



BASKETBALL, PAGE 6
Women ready for season after losing three starters

DESTINATION, PAGE 2
Destination involvement faces decline as result of student financial struggles

FLIGHT, PAGE 7
Debate on drunk or hero ensues in film



STUDENT VOICE

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Barnett: ‘For when I am weak, then I am strong’ Despite charges of sexual assault, innocent professor stayed strong

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UW-River Falls music professor Thomas W. Barnett has had the best year of his 18-year marriage during a time that could have easily been his worst. Through faith, family and friends, Barnett is counting his blessings instead of cursing his circumstance.

“Last year brought our family together. It was the best and most peaceful, even though it was the scariest,” said Barnett.

On Aug. 15, 2011, Barnett took his 13-year-old son and a friend to a movie theatre in Hudson. During the movie, Barnett dosed off, and as he woke, he noticed two teenagers in the row behind him engaging in inappropriate activity.

“They were messing around,” Barnett said.

Following the movie, Barnett said, he approached them and told them that they were crazy, other people could see them, and besides there were other families with kids that may have seen them.

Little did he know this confrontation would change his life.

The next afternoon, the Hudson Police showed up at Barnett’s house. Barnett and his wife Chris were left perplexed about why they were there.

“We complied and answered the questions as best we could, but we quickly realized that I was the one under suspicion,” said Barnett.

It was on Aug. 16, 2011, when Barnett was accused of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl at the Hudson Theatre. Tom was detained for about a day by the Hudson Police and was later placed on paid administrative leave by UWRF.

Eight months later, a jury in the St. Croix County Circuit Court found Barnett not guilty of sexual assault and false imprisonment. If convicted, Barnett could have faced up to 50 years in prison.

“An \$8 nap turned into an eight-month nightmare for Tom and his family,” said Timothy O’Brien, Barnett’s attorney.

The criminal complaint stated that Barnett had touched the girl inappropriately.

While Barnett would have every reason to be angry and hurt, he found strength in his religious convictions.

The next eight months would be long and arduous for the Barnett family. A preliminary hearing held Oct. 4 was one of a dozen hearings of the lengthy process, and included testimony from the teenager, her former boyfriend and employees of the theatre. More than 30 days later, on Nov. 10, Barnett pleaded not guilty during the arraignment. Even though Barnett’s attorney asked Judge Eric Lundell for a speedy trial, Assistant District Attorney Francis Collins urged otherwise. The request was granted and

Barnett’s trial, by law, would take place within 90 days. However, extenuating circumstances would prevent this from being anything but speedy. The trial date of Feb. 28 was postponed by Lundell due to weather concerns. It wasn’t until April 11 that Barnett’s trial began in the St. Croix County Court.

The turning point seemed to be at the final pre-trial hearing on Feb. 13.

The judge granted a motion to include discovery that the complainant and her boyfriend admitted to lying about what happened, and even though Barnett’s DNA was not present on any of the tests from the Wisconsin Crime Lab, the trial was still scheduled and the charges were not dismissed.

“As Christians we believe in prayer, so we prayed. Our fear of circumstances turned into faith,” added Barnett. “We went to God and he showed us the joy of putting him first.”

“Our faith is what got us through this. If we kept dwelling on the anger, hatred and blackness there was no way we were getting out of the gloom,” Chris said. “We always thought, ‘God’s going to pull us through this’-and he truly did.”

Although Barnett was acquitted, he said there were doubts about how he could ever recover.

“Working at a public institution and seeing the initial explosion made public, I was overwhelmed and fearful about what would happen to my family,” Tom said. “How would my kids get treated at school? I was worried for their safety. It was terrifying to leave the house.”

However, the community of Baldwin, Barnett’s church, family, friends and wife stood by him throughout the trial.

“God was working overboard for us. People all the time came up to us and said, ‘you’re in our prayers, God is there,’” Tom said. “The people who knew us, they protected us. Our friends were there and had no doubt that the allegations were not true.”

“People dropped off cookies, lasagna and cards,” said Chris. “And it wasn’t just friends, it was complete strangers who would say they were thinking of us. During some of the darkest days, we were comforted by an unexpected phone call or email that offered words of encouragement and support.”

That support was needed as the trial continued. Although confident about the outcome, the jury deliberation pushed Tom to the tipping point.

One, two, even three hours, passed, and still there was no decision. During the first day of deliberations, the jury met for seven hours and still had not rendered a decision. Barnett said it was

during the fourth or fifth hour when he started to break down.

“We always knew that the truth would pre-



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice
Barnett is pictured with his oldest son Matthew, age 14 (left), wife Chris, youngest son Connor, age 6 (bottom left), and middle son Tyler, age 9. Barnett said his family was his main concern when the charges of sexual assault were pressed.

vail, but after a while we started to realize that there was uncertainty on what they could decide,” said Tom. “Were they going on gut reaction instead of facts? But then I realized that all the pain came from looking at worldly circumstances. We had to have faith in God’s will. He would not give me more than I could handle. For when I am weak, then I am strong,” said Tom, referring to a Bible passage from 2 Corinthians 12:10.

During deliberations the Barnetts went to relax at a friend’s house, but when they were called back, they were not ready for the deliberations to continue until the next day.

“I tried not to look at the jurors’ faces as they entered, but it seemed like you could tell by the look on their faces that they were either remorseful of what happened or empathetic to what I had been through.”

But on the morning of April 14, the jury

met for only moments before rendering the not guilty verdict for Tom, thus ending eight months of agony.

Life has not returned to normal, Tom said. He said it is better than normal.

“We are different people with a different focus. It has improved our marriage as we are choosing to see the blessings. Although one of the most difficult parts was being on leave away from the University, I got to take part in family traditions that I otherwise would have missed. I got to greet my kids as they came off the bus, I got to help them with homework more than I normally did and I got to see them off to school. Before, I never got to do that.”

The Barnetts have three boys, ages 6, 9 and 14.

See Barnett page 8

Winter blues affects some women

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Women in their 20s may begin experiencing a sadder winter this year.

As temperatures drop and sunlight wanes, forms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), can cause depression-like symptoms for people living in the northern hemisphere.

The disorder affects 6 percent of people in the United States, according to statistics by the American Academy of Family Physicians. However, more are impacted by winter seasonal change.

Another 10 to 20 percent can experience a milder form of SAD often known as the “winter blues.” Although a less severe form of SAD, the winter blues has a noticeable

impact on sufferers.

Women living in the northern hemisphere are most susceptible to seasonally depressed feelings, according to Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA). SAD typically begins to occur in individuals between 18 and 30-years-old; 75 percent of sufferers are women.

This means that people, women especially, in their 20s who have not yet experienced seasonally depressed feelings may begin to feel them this year.

Symptoms typically begin in the fall and go throughout the winter months, according to the Mayo Clinic.

Symptoms of depression and symptoms of SAD are not exactly alike.

“Stereotypical depression

tends to be low mood, certainly, and low energy. But what can happen with SAD is there is actually an increased appetite or increased sleep,” said Personal Counselor Jennifer Wilson.

Sufferers want to eat more and eat differently.

“Sometimes that’s related to craving for carbohydrates,” said Wilson.

Heavy meals loaded with carbs are an easy sign that the weather has affected appetite.

The change in sunlight affects cycles in the body. Low light in the winter months can alter hormones and brain chemical levels, according to the New York University Langone Medical Center. This causes moody, depressed feelings and feelings of tiredness.

The shortened length of winter days is due to the earth’s tilt.

“[The earth has] a 23.5 degree tilt, so as the northern hemisphere, where we are, is tilted away from the sun there’s less sunlight hitting that northern hemisphere and so we experience winter because less heat is coming through also,” said Biology Lecturer Amber Qureshi.

“In the winter we know we are getting less of that light intensity and less of that energy coming through,” said Qureshi.

Sunlight still hits the Midwest, but light must travel further. The distance causes light intensity to weaken. Winter daylight will not have

See Blues page 3

IceCube project brings students to South Pole

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UW-River Falls has teamed up with UW-Madison and 38 other institutions to create the world’s largest and most innovative telescope using data from the ice in the South Pole.

“The IceCube project is the biggest and strangest telescope in the world, and we actually use the ice down at the South Pole to look for particles that come from outer space,” said Jim Madsen, physics department chair. “These are really strange particles that can go right through the earth and so we’ve transformed the ice which is almost a mile and a half thick into a telescope

that is able to track these particles.”

Madsen has been a part of the IceCube project since he first started working in the physics department at UWRF. He reconnected with a former physics professor at UW-Madison where he went as an undergraduate who invited him to join the project.

“The idea to use the ice as a way to build this kind of strange telescope goes back to the early 1990s,” said Madsen. “Then it took about four to five years to get the funding to build the preliminary prototype detector that took four years after that.”

He went on to explain that the preliminary prototype

See IceCube page 3

Destination program faces student involvement decline

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Despite its success at UW-River Falls in the past, the Destination program, which is a volunteer program that sends students on local, domestic and international service trips, has lost volunteers. As a result of the shortage, two branches of the service programs were cut this year.

The Serve N’ Lead (SNL) program, which aimed at getting first-year students involved in volunteering locally, was canceled.

Destination International, which was set to bring students to Nicaragua, was also canceled this year. This was surprising due to the fact that there were two international trips made last year.

Staff of the program have not been able to pinpoint why this year is any different than in the past, but they do have some ideas.

“Maybe they have to work more to support themselves through college so they can’t commit to paying that much money or taking that time off of work,” said Student Destination Programmer Cailin Turner.

Cost was the main factor in the cancellation of the international trip to Nicaragua. Shanna Thomsen, also a student Destination programmer was organizing the trip. Thomsen said they started accepting applications last spring, but that four of five students who were accepted decided to drop out for financial reasons. She said that despite what students think, there are still ways to make it work.

“For funding for my trips I’ve just been basically working a lot, which I know is hard for people.



Shanna Thomsen/Destination Programmer

Members of the Destination program visited Arcola Mills in Stillwater, Minn. Oct. 26 - 28 as part of their Destination Regional “Creativity, Sustainability and Preservation.” The group gained valuable information on preserving nature and resources as well as exploring the history of preservation. Members from left to right: Timothy Hackbarth, Danielle Asper, Charmayne Anderson, Molly Breitmum, Elise Koop, Laura Pochardt, Megan Conant, Shanna Thomsen, Lauren Johnson, Candace Anderson and Tasha Petryzkiewicz.

to continue marketing the program in the same way for next year. They hope to see a rise in student involvement in the program so that both Destination International and SNL can continue in the future.

ple. But we have had people [in the past] send out our fundraising letter and get their whole trip paid for,” said Thomsen.

On the other hand SNL, which was a new program at UWRF, would have been free for students. Melissa Johnson, a senior elementary education major, was supposed to lead student SNL volunteers to help out Habitat for Humanity at the Eco Village in River Falls. Johnson said that she had been looking forward to the program.

“I’ve always been involved in service so I wanted to get first-year students involved in that too and get them excited about doing service,” said Johnson.

Johnson agreed with Turner that pinpointing the exact reason for lower involvement in the program has been difficult. The marketing for the Destination program was the same this year as it was in the past.

Johnson indicated that they put up posters, table tents, advertisements on access TV and even had resident assistants pass out applications to first-year students.

For Johnson, the experience Destination offers is invaluable.

“People don’t realize what its like until they get there, and it really makes you think about the things we take for granted here,” said Johnson.

For now, Destination staff are going to continue marketing the program in the same way for next year. They hope to see a rise in student involvement in the program so that both Destination International and SNL can continue in the future.

Social media link to political participation

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Social media are becoming more widely used in gathering political information, as well as people expressing their own political opinions online.

An article by Margaret Weigel from Dec. 2011, titled “Exploring the Role of Political Discussion for Online Political Participation,” talks about a 2011 study done at both the University of Texas at Austin and Catholic University of Chile. The study is published in the International Journal of Public Opinion Research, and is called “Society Networks that Matter: Exploring the Role of Political Discussion for Online Political Participation.”

This study surveyed 1,159 adults in the United States about their “online and offline political practices between November, 2008 and January, 2009,” wrote Weigel.

The researchers focused on three specific components. They focused on network size and composition, level of agreement and argumentation, and the degree of offline political engagement.

The study came up with several findings. Overall, people “with a larger network of online discussants tended to be more engaged in online political activities.” This finding supports the idea that “web-based services facilitate the transmission of political messages, so that mobilizing information such as public petitions to authorities can be shared more effectively through interactive-based applications than through in-person conversations.”

Weigel wrote that people who have interpersonal relationships that are based on face-to-face communication are less likely to participate in political activities online. Participants with larger online networks are more likely to engage in political discussions online.

Other findings show that someone is more likely to participate in an online political discussion if they read their news online. Also, reading offline news sources such as newspapers and magazines does not affect these online participation rates.

“Younger, lower income respondents engaged more frequently in political activities online, as did those with a strong identity with political parties and who were exposed to online news more frequently,” said Weigel.

Weigel said it seems as though having weak social ties are a key component in whether or not someone participates in online politics.

In contrast to that however, discussion network attributes, such as reasoning, that are considered to be essential when promoting citizen engagement, seem to be less important, at least when it comes to political participation on the Internet.

Those are just the findings for the above universities. Political participation through social media here at UW-River Falls is similar.

Student Erika Cooley said that she uses social media, especially Facebook, a little bit when it comes to gathering political information. Though she said she does not always believe what people write, Cooley does not participate in online political discussions. She does not want to get into any arguments with people or offend anyone.

Student Kristina Cashin feels the same way. “I try to stay out of politics on Facebook,” said Cashin. Cashin tends to get all of her political information from msn.com and unbiased websites. As far as how it benefits her political participation, Cooley said that the information people get off of social media sites such as Facebook can be more hurtful than helpful.

“You don’t always know where people are getting their information,” said Cooley.

News briefs

Hurricane Sandy benefit at Junior’s Bar and Grill

The UW-River Falls Sales Promotion and Event Planning course is hosting an event at Junior’s Bar and Grill to raise money for the Hurricane Sandy relief. The event will start at 6 p.m. on Nov. 29 with a bean bag tournament, and seven bands will play throughout the night starting at 8:30 p.m. and playing until 12 a.m.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to Feeding America. Feeding America is the nation’s leading domestic hunger-relief charity. Their mission is to feed America’s hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage hunger. Feeding America has a specific fund set up for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

The event staff and Junior’s Bar and Grill said they would like to invite all members of the community to stop by to enjoy music, eat dinner, socialize and donate a few dollars towards an organization that helps friends and neighbors on the east coast suffering from the recent disaster. There is a suggested donation of \$3.

UW-River Falls Experiential Learning Course seeks projects

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) at UW-River Falls is seeking businesses and organizations that have projects they would like teams of university students to tackle, under the guidance of faculty mentors, as part of an Experiential Learning course.

Each semester CAFES offers this course that requires teams of students to apply their academic skills to the completion of a project defined by a business or an organizational client. This course is typically taken in the student’s senior year and is the culmination of the student’s academic career. It is intended that the experience of completing this project will bridge the gap between the student’s academic and professional careers.

The benefits to the business/organizational client include having more than 600 student person hours devoted to a project with possible end products being feasibility studies, design analyses, financial analyses, business plans, marketing plans and prototypes. In the course of their work, project teams draw on the expertise of faculty mentors and other UWRF faculty and staff. In addition, Steve DeWald, director of the UWRF Small Business Development Center, mentors the students on multiple aspects of business planning and feasibility studies. Clients are generally expected to pay a small fee to cover the cost of producing the deliverables.

Examples of past projects include students creating a business plan for a local brewpub, researching the potential of a community kitchen in River Falls for the Local Food Partnership, a community organization, and developing resource materials for a potential Farm to School program for the River Falls School District Food Service Advisory Council.

Recently Mark and Diana Alfuth, owners of Painted Hollow Farm in western Wisconsin, wanted to learn the financial ramifications of utilizing different types of production on their farm. As a result, they had two groups of students develop different farm plans.

“It was fantastic working with enthusiastic young people who are interested in applying what they learned to a real-life situation,” said Mark at the completion of the project.

“We were impressed with their extensive research and thoroughness in dealing with the project objectives.”

“We have already begun to explore the options further and because of the work of the students, will absolutely implement a good deal of their work,” said Mark. “The level of their work product and ideas exceeded our expectations.”

If you are interested in having your project considered for spring semester 2013, contact Juliet Tomkins, adjunct professor, at 715-425-3298 or juliet.tomkins@uwrf.edu by Nov. 30.

River Falls Police/ UWRF Police Department

Sept. 19

- Mahir Ahmed was cited \$389.50 for possession of marijuana at May Hall.
- Kyle Daniel Shoemaker-Gagnon was cited \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia at May Hall.

Nov. 1

- Robert Steven Sontag was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at Prucha Hall.

Nov. 2

- Anderson Alves Ribeiro was cited \$716 for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia at Grimm Hall.
- Casey Patrick Koleno was cited \$810.50 for underage consumption and disorderly conduct at 600 South Main Street.

Nov. 3

- Marissa Lyn Lannbrecht was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at South Fork Suites.
- Monique E. Levash was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at South Fork Suites.
- James T. Vanthiel was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at South Fork Suites.
- Donovan R. Nelson was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at South Fork Suites.
- Justin T. Trepes was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at South Fork Suites.

Nov. 8

- Lexis Kathryn Pingel was cited \$263.50 for operating a motor vehicle off the roadway at the path south of K lot.

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

Budget cycle restarts again on UW-River Falls campus

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The allocable fees budget process has begun with student organizations attending trainings, completing and submitting budgets, and the Allocable Fees and Appropriations Board (AFAB) preparing for another budget cycle that will result in a completed budget in the spring.

AFAB Chair Kayla Edstrom explained that the process is already going very well as organizations seem to have a better understanding of the requirements after attending trainings and looking over the budget guidelines.

“Organizations came to the trainings and seemed to really have a good grasp of the process. I have really only received some small questions that are easy to answer and there doesn’t seem to be any major issues so far.”

The money allocated to student organizations by AFAB comes from student segregated fees paid by students every year. According to the Student Affairs web page, the allocable fee paid by each student for the 2012-2013 school year is \$34.19. This fee supports mainly student-organized activities.

There were two major changes made during the 2011-2012 school year that will affect the budget process this year. One change was the decision to allow dues-charging organizations to submit budgets. Student Senate ad-

visor Paul Shepherd said that the focus really is on the Greek organizations as dues-charging organizations.

“There are other organizations that charge dues to its members, however the main point of discussion when the motion was passed was about the Greek organizations.”

Shepherd said that only two Greek organizations submitted budgets and were approved for money last year and that is not surprising as it was really the first year, but there may be more requests for funding this year which means more decisions for AFAB.

Student Senators and Alpha Gamma Rho officers Elliot Kahn and Derek Johnson explained that the National organizations for fraternities and sororities offer leadership conferences, recruitment schooling and conventions, but when money comes out of the members’ pockets to attend these events, it limits some of the people who can go and benefit from them.

“We are all college students. We can’t all afford to pay to go to events and if we are paying into the segregated fees too, we should have an equal opportunity to apply for a budget,” said Johnson.

The second major change was the decision to take any money not used by organizations at the end of the year and put it back into the allocable fees budget instead of into the reserve account where it had gone previous-

ly. This will help to increase the pool of money available as the biggest challenge for AFAB is that it always receives requests for a substantially larger amount of money than is available.

The budget process for student organization funding has several steps. Organizations have already attended budget trainings, and now the next step is to submit the completed budget request forms by the deadline. Edstrom said that one thing that has made it easier for organizations is that everything is done online through OrgSync this year.

After the deadline has passed, there will be a process of review by AFAB which begins in early December and continues until spring semester before the initial budget requests are sent to the Senate sometime in February. If there are no appeals, the final approval from Senate will be by mid-late March and letters will be sent to organizations informing them of the final allocations, according to a timeline in the 2012-2013 AFAB budget request form.

There are limitations on what can and cannot be funded through allocable fees. These limitations are defined in the University of Wisconsin System Financial Policy 50, or F-50, and stated specifically in the 2012-2013 budget training documents.

Funding can go to things like operations, activities and programs by recognized student organizations, concerts

and lectures, operating/overhead costs of student government, university newspaper, radio, television, etc.

Some of the things that cannot be funded include: academic credit-producing activities, student services considered “essential to basic mission of the University” and personal food or advisor expenses.

The first thing that AFAB does after budgets are submitted is to go through and cut out all the things that cannot be funded. The information given at the trainings is intended to help reduce the number of requests that cannot be funded by making organizations aware of them.

When it comes to writing budgets and speaking at budget hearings, Edstrom stressed the importance of student organizations to be as detailed as possible.

“You can never say too much. We want to know everything about your organization’s events and therefore you have to be very detailed in your descriptions. This allows us to really be able to understand what you are asking for and then better allocate funds.”

The deadline for budget requests is 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012.

Any budgets submitted after the deadline will be automatically denied. For more information or questions contact Kayla Edstrom at kayla.edstrom@my.uwrf.edu.

Women lead the grade point race

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The fact that women tend to have higher grade point averages than men was proven on the national level, but is also noticed locally at UW-River Falls.

This study was done by the National Center for Education Statistics and evaluated the academic standings of 4,640 students who attended four-year colleges like UWRF, from 1992 up until 1996. What the researchers found was that women earned higher GPAs than men.

The idea of women having higher grades was obvious for UWRF freshman Simone Petersen, who just compared the study habits of men and women.

“I never see guys studying. I always see girls, so I assume that girls’ are higher,” said Petersen.

UWRF sophomore Derrick Gath also said he had noticed men studying less than women.

“I feel that we don’t necessarily care as much, but we just don’t put the effort into it to get the best grade,” said Gath.

for them to do well or poorly in school.

“I don’t think either gender has specifically higher GPAs. I believe it depends more on the person than on the gender. I think its more their personal background,” said Faveere.

It is this personal background or, as Ayres named it, the environment that a person is raised in that can determine their success.

“I’ve seen some research on math performance over time from early elementary school into college and what we see when we look long term is no gender differences when we’re young, and then, starting in adolescence, is when we start to see some gender differences. Again this is suggesting something about the environment that might be affecting kids,” said Ayres.

If the environmental impacts really do foreshadow success or failure, then these same environments could be causing men and women to lean into their stereotypic roles.

Ayres used the example of the physics department on campus.

Blues: Light therapy a possible solution

From page 1

as positive an impact on mood as summer’s daylight would. Qureshi said that research continues on how the brain is affected by sunlight and other factors. Although concrete evidence is hard to find when it comes to the brain, many correlations have been made between light and mood.

“They know that your mood and your light and

dark cycles are connected to a small gland in the base of your brain and that is connected through the amount of light that goes through our eyes. Those connections are made to that particular gland. They know that the amount of light intensity that is coming through is going to affect the amount of a hormone, called melatonin, that’s made,” said Qureshi.

Light therapy has been effective in nearly 85 percent of diagnosed cases of SAD, ac-

cording to MHA. The therapy works to suppress the brain’s production of melatonin, a chemical causing depression-like symptoms in SAD sufferers. The white fluorescent lights do not contain UV rays and are not harmful in small doses. Those who use light therapy can read or eat in front of the lights for up to four hours.

Wilson encouraged those feeling down this time of year to fight the negative feelings with positive action.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle by staying fit, eating well, trying to sleep for only a reasonable amount of time and getting outside (even in weak light) are all ways to maintain a good mood.

Light therapy is also encouraged.

A light therapy box is available to use for free on campus in the Student Health and Counseling Services located at 211 Hagestad Hall, 410 South Third St. River Falls, Wis.

IceCube: Project gives experience to students otherwise unattainable as undergraduates

From page 1

was finished in 1999-2000 and it took another four years to get funding for the big version and five years to finish it.

He expects that the project will continue for another 15 to 20 years. Madsen has personally been involved with the IceCube project for 14 years, and has been to the South Pole

According to the press release of the event, IceCube is “a grant-funded project Bringing the Universe to Wisconsin. It is sponsored by the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment and spearheaded by the Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center (WIPAC).”

This project has impacted quite a number of UWRF students and staff; IceCube has supported over 50 undergraduates on campus.

Two students and four

UWRF faculty members in the physics department also had the opportunity to work in the South Pole.

Although physics major Emily Dvorak has not gotten to work in the South Pole, she has had the chance to work on the IceCube project from Wisconsin.

“This summer I worked with Professor Madsen with the IceCube project where we made a large replica, eight foot by eight foot by eight foot display of our IceCube detector down in the South Pole,” said Dvorak.

Dvorak explained that the project is a fundamental science project that improves the understanding of the Universe.

“(It’s) looking for Neutrinos in outer space and where they’re coming from. Neutrinos are a masses particle that we cannot detect so we use the earth as a shield so that the neutrinos will interact with the particle in the Earth

and produce a muon,” said Dvorak.

Dvorak explained that the muon produces light and that is what they use the detector in the South Pole for.

Over 5,000 optical modules buried in the ice that are used to detect the light given off of the muons. The IceCube project uses ice from the South Pole because it is clear ice and they get better data.

The WIPAC expressed that the data collected by the IceCube project is already enhancing our view on the Universe and that by sharing their findings and the project with UW-System schools and their communities, it will enhance their knowledge and view of the Universe as well.

Bring the Universe to Wisconsin will be presented to all UW System schools will kick-start in River Falls on Tuesday, Nov. 27 and Wednesday, Nov. 28.

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on

Tuesday, Nov. 27, there will be a tour of the updated planetarium at UWRF in which Madsen will be giving a talk about the changes made. From 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. there will be a “Meet a Scientist” event held at the Dish and Spoon Café.

Tuesday’s events end with IceCube: “A new View of the Universe from the South Pole” from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the University Center. This will be a hands-on learning experience and a public event about the construction of IceCube and the research it entails.

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 28, UWRF and WIPAC researchers will visit elementary, high school and university classrooms before hosting an adult event at Chocolate’s Chocolate Chateau in St. Paul for “Science Pub: A Suds and Spirits Look at the Universe from the South Pole.”



Billy Thao/ Student Voice
Nou Vue is an elementary education major who was studying in the University Center.

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EDITORIALS

Thanksgiving break
a good time to
recharge batteries

Thanksgiving break is only days away. The key word in that sentence is “break.” Yes, Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and gorge ourselves on all the turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes we all can eat. However, for college students, the most important part is simply getting away from the classroom.

Winter has all but arrived, and the stress and pressures of school are bearing down on all students. This makes it even more important to get away for Thanksgiving break.

A three-day break away from school is exactly what all college students need at this point in the semester. With only a month to go until finals it can be easy to lose focus on what is the most important: school.

In late November and early December the weather changes and the “winter blues” begin to set in. Students begin to care a little less, be slightly less active and slack off on school work.

Don’t let this be you. We have all fought through three months of school this semester. In comparison to that, three weeks isn’t a whole lot to ask for.

Again, that’s what this break is for. It is a finely placed break so we can all recharge and get prepared for the home stretch of the race that is the fall semester.

When we all return from Thanksgiving the big push begins. Time to boost those grades before finals week, start going to class if you aren’t and start pumping out those term papers.

It certainly seems daunting when looking at a given class syllabus and looking at all of the work which has yet to be done.

That’s what this break is for. Preparing for that final push. Preparing by relaxing and getting mentally prepared for the push. Not by stressing out and trying to write a seven-page paper while the rest of your family enjoys a delicious turkey dinner.

This break is here for us, as college students, to relax and regroup. Eat some turkey, watch some football or basketball, lay around and do nothing or go Black Friday shopping.

Enjoy the three-day break that we are given. Take some time to recharge your batteries in whatever way you need to. When we get back from the break we have three weeks until finals. Use this break to rest, relax and have some fun, but be prepared to fight through three more weeks when we get back.

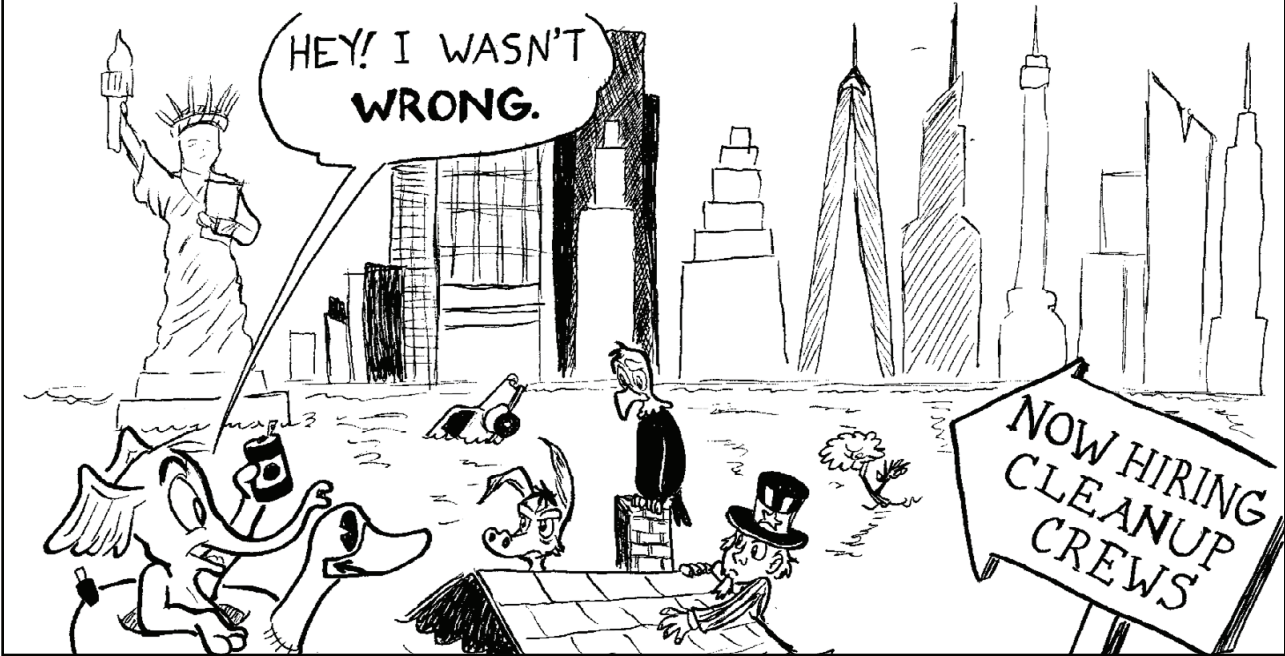
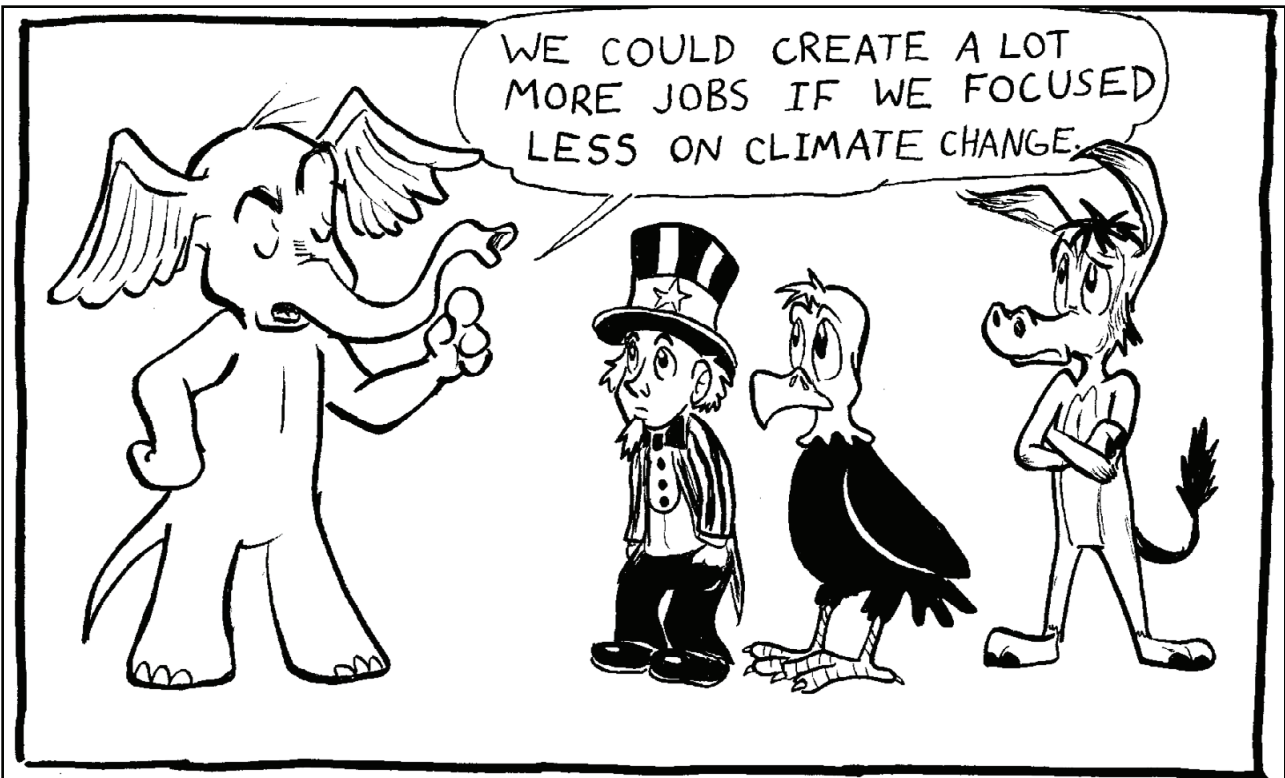
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David Recine/Student Voice

Letter to the editor

Americans are being dumbed down

I have often been asked if I think Americans are being dumbed down. It is obvious, and let me give you a few examples. America not only elected George W. Bush president, but also re-elected him. Minnesota has elected Michele Bachmann to a fourth term in Congress. Speaking of Minnesota, millions of people remain Minnesota Vikings fans despite a 52-year failure to win the big one. Roundabouts are being

constructed everywhere. Need I say more? I have also been asked if I believe there is intelligent life beyond earth. Again it is obvious there is. The proof is that they are too smart to have anything to do with us.

Marvin L. Nelson
River Falls, Wis.


Two-party system prevents
accurate representation

Morgan Stippel


Columnist

When I went to the polls, I knew I was going to have a difficult decision to make. I am a Minnesota resident and I knew how I was voting on both of the constitutional amendments, but I had no idea which presidential candidate I would be voting for. Both Barack Obama and Mitt Romney have policies I firmly agree with, but they also support policies I am strongly opposed to. My dilemma made me wonder: how many other Americans had a similar problem on Election Day? The two-party system that exists in our country today makes it difficult for American citizens to be accurately represented by politicians. Although there are two main political parties that exist in our country today, the reality is that the vast majority of Americans do not affiliate with a political party. Roughly half of the population classifies themselves as being politically moderate, meaning that they do not completely identify with either group. Democrats and Republicans are similar in a number of ways, but they also have small differences that make it difficult to fully commit to either side. The Democratic Party generally supports more government involvement on economic issues and less government involvement on social issues. For example, Democrats fully support social programs such as welfare, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment benefits, etc. because they feel as if the government should help citizens who are in difficult financial positions. Democrats do not feel as if it is the government’s place to make laws regarding social issues, such as stating that women cannot get abortions or that LGBTQ couples can not get married. In addition, the Democratic Party tends to be in favor of reform as opposed to keeping traditional practices in place. The Republican Party generally supports less government involvement on economic issues and more government involvement on social issues. Republicans do not feel as if

it is the government’s duty to financially support American citizens through social programs. They tend to believe in the idea of “picking oneself up by the bootstraps” and working hard to earn whatever one gets. In addition, Republicans want the government to step in on social issues in an effort to preserve the values of our nation. They would support laws that protected traditional institutions such as family and marriage. The Republican Party aims to maintain traditional values and practices. While it helps to know what these two political parties believe and value, it does little to no good if a person does not fit into either of these categories. If a person supports less government involvement on both economic and social issues, these beliefs would align with those of a Libertarian. On the other hand, if a person supports more government involvement on both social and economic issues, these beliefs would align with the Authoritarian perspective. The two-party system attempts to simplify something that is extremely complex. There is no possible way for the vast spectrum of political issues and beliefs to be compressed into two clear, succinct categories. political issues and beliefs to be compressed into two clear, succinct categories. With the countless issues that exist in our society today, there is no such thing as black and white. The political beliefs of Americans are extremely diverse and until this fact is addressed, there will be no way for our citizens to be accurately represented by their government. When the ballot only includes one Democratic candidate, one Republican candidate and third party candidates that have virtually no chance of winning, it makes it impossible for nearly half of the citizens in our country to select a candidate who will represent their interests and beliefs. The two-party system is an element of American politics that needs to be changed if the government is ever going to truly represent its citizens.



Find Freddy’s Feather!



Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins.

Obedience in women not just a medieval concept

Jenny Holzinger

Guest Columnist

stated a UW-River Falls senior, when I asked him to go to a dance with me. Another male, a graduate student, recently shared the fact that what he likes about the Korean girls is that they are “obedient to men.”

Daily comments and remarks like these, no matter how harmless their intention was, are detrimental to the status of women, and a dangerous undermining of their accomplishments. Why does being female mean being obedient and chaste, while being male means being strong, fearless - the reincarnation of an Adonis? Why does a man have the social ability to ask a woman out, while a woman does not?

Upon considering these questions, I found myself reflecting on what is female and what is male. The most immediate image that came to my mind was a good female friend

who is on the softball team and interested in politics - attributes which we would usually credit to a man. Except from her interest in sports and politics, she meets the cliché image of a typical girl.

A male friend of mine loves to watch romantic comedies and enjoys shopping with his female friends - activities we would expect girls in their 20s to do. Does this make her male and him female?

“Emancipated” women seem to scare men. Although being emancipated or being a feminist means nothing more than having the desire to have equal rights. Women receiving the same rights as men seem to constitute many males’ anxiety. The anxiety of being dominated by a woman and therefore losing one’s status as being a strong brave man, which some men think is an innate right, due to being born a man.

This fear can already be found in early modern English comedies and tragedies in Elizabethan times. It mirrors the male part of

the contemporary society’s attitude toward the female sex - a patriarchal society with a terrible anxiety of feminization. This fear is deeply rooted in the medieval mindset, and seems to be originated in the biblical fall of mankind when Eve was courageous and independent enough to make her own decisions, and ate from the knowledge tree of good and evil.

To take the initiative as a woman and to make one’s own decision can be a fatal error even in our contemporary society.

For instance, when asking my ex-boyfriend to go with me to a dance, I got a surprising answer full of anger that I would not be allowed to ask HIM out.

Questioning the reason behind his misogynistic reaction, he replied curtly that being a woman, I was not to be allowed to ask for such a thing. Consequently the social ability of showing initiative seems to be only able to be shown by men, whereas woman have to be patient enough and hope they get asked out.

Women who subordinate themselves to

this gender stereotype are making nothing more than objects of themselves, in accepting the ideal of a misogynist sexist male society by surmising themselves to a seemingly prodigious man.

Female acceptance of this gender role will only encourage males to keep treating women the way they are currently being treated today. A man dating several girls while in a relationship, or having had multiple girlfriends will remain the “cool guy,” whereas his ex-girlfriend having just dinner with a male classmate will be classified as a “slut.”

Injustice between both genders will remain, and a woman stating her opinion, her disagreement, in a relationship will be always harming the man’s sense of honor and be penalized by his ignorance.

The lexeme “women” may include the lexeme “men,” having it as it seemingly linguistic stem with “wo-” just as its prefix; however this does not implicate that women have to be dominated by men or that they are less valuable than a man.

Future Farm finds productive uses for cow, fish waste

Molly Breitmün

Guest Columnist

As a new Undergraduate Research Fellow of The St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD), I was invited to a local farm tour organized by the Institute’s director, Kelly Cain. Cain hopes to foster relationships between local sustainable farmers and Sodexo, our campus food service provider.

“In partnership with Sodexo, our campus has a rare opportunity to bring significant quantities of high quality, locally produced food onto the campus, keep student money in the community, support local jobs and make a significant cut in the carbon footprint of our campus food supply. It is a win-win-win opportunity,” said Cain.

About 22 miles Northeast of campus, Future Farm serves as the preliminary site for investigating a local farm-to-table relationship. Cain describes Future Farm as “one of the premier ‘disruptive entrepreneur’ local food producers in the Upper Midwest, if not the nation.”

Last week, driving to Baldwin in two UW-River Falls vans with representatives from Sodexo, the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), UWRF Facilities and SCISCD, we were about to find out why.

Although it was overcast and chilly when we arrived at Future Farm, inside the large greenhouse and processing facility it was comfortably warm. All thanks to the cows across the highway.

Future Farm uses methane energy to heat its 27,000 square foot facility. Methane is harvested from the anaerobic manure digester, turning conventional dairy waste product into a boon. Manure is both rich in organic matter as well as microorganisms. When sealed in an oxygen-free environment, the anaerobic microorganisms convert the digested manure into methane and other gases.

Manure is plentiful at the Baldwin Dairy, a sister company conveniently located next door. Pam and John Vrieze own and operate both businesses, continuing a 105-year family farming legacy with a big twist. Cow manure is not the only focus of their creative rethinking of waste: fish poo, too.

After getting a pump of hand sanitizer and stepping on a saturated disinfection mat, the first thing to catch my eye

when entering the building was the aquaculture ponds. They are deep blue plastic tanks, some as wide as a four person hot tub. As John oriented us to the farm and its history, the hum of flowing water filled the vast enclosed space.

Pam and John raise and sell tilapia and albino catfish and are considering phasing in prawns on a larger scale. The fish are vital in fertilizing the greens and herbs that Future Farm provides locally to restaurants, supermarkets and private customers.

In fact, the fish are in a symbiotic relationship with the plants, contributing to a sustainable farming practice called “aquaponics.” This is the fusion of aquaculture (the farming of fish) with hydroponics (the growing of plants in nutrient-rich water without soil). The fish are fed pellets and through normal digestion and excretion of ammonia, they provide fertile water for the plants in the main greenhouse.

I had never been in a soilless greenhouse before. Brightly lit on a gray day, the white PVC pipes and white plastic-lined troughs gave the greenhouse the impression of a laboratory. Basil, leafy green lettuce, water cress, romaine and salad mix all floated neatly upon square panels of pink Styrofoam in their separate canals of shallow water.

After germinating atop tiny foam cubes, the plugs fit in a grid of matching holes in the Styrofoam floats, letting the roots grow and trail beneath in the fish-effluent water.

The plants will eventually be on someone’s plate, but in the 37 days it takes to mature for harvest, they are working hard for the fish. Aerobic bacteria convert the ammonia from the fish into nitrates, making for an efficient absorption of nutrients for the plants. This is vital since the water is recycled in a closed loop. Otherwise nutrients would accumulate to toxic concentrations for the fish.

Aquaponics is a new practice not without its risks and costs. The Vriezes invested extensively in the new build-

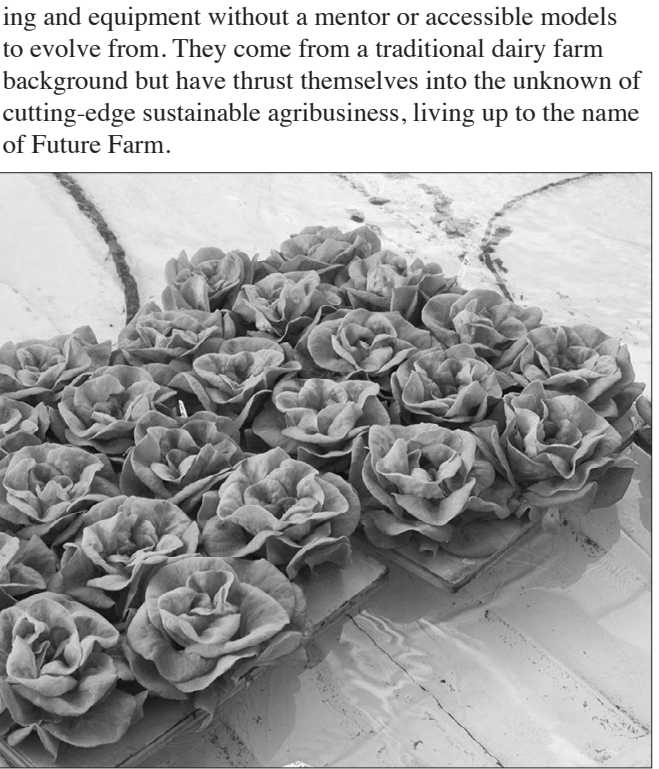


Photo submitted by Molly Breitmün/Future Farm

Two foam rafts of Butterhead lettuce float on nutrient-rich water at Future Farm in Baldwin, Wis.

I am excited Sodexo is open to considering Future Farm as a sustainable food producer for our campus. As students, we also have a role in campus sustainability.

If you would like to see more local, organic and sustainable food options on campus, go to: <http://www.uwrf-menus.com/feedback.html> (you can call, e-submit feedback or talk to a manager in person) and let Sodexo know.

Another option is to support Future Farm by buying their greens, which are sold locally at Dick’s Fresh Market. Of course, shopping at our downtown co-op, Whole Earth Grocery, will always provide access to good local food. One other intriguing opportunity is that the Vriezes welcome earnest student research on their farm. To learn more, contact Pam Vrieze at pam@afuturefarm.com.


STUDENT

Voices

What is the best part of Cascade being opened?


Compiled by Sarah Plank

Jordan Johnson
senior




“Waving to all the motorists driving through and the roundabouts look good.”

Bayli Maliszewski
senior




“You can actually get from point A to point B without turning 18 times.”

Teddy Nelson
senior



“Less parking makes driving around way more convenient.”

Elise Lundequam
senior




“Easier to get into town and from place to place.”

Vote in our online poll:

If you could go back in history and elect one former president who would it be?

Visit uwrvoice.com to cast your vote!



Young team has big shoes to fill

Trevor Jones
trevor.jones@my.uwrf.edu

Having lost three starters from last year’s NCAA tournament squad, the UW-River Falls women’s basketball team will need a total team effort to replicate that same success.

Two All-WIAC first team members from a year ago, forward Alise Holst and guard Tiffany Gregorich, graduated, leaving a lot of production to be filled by current members of the team.

Last year’s leading rebounder, Maranda Dohrn, also graduated. Besides the three starters, they also graduated Lauren Pellowski who came off the bench and played in all but one game last season.

Head coach Cindy Holbrook said that the hardest thing to replace will be those seniors’ experience.

“You can’t replicate experience. Obviously they were tremendous athletes; they knew how to respond in the close games. They understood the importance of practicing hard every day,” said Holbrook.

Holbrook did say that this year’s team practices hard and is quick to learn.

When it comes to picking up the on-court production, the Falcons will have to spread it around.

“Our two point guards will have to pick up the scoring, and everybody will have to pick up Maranda’s rebounding,” said Holbrook.



Photo by Student Voice
Senior Brittany Gregorich takes a shot last season at Karges.

The two point guards who will be sharing minutes this season are sophomore Jesse Van Wyhe and freshman eligible Liz Anderson.

Senior forward Brittany Gregorich and senior guard Nikki Guhr are the team’s leading returning scorers.

Gregorich has started the past 62 games for the Falcons according to WIACsports.com.

This year’s team brought in a big freshman class and is improved in a couple of important areas, according to Holbrook.

“We’re a little deeper right now than we were a year ago and as athletic as we were a year ago,” said Holbrook.

She also said this team has the flexibility to match up well with different teams in their ability to go with a bigger or smaller lineup.

She said that she does prefer a consistent starting lineup, but that it might take a couple weeks to figure out who will be in that starting lineup.

The Falcons finished last year in a tie for third place in the WIAC, a conference that saw four teams make the NCAA tournament: UW-Stevens Point, UW-Whitewater, and UW-Eau Claire all made it in addition to the Falcons.

Holbrook said that getting four teams from the conference into the tournament was pretty exciting.

“You always hope for two or three. Four was just amazing. It’s not often that four teams have 20 plus wins all in the same year; they all deserved it,” said Holbrook.

This year’s Falcons were picked to finish fourth in the WIAC by the conference’s coaches and sports information directors.

Two of the teams picked ahead of UWRF, UWW and UWSP, are both ranked in the top 10 nationally in the preseason top 25.

Holbrook said she is not much of a preseason polls person.

“If we play how we’re capable of playing, we’ll finish where we’re supposed to finish,” said Holbrook.

“Looking at our talent, we better be top half. It’s a tough conference. If we stay healthy, we should be top half.”

The Falcons begin their regular season at 5 p.m. on Nov. 16 against Carthage College in the St. Norbert Tournament.

They will open up home play on Nov. 20 against Martin Luther College. The team starts conference play Dec. 1 at home against UW-Platteville.

“We’re a little deeper right now than we were a year ago and as athletic as we were”

Falcon sports at a glance

Seven named to WIAC football teams

Robbie Flom and Nate Smits were both named to the WIAC first team. Nathan Brandt was named to the second team and Lincoln Bjorklund, Jake Mandoza and Alex Adams all received honorable mention. Tony Golden was name to the All-Sportsmanship team. Flom, a freshman, led the league in kick return yards and returned one kick for a touchdown. Smits was the Falcons’ leading tackler and had seven sacks on the season. Brandt let the WIAC in receptions. Bjorklund and Mandoza were strong all season in tackles and stops behind the line. Adams had seven interceptions on the season which led the team. Golden started all 10 games this season.

Four named to WIAC soccer teams

Carlin Bunting, Alyssa Manor and Cassie Stang were all named to the WIAC first team. Janae Baron was named to the All-Sportsmanship team. Bunting, a senior midfielder, finished with five goals and seven assists on the season. Manor, a junior forward, finished with six goals including three game-winning goals. Stang is a junior defender who finished with nine goals on the season. Baron missed part of the season with an injury but finished with one goal.

Upcoming Events

Men’s hockey

The puck drops at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 17, at UW-Stevens Point

Women’s hockey

Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17 against UW-Eau Claire. Friday is at home and Saturday is at Eau Claire. The puck is set to drop at 7:05 p.m. both nights.

Men’s basketball

The team will open its season this weekend on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 at the Northwestern Tournament. They will play games against North Central University at 4 p.m. Friday and Northwestern College at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Women’s basketball

The team will open its season on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17 at the St. Norbert Tournament at 4 p.m. on Nov. 16 against Carthage College.

Swimming and Diving

Both the men and women will have a meet on Saturday, Nov. 17 at UW-Eau Claire. The meet will be against UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, and MSU-Moorhead.

Green named AVCA All-American

Erin Green earned third-team All-American honors for the second time in her career. Earlier this season she was named to the first team All-WIAC and first AVCA Midwest Regional team. Green led the Falcons in kills, solo blocks and block assists this season. She finished second in Falcon history for most kills with 1,521 kills in her career.



Alicia Carlson/Student Voice
Erin Green serving the ball at a home game.

Falcons named WIAC scholar athletes

Carlin Bunting and John Shimenz were both named WIAC scholar athletes. Both Bunting and Shimenz are senior athletes for UWRF. Bunting is a three-time member of the Captial One Academic all-district soccer team. Football player Schimenz has been named to the dean’s list all six semesters at UWRF. Both Bunting and Schimenz have been active in the River Falls community with service work.



Carlin Bunting



John Schimenz

Cross country teams finish season

Both cross country teams ended their season at the NCAA Midwest Regional meet. The men’s team finished 14th out of 39 teams. Jessop Keene was the team’s best finisher with a 42nd place finish overall.

The women matched their best finish in school history by coming in eighth out of 40 teams. Four runners set personal bests in the race with Katie Rydeen being the first Falcon across with a 36th place finish overall.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
FALCON WOMEN’S HOCKEY
HOME VS UW-EAU CLAIRE
7:05 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
FALCON WOMEN’S HOCKEY
AWAY VS UW-EAU CLAIRE
7 PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH
FALCON WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
HOME VS MARTIN LUTHER
7 PM TIP-OFF

Washington takes ‘Flight’ as drunk pilot

Nicole
Hovatter

Reviewer

“Flight” was a unique movie about an alcoholic pilot, named Whip Whitaker who is played by Denzel Washington.

Whip was flying a plane when the equipment malfunctioned and the plane crashed. The conditions of the crash were so intense that they should have killed everyone on board. However, the pilot maneuvered the plane so that the crash was less severe and several lives were saved.

He was regarded as a hero by the media, until officials found out that he was consuming alcohol while

flying. Whip is on trial for the deaths of the passengers. Even though Whip’s alcohol consumption did not cause the crash, the trial changes his whole perspective on life.

I was immediately drawn into “Flight” within the first few minutes. The scenes that were created in this movie were excellent. The plane crash at the beginning of the movie was what drew me into the film.

The pilot seemed eerily calm during the scene, which added to the intensity of the scene. Parts of the plane were falling off and the nose of the plane was taking a dive, yet he kept his composure. People were even flying around in the cabin because the plane became inverted.

Another powerful scene was one where Whip met a cancer victim and drug addict in the

hospital. The cancer victim makes both addicts realize that they have a life choice to make. They can choose to regain their lives if they only quit the drugs and alcohol; the cancer patient does not have the same luxury. I thought that this perspective of life was interesting.

While this movie had a great plot, I did not like the way it ended. Whip was forced to make a decision at the end of the movie. The decision he made did not seem logical to me. While he made the morally right decision, it did not seem like a realistic decision that he would make.

The ending of the movie also seemed out of place with the rest of the film. It seemed like the movie ended the movie the way it did because there was no better way to wrap up the movie.



Rachel Responds: Reflect professionalism on social media



Rachel
Woodman

Columnist

Schawbel in a Time.com article “How Recruiters Use Social Networks to Make Hiring Decisions Now.”

That means the majority of those dream jobs, or barely-pay-the-bills jobs, are looking into what you share.

“References to illicit drugs, posts of a sexual nature and mentions of alcohol consumption were likely to be viewed negatively by 78 percent, 67 percent and 47 percent of recruiters,” according to the Time article.

Poor grammar and spelling mistakes have a greater negative reaction by recruiters than alcoholic references. Grammar errors are viewed negatively by 54 percent of employers whereas alcohol-related posts are only viewed negatively by 47 percent of employers.

So to those of you that I’ve grammar policed to your disdain: you’re welcome.

What shouldn’t you do

on Facebook? Pictures of yourself vomiting out a car window, swearing profusely, putting “Smoking Trees” in your interests or posting a link to your Craigslist “casual encounters” listing.

Post appropriately.

An option posed by thepromoverse.com in “Employers Screening Facebook Profiles: Do’s and Don’ts of What You Post” is to create two separate profiