central America/South America. Another approved initiative involves the addition of the “Global Scholar Certificate” credential onto every UWRF students DAR, which would hopefully encourage more students to develop internationally. An approved initiative entitled “Sustainability Incubator” aims to place even greater distinction on UWRF as an incubator for sustainability efforts.

These initiatives are available on UWRF’s Strategic Plan website. For questions or concerns regarding any of the initiatives, email StrategicPlanningGroup@uwrf.edu or submit to the feedback page on the Strategic Plan website.

Successful strategic planning is fundamental to ensuring UWRF’s future. We want to be on the “Pathway to Distinction,” not extinction.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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David Recine/Student Voice

Letters to the Editor

Displeasure over repeal of Equal Pay Enforcement Act

About the time Republicans were calling the “war on women” a liberal fantasy, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker quietly penned his signature on Senate Bill 202 which repeals the Equal Pay Enforcement Act. This occurred on April 5. The law that Walker axed provided legal recourse for women who have been paid less than men for equal work.

The Equal Pay Enforcement Act, passed in 2009, was designed to discourage employers from discriminating against women and other groups by providing workers with more options by which they can press charges. For example, it allows individuals to sue in more affordable and accessible state circuit courts rather than federal courts.

Walker and Republicans in the state legislature thought it was a bad idea. Republican State Senator Glenn Grothman who championed the legislation defended the repeal of the Equal Pay Enforcement Act saying, “You could argue that money is more important for men.”

Comedy Central’s Stephen Colbert suggested this hot tip. “If you’re going to sue your employer for unequal pay, hire a lady lawyer-much cheaper!”

On a recent campaign trip through Wisconsin, Republican Presidential contender Mitt Romney repeatedly praised Walker’s leadership, calling him a “hero” and a “man of courage.” Perhaps this explains why a recent ABC News/ Washington Post poll showed that Romney trails President Obama 38 percent to 57 percent among registered women voters.

Harlen Menk
Ellsworth, Wis.

Candidate spirit offers a gratifying tone in politics

I’m writing in support of Wisconsin State Senator Kathleen Vinehout in the race for governor. I first met Vinehout a few years ago when she co-sponsored the Healthy Wisconsin bill, which would have provided affordable health care coverage to everyone in our state. Unfortunately, that bill did not pass the legislature, and Wisconsin missed its chance to put in place a truly effective (and cost-effective) program that would have led the nation.

Vinehout is a true advocate for the people, as passionate in her pursuit of fairness and justice as the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota. (Those who have not yet heard her speak can find several examples of her stirring eloquence on Youtube.)

Vinehout genuinely likes and cares about her constituents, and has the potential to become one of the best-loved governors in Wisconsin’s history. While capable of tough-minded policymaking, she displays the warmth, compassion and people skills needed to repair the economic and social damage inflicted by the reckless Walker administration.

In a memorable address this past Labor Day in Eau Claire, Vinehout corrected Walker’s narrow slogan “Open for Business” to the more generous and inclusive “Open for Everyone.” That is the spirit we desperately need to regain after a year and a half of divisive political warfare.

No matter which side of the partisan divide we stand on, we should consider that unless someone willing and able to restore open and transparent government in Wisconsin wins the governor’s seat, our bitterness and acrimony will only deepen.

I believe that Vinehout is the candidate with sufficient good will, intelligence, integrity and energy to bring us together again as a state and as a people. I will vote for her in the May 8 primary.

Thomas R. Smith
River Falls, Wis.

The Student Voice spring 2012 staff



From left: Assistant Editor Kara Johnson, Editor Ashley Goettl, Etcetera Editor Benjamin Lamers, Viewpoints Editor Arianna Schultz, Front Page Editor Rebecca Rudolph, Chief Photographer Sally King, News Editor Brittney Pfenning-Wendt and Sports Editor Ashley Hall.

We want to thank you for a great semester!

Rachel Responds: Graduates ask for job advice



Rachel Woodman
Columnist

Marketing Communications Senior, Samantha Wickland asks: “Where can I find inexpensive professional clothes for jobs once I graduate? How many people are getting jobs?”

Getting a degree is hard work. After spending years toiling away with your nose in books and butt parked behind a computer it’s important to make it count. Why do people want a degree? To hang on their wall? No, they want a career to hang that bad boy on.

There are careers available. Marketing students have job opportunities in today’s market. In a December 2011 marketing degree career outlook report, on ehow.com, Bridgette Austin shared Bureau of Labor Statistics results.

Marketing professionals entering the work force between 2008 and 2018 are expected to see a 12 percent increase in available jobs. An increase in advertising, promotions, public relations and sales management is expected to increase 13 percent.

So graduates have jobs available that rock. But everyone knows there are more job seekers then there are jobs available. The 2011 graduating class moved back in with their parents. Well, approximately 85 percent did, according to a study conducted by Twentysomething Inc.

Just because jobs for marketing professionals are on the upswing doesn’t guarantee you a job once the diploma hits your hand. That’s why it’s important to be prepared. Professional gear is one of a few easy ways to give yourself a

competitive advantage.

It’s important to make a good first impression on employers and, therefore, personality and professionalism is critical. But, so is what you wear.

Men have a standard set of rules for interviews. Long sleeves, dress pants, nice dress shoes and groomed hair. For women it’s a bit more complex.

Women shouldn’t wear too much makeup, show too much skin, wear sleeveless shirts or dresses, wear open-toed shoes, or look too trendy, according to Leah Bourne, writer for Forbes.com.

Dressing to impress involves conveying a sense of professionalism. You’re not trying to win a fashion show. It’s important that your clothes enhance your words and experience and don’t detract from (or cloud-over) what you represent.

Looking showy is a turn-off to employers but dressing too inexpensively makes you look desperate for the job. Conveying a look that looks more expensive can have an impact on what salary you’re offered.

Bourne recommends mixing low-cost basics with higher-cost signature pieces. Buy your dress pants, blazers, vests, shirts and skirts at Maurices, Forever 21, H&M and Gordon’s. Spend the bigger bucks on a nice scarf, heels, jewelry, and purse.

However, what you wear has no impact on how you look on paper. When trying to stand out from other applicants make sure that you know what you’re looking for. Don’t write your resume with general information, focus it.

Guardianjobs recommends tailoring your experience to the job you’re specifically applying for. Sometimes your previous work or experience won’t be similar to the work you’d be doing where you are applying.

Don’t let this stop you. Analyze the similarities and ex-

plain what skills you have that would apply. Make yourself relevant.

If you’re overqualified explain why you want the job. Otherwise you may not get hired because they’ll be afraid you’ll leave for something better. Be sure you specify why you are interested in the job to abate their fears.

Do your research on the company. If you don’t know who they are how can you be sure you want to work there? More importantly, how the heck are they going to believe you want to work there?

Be focused and professional. Don’t get bitter about the jobs you didn’t get, keep your head up and use every opportunity to network. More people met equals more opportunities found.

Before graduating attend your campus’s job fairs, interview workshops, professional wear seminars, and any other relevant programs. Most are free or low cost and the information you’ll gain is invaluable.

If you have the knowledge of a professional, talk like a professional and dress like a professional, you will be regarded as a professional.

Happy hunting.

Thanks for the question, Samantha. All readers are invited to submit questions, concerns or quandaries to questionsfor-rachel@live.com. Any and every topic is encouraged. Let me know what you want me to write about in the next issue of the Student Voice. Don't forget to like "Rachel Responds" on Facebook and follow "RachelResponds" on Twitter.

Rachel is a senior majoring in marketing communications and minoring in journalism. She loves to work hard, play hard and use cliches.

Exhilarating, affordable activities for summer vacation



Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

After sitting inside all winter and staring outside at the cold, dreary day, there’s nothing better to think about other than whether the snow will

melt, the sun will warm up the weather, and the flowers will bloom. Well, fortunately, the time is finally here.

It is almost the season of summer. The warm weather returning this week is a reminder to us all that the schoolwork will come to a stop for three months and that spring and summer weather can finally be taken advantage of instead of stressing about assignments.

One problem that people face while trying to find something fun to do is the money they will have to pay. Fortunately, there are numerous summer activities available that are free or very cheap.

One fun way to enjoy the warm summer weather is by taking a walk or jog. It is a great way to keep up with your exercise regime and gets you outside. Whether you do it around your neighborhood or around the town, it is an activity that everyone can do and something you can do at your

own pace for free. It can be done along or with a friend, and that is why it is such a flexible activity. If you are bored this summer, get out of your house for a while and take a walk.

Another activity that I particularly enjoy during the summer months is bike riding. I take many bike rides with my family on the beautiful trails up by my cabin. Bike riding is also a flexible activity, as you can do it alone or with friends and at your own pace.

It is a good work out especially for your legs, because going uphill on a bike requires speed and strength. Another fun activity to do while taking a bike ride is biking to the park and having a picnic. I know it sounds childish but it is a fun way to cure boredom on an uneventful day.

Is there a public beach near where you live? That is a fun way to spend your time. Most public beaches are free to go to, and there are a lot of activities that you can do. Swimming, boating, making a sand castle or just hanging out with friends or family, to name just a few.

On a particularly sunny day, going to the beach for a few hours is a great way to play a game or just relax. Going to the beach is a way to remember to put on sunscreen while going outdoors. Getting a sunburn is an unfortunate misfortune among all the fun summer activities.

Fortunately, there are numerous summer activities available that are free or are very cheap.

For every summer since I was just two years old, I remember traveling for two and a half hours to Alexandria, Minn., to my cabin on the beautiful Lake Ida. My family is very lucky to have such a nice, fun place to go to every single year.

Going up to a cabin in the summer is a perfect getaway with your family and friends. There are many activities to do up at a cabin, such swimming and boating in the lake, fishing, and at night, there are bonfires.

Many students at the high school and college age commonly have bonfires in order to get together. Bonfires are one of the most common social gatherings during a summer evening.

With only two and a half weeks left of spring semester, it is nearly time to start making plans for the warm summer months. If you don’t want to spend much money, keep in mind these and numerous other free summer activities that you can do to pass the time. Good luck on finals and have a wonderful summer.

Cristin is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

STUDENT VOICES

What do you do to prepare for finals?



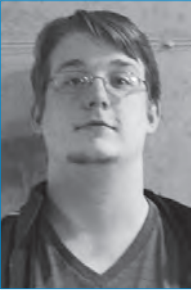
Danny Carlson, junior

“As less stress as possible. Stress will freak you out. I realize it’s not the end of the world.”



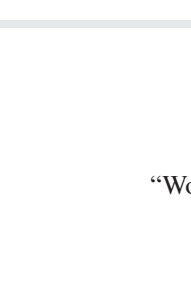
Dee Subasic, freshman

“Get to bed earlier.”



Colin Benidt, junior

“Study, get work done on time.”



Risa Ahlgren, sophomore

“Work ahead on projects. Constantly study.”

Expand your thinking:

Students encouraged to live within their means



Jaime Haines
Columnist

In America, it is the norm to have large debts in the form of loans or credit card bills. After all, our entire society revolves around the idea that more is better. People constantly want more: more money, more time, more stuff.

They also want better: better cars, better jobs, better clothes. However, this insatiable desire to have more only results in Americans living lives that are unsustainable and ironically empty. People can fix this by learning to live within their means.

Living within one’s means involves only having what one can afford and it is essential to cultivating contentment in life. With huge debts and the incessant desire for more, many find it impossible to feel relaxed or satisfied.

When life’s expenditures are equivalent to what one earns, unexpected expenses like a broken-down car can throw the balance out of order and make it very difficult to meet the rest of the bills. These unbudgeted-for problems, in addition to large sums of debt or loans, cause financial stress which consumes an individual and strips the enjoyment from day-to-day life.

The primary driving force for Americans to want more is the constant stream of messages from society that more is better. After all, telling people to be happy with what they have does not earn businesses money or push people to work endlessly for promotions.

Take the time to realize that this mindset is very Americanized and centers around people perpetually feeling dissatisfied. Then refuse to indulge in such a shallow, materialistic mindset and remember that wealth is not accurately shown through the amount and expensiveness of items owned.

In reality, wealth is a loving family and a sustainable life; they are far more important and fulfilling than physical items. Despite society’s messages masking this truth, people must learn to redefine their perceptions of wealth and resist comparing themselves to others. Wealth is felt with the heart, not seen by the eyes.

In reality, wealth is a loving family and a sustainable life; they are far more important and fulfilling than physical items.

Once people recognize the need to begin living within their means, doing so is a simple matter of habit changing. An easy place to start is to avoid credit and debit cards. Use cash for daily purchases and checks for bill payment.

This makes money feel more real and makes monitoring it simpler. Similarly, minimize loans.

Work a few extra hours to reduce the amount of the loan needing to be taken out, apply for more scholarships, and develop cheaper daily habits. These small differences will greatly affect the size of loans being taken out for school.

In regards to lifestyle changes, simply spend less. When you find yourself wanting something, search for free methods of acquiring it. Check local libraries for books and movies. Go to your residence hall’s front desk for cooking supplies, movies, and games. Ask friends about borrowing clothes or other items.

If a free method does not exist, question how badly you actually need the item. If you truly need it, then search for cheap ways of acquiring it. Search local thrift stores, craigslist, newspaper ads, or eBay. If that still does not work, scour sales and compare prices to ensure the best rate for your purchase.

In addition to lessening your acquisition of material goods, also lessen daily or weekly expenditures by finding free or cheaper alternatives. Some of these habits can be stopped entirely- I promise, you do not actually need caffeine no matter what you may believe to the contrary.

Other costs can be substituted for. Instead of going to the Hudson Theatre, go to the River Falls theatre for \$3, borrow a movie for free, or find a new activity altogether. Also search other lifestyle changes such as walking or biking instead of driving. Soon, spending money will stop being a habit and you will find that you really do not need to spend much at all to be happy.

While there will be times when a loan is necessary (such as for fundamentals like college or a house), do your best to minimize the loan by reducing other expenses and finding loan amounts that you can comfortably pay off in a reasonable amount of time. Remember, before spending, always ask yourself: is there a cheaper alternative?

Jaime is an exuberant puppy-lover and “House” addict. She plans to use her psychology degree to encourage activism and well-being through counseling, workshops, speeches and the written word.

Ponick excels for track and field

Trevor Jones
trevor.jones@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls track and field senior Becky Ponick has come a long way since having shoulder surgery during her sophomore year of college. She currently owns the fourth best mark in all of Division III in her main event, the javelin throw.

Ponick qualified for the national meet in javelin in her freshman season and placed 12th. Then, in her sophomore year, Ponick tore the posterior labrum in her shoulder. She attributes the injury to overuse from playing volleyball and throwing the javelin. She said it has taken her two to three years to recover from that injury.

The Stanley, Wis., native made the All-WIAC First Team as a junior but failed to qualify for the national meet. This year, she says her goals are much higher now that she is the No. 4 javelin thrower. One of those goals is to become an All-American, which means placing in the top eight at the national meet.

“Nationals is a whole ‘nother world,

you have to be able to show up and throw. You can have an off day and hope that nationals isn’t your off day,” Ponick said.

The senior captain also said that winning a national championship is not beyond her reach.

“I think it’s definitely a possibility. It’s attainable but I still have a lot of work to do,” Ponick said.

Ponick’s head coach, Aaron Decker, also said that a national championship is achievable.

“Any given Sunday. The national championship title is the most consistent, the most comfortable, relaxed thrower the day of,” Decker said. “If she is relaxed, comfortable, and stable physically, she’s got a chance at it.”

Decker said that has changed for the better since he first met her.

“I know she is a lot more experienced. She has a lot more control over her emotions and over her body. She’s a little more patient than she was last year,” Decker said. “A lot of kids when you first get them, they think they know how they should be doing things. Becky was open to new motions of throwing, which helped her get better. She knows there is still room for more which is the best part about it, she’s hungry.”

Ponick is not all about herself though. Decker said that Ponick came to him and asked if she could participate in more events so that she could get points for the team in the WIAC Championship meet.

“I want to push my other teammates. It’s not just an individual sport, it’s also a team sport,” Ponick said.

Ponick will compete in the Drake Relays that take place at Drake University from April 25 to the 28. It is an elite, qualify-only meet that takes the top 30 athletes at each event. The meet features athletes from Division I, II and III, and the current American record holder in the javelin will be competing as well. Ponick said she is excited about her chance to compete against the best.

“I just want to go there and have fun and throw well. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity. It’s going to be an awesome experience,” Ponick said.

Alicia Carlson/
Student Voice

Becky Ponick is a field event track athlete who has broken several WIAC and Falcon records. Ponick has qualified for national meets since her freshman year. Ponick is working towards a national championship for this season. Her coach and teammates agree that Ponick has a high chance of achieving this milestone in her track and field career at UW-River Falls. Ponick’s next competition will be at Drake University where she participates in the Drake Relays. The event takes only the top 30 athletes for each event and is considered a very elite event.



Athletes of the week



Pitcher of the week

Rose Tusa pitched well for the Falcons in all six games the team played last week. Tusa finished 2-1 with a 1.83 ERA. She pitched in every game and finished the week with 30.2 innings pitched. She started five games and had one complete game.



Player of the week

Second baseman Hayley Buchanan was one of the team’s top players in six WIAC games last week. Buchanan led the Falcons with a .480 average going 12-25. She had three doubles and knocked in three runs.



Runner of the week

Jordan Crockett had a solid race in the 100 at the Phil Esten Challenge meet at UW-La Crosse on Friday, April 20. Crockett won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.79.



Field athlete of the week

Clai Catto performed well for the Falcons at the Warrior Open on Saturday, April 21 in Winona, Minn. Catto won the high jump competition with a leap of 6-8.75.

Sports media blamed for conflicts



Ryan Tibbitts
Columnist

As an aspiring young sports journalist something that has me hot under the collar lately is how athletes and coaches do not always respect the media.

I think everyone can admit that sometimes the media takes a story overboard and tries to make something out of nothing, but their job is to give the news.

If it happens to be a slow news day and an athlete posts something on Twitter that they meant to be harmless, the media might make it something bigger.

It is the athlete’s responsibility to know that whatever they post on Twitter or say in front of the press could be taken in any way and that they need to be careful.

There have been many cases of an athlete’s tweet being made into a story by the sports media, but one recent one caught my attention that showed me how disrespectful some athletes are starting to get toward the media.

Pittsburgh Steelers star safety, Ryan Clark, posted a tweet saying he did not respect former Greg Williams’ players who are now confessing about the bounty scandal.

Ryan Clark is a former Greg Williams player and by posting this, it made him look real suspicious to everyone who saw his tweet.

Ryan Clark went on the ESPN show “First Take” and blamed sports journalist Skip Bayless for always making a story out of nothing and trying to make him look bad.

Clark said all he was saying is that the players got involved in the bounty scandal so now it is too late for them to come out and start pointing fingers. Clark also denied ever being part of any bounty systems under Greg Williams.

Unfortunately, Clark was not done taking cheap shots. Later on in the week he went on “First Take” to defend his case.

He then took a cheap shot at long time sports reporter Stephen A. Smith when he said he could articulate and report better than Smith and he would look better doing it because he does not have a receding hairline.

Athletes like Clark who take cheap shots like this against sports reporters should be ashamed.

These athletes need to open up their eyes and realize that they would be nothing without sports reporters.

If it was not for ESPN and other channels covering their sports, no one would even know who they were.

They would not sell their jerseys and they would not receive the big luxury contracts that they receive now.

No one would care to come out and watch them play if they did not know who they were.

There needs to be an even balance between athletes, coaches, and reporters.

Athletes have to know that most of the time reporters want to report on the positive and create an image for the athletes that people will want to hear about and watch.

After a coach loses a game, of course he is going to need some time to cool down before he wants to answer rapid-fire questions.

It is the duty of the media to respect the athlete’s lives and know when not to cross the line.

One of the greatest coaches from Duke, Mike Krzyzewski, is never shown in a bad light.

All I have ever heard or seen when reporters talk about, “Coach K” is that he is one of the greatest.

Yet Coach K never talks to a reporter at halftime. I understand that he is in the coaching mindset and really into the game, but it literally takes 30 seconds to answer about three questions before going into the locker room.

He will always just send one of his assistants to answer the reporter.

In my opinion, this is a sign of disrespect for him to not even take 30 seconds to show the viewers and fans that he cares enough to talk to them.

I believe that the sports media does a good job of not trying to trash the reputation of athletes and coaches.

There needs to be respect given from both sides and when this happens, it creates viewing pleasure for every sports fan out there.

Ryan is a freshman majoring in journalism. He loves all sports but obsesses over the Packers.

Sports Events

Saturday, April 28
Men’s track and field at the St. Mary’s Open at 10:30 a.m.

Women’s track and field at the St. Mary’s Open at 10:30 a.m.

Women’s tennis vs. St. Mary’s at St. Catherine at 4 p.m.

Softball vs UW-La Crosse
Hit for Lupus Day
(doubleheader) at 2 p.m.

Women’s golf at the UW-Eau Claire Invitational TBD

Saturday, April 21
Softball vs UW-Platteville
Senior/Parents Day
(doubleheader) at 12 p.m.

Women’s golf at the UW-Eau Claire Invitational TBD

Tuesday, May 1
Softball at St. Mary’s University (doubleheader) at 4 p.m.

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Do you have something to say?

email the Voice

editor@uwrfvoice.com

‘Lockout’ doesn’t stand out from the crowd



Michael Brun
Reviewer

Man” thrown in for good measure. After the president’s daughter, played by Maggie Grace, is taken hostage aboard an orbiting prison satellite, ex-CIA operative Snow, played by Guy Pearce, has to blast into space to rescue her.

Sometimes you just feel like fast food. “Lockout” is the cinematic equivalent of a big, greasy cheeseburger—not of the highest quality, but a whole lot of fun.

From the mind of writer Luc Besson, the man behind “The Transporter” and “Taken,” “Lockout” is B-grade popcorn entertainment. There are no hidden meanings or philosophical ramblings here, just an hour and a half of juvenile humor and campy action.

The plot reads like a combination of “Die Hard” and “Escape from New York,” with bits of “Demolition

“Lockout” is the cinematic equivalent of a big, greasy cheeseburger—not of the highest quality, but a whole lot of fun.

Snow is an old school action hero—wisecracking and cynical, but wholly capable as a one-man army. Pearce channels a young Bruce Willis, blasting bad guys with insulting quips just as often as with bullets. His performance is a nostalgic throwback to a bygone era of action movies. Of course every good action movie needs a good villain. In “Lockout” that role

is shared by Vincent Regan and Joseph Gilgun, playing brothers who lead the inmates’ revolt. The former is a methodical



mastermind, while the latter is downright insane. They’re funny, sadistic and a perfect fit for this kind of movie.

Humor is at the forefront in “Lockout,” and the key to its success. Not a minute goes by without some kind of joke, be it a cheesy one-liner or situational gag. When the plot starts to stall out in the final act, it’s the humor that keeps things rolling.

The humor in “Lockout” is great, but it’s only half of the action/comedy formula, and ultimately it’s the action that trips it up.

First off, there are surprisingly few action scenes aboard the space prison. Save for a hilariously awful homage to the “Star Wars” Death Star trench assault, most of the movie features Pearce and Grace sneaking around to avoid conflict. It’s not boring by any means, but it’s also not the action extravaganza the previews would have you believe it to be.

Secondly, and even more damning, is the nauseating style in which the scarce action scenes are shot. Directors James Mather and Stephen

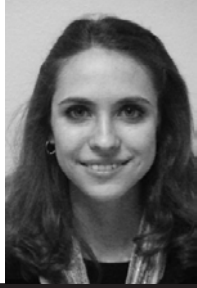
St. Leger use a combination of fast motion, shaky camera work and blurriness. The results look cheap, more like a low-budget video game than a theatrical release.

Further detracting from the overall experience is a confusing and altogether unnecessary subplot about Snow trying to clear his name after being wrongfully accused of treason. The foundation of “Lockout” is the concept of a prison riot in space. This idea is played out to its logical conclusion, complete with an appropriately absurd climax. But then the movie limps on for another 10 minutes, rushing to wrap up a storyline that never got off the ground in the first place.

Like a fast-food meal, “Lockout” is best enjoyed for the moment and without much thought. You might feel a bit sick at the end, but the temporary enjoyment is enough to satisfy your base cravings.

Michael is a journalism major with a minor in film studies. He is the host of Falcon 411, heard Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. on WRFW 88.7 FM.

Finding the right place to meet your studying needs



Brittney Pfenning-Wendt
Columnist

As the weeks wind down and finals draw nearer, it’s essential to find a place one can study efficiently. Preferences regarding study places vary tremendously from person to person so it’s important you identify yours.

Determine how susceptible to distractions you are. Some people require complete silence, while others actually benefit from background noise, such as conversation or music. Another thing to keep in mind is the amount of

time you are able to remain focused on a task at hand. If you need to take frequent breaks from your studying, you will want somewhere with plenty of space and other things to do during those breaks. With so many preference variances there is no one perfect study place for everyone. Even choosing an individual’s perfect place to study cannot be easily pinpointed; however, there are many options for you on and off campus.

Starting with on-campus locations that offer some great places to sit down and get some work done are the Chalmer Davee Library, University Center, study rooms,

and of course your dorm room. As I’m sure you’re familiar with these locations, you know each offer a great study place for a different reason. When it comes to off-campus locations you may

not be as familiar with the places available. They are numerous, but there are a specific few that serve as great places and offer a different type of atmosphere for each preference type. Closer to campus one could walk to the Kinni Falls. It provides a nice getaway

where you can enjoy plenty of fresh air, natural lighting, and nature while getting some work done. There are a few drawbacks you may want to keep in mind however. As it is outside you’ll have to pay close attention to the weather and be careful around the water. The River Falls Public Library offers a studying

Some people require complete silence, while others actually benefit from background noise, such as conversation or music.

atmosphere much like the Chalmer Davee, except off-campus so you don’t have to worry about running into too many distractions in the form of friends. Two more off-campus

locations really stuck out. These were the Dish and the Spoon café and Earth Angels coffeehouse. Besides both providing your daily intake of caffeine they have many other fine qualities to note.

The Dish and the Spoon provides bright light and has a large dining table in the back flanked by a tall bookshelf on one side. There’s plenty of room for your laptop, textbooks and notes. They also have outdoor seating for nice days if you prefer to study outside.

Earth Angels coffeehouse is unique in that they have live music certain evenings. On their website one can find a calendar outlining who is coming to play and when. Another neat thing they offer is various programs such as ‘Discovery U,’ a weekly

program where you can come and relax while exploring ways to lower stress and positively influence your life.

If music helps you focus while studying or you’re looking for more than just a coffeehouse, I’d recommend this location as they have plenty of tables and Wi-Fi making it a prime place to hit the books.

With so many options it’s important to determine your preference and then see which location meets those preferences. Take the quiz below if you want an idea of where to start in finding that perfect studying place for you.

Brittney is a business administration major with an emphasis in management. She also has a love of cooking and baking for people.

While Studying...

2=Yes! 1=Sometimes 0=No!

Using the scale above rate each of the statements below.

- 1. Any form of background noise is distracting.
- 2. I take frequent breaks.
- 3. I prefer to listen to music.
- 4. Having conversations in the background are enjoyable white noise.
- 5. Bright lighting is important.
- 6. Dim lighting is preferable.
- 7. Being surrounded by books helps me stay in the studying mood.
- 8. Coffee helps me maintain focus.
- 9. My friends distract me from studying.
- 10. I study best late at night.
- 11. I prefer to study outside.
- 12. I need to isolate myself while studying
- 13. Often times I need to use the printer

Results:

Place the number you rated each of the statements next to its corresponding number below. Add up your ratings in the last column next to the location. Whichever location ended up with the highest total is most likely the best place for you to study.

| | | | | | Locations and Totals |
|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. | 5. | 7. | 13. | 9. | Chalmer Davee/RFPL |
| 2. | 3. | 10. | 13. | 5. | Dorm Room |
| 1. | 5. | 10. | 12. | 13. | Study Room |
| 3. | 6. | 8. | 4. | 13. | U.C. |
| 3. | 4. | 6. | 8. | 9. | Earth Angels café |
| 4. | 8. | 9. | 5. | 3. | Dish and the Spoon café |
| 5. | 9. | 11. | 12. | 2. | Kinni falls |

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The books close on the 74th Student Senate

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The 74th session of the Student Association Student Senate has come to a close. With 106 motions considered this year, it was one of the most productive sessions to date according to former President Tyler Halverson.

“There were three major accomplishments this year in my opinion. The biggest was potentially the reform to our allocable funding system. The second is the success of the Reserve Ad Hoc (Super) Committee and the third being the new UW-River Falls spirit song,” said Halverson.

Since the first meeting of the 74th session on April 26, 2011 until the gavel was dropped concluding the Senate’s final meeting, the members really experienced everything.

The allocable funding system is something that has come before the Senate mul-

ti-ple times and attempts have been made to try and make the process easier. However, it was really this year that the system was finally reformed with now only one committee overseeing the process, one fee, one set of rules, and only one comprehensive allocable budget.

According to former Allocable Fees and Appropriations Board (AFAB) Chair Ben Blanchard, this reform is something that is going to make the job of the AFAB much easier and clearer for next year and in years to come.

The reserve accounts became a major area of concern for the Senate this year as it was feared the state would raid the accounts if they remained plentiful. Halverson made this issue a priority and pushed for ideas of ways to spend down the accounts.

A town hall meeting was held by the Super Commit-

tee and many of the ideas that came out of the discussion, along with others, were brought before the Senate.

One of the biggest allocations went towards the campus mall project and lighting the back path, something Halverson said has been a hot issue since he first served on Senate in 2007.

The dedication of the new UWRF spirit song, Our Chance to Fly, is an accomplishment that may not be so obvious to students and possibly seen as not really that important, but Halverson thinks otherwise.

“The song was played at the fall 2011 commencement and will continue to be played at commencement ceremonies in the future. It is really a leg-

acy thing, a way for Senate to say it helped to leave a mark.”

The spring semester brought many challenges before the Senate with budgeting, proposed segregated fee increases, and awareness of Senate for the elections. New Senate President Bobbi O’Brien said that many of the challenges were overcome because of the openness and willingness to discuss

issues.

“People really came out of their shells and spoke their minds. I was especially impressed with the process and discussion surrounding the segregated fee increases.”

UWRF Student Curtis Mishler believes that student senate is there for a reason and said that it really does have a great responsibility to

students whether they see it or not.

“I didn’t always follow the politics or what student senate was doing this semester very closely, but I know they were there to represent us and do what we as students would want.”

Emotions were high during the final meeting of the 74th session. Former Senator Jayne Dalton gave a short outgoing speech and while she talked it was obvious that many of the senators, both returning and outgoing, were sad that the year had to come to an end.

After Halverson gave his final speech as president, the inauguration of the new Senate began. The ceremony was put into place to give the process the more formal feel that it lacked in previous transitions.

“The inauguration ceremony makes it so much more special. It really made me feel the weight and importance of

my position,” O’Brien said.

After all was said and done, Halverson, who has been a part of Senate for five years, was asked what he will miss the most and what he feels he has accomplished.

“It really comes down to the responsibility. When I carry out my responsibilities on Senate I feel like a better person and that is what I will miss most,” said Halverson. “It has always been my goal to pursue policy that benefits the students of this University and as I exit, I can say that is exactly what I did.”

The 75th session of the Student Senate was called to order by O’Brien on April 24 and the new Senate has officially taken over representing the students of this University.



Brittany Flatten/Student Voice
New Student Senate President Bobbi O’Brien is sworn into office by outgoing president Tyler Halverson.



Brittany Flatten/Student Voice
Tyler Halverson pounds the gavel to begin his final meeting as the Student Senate President.

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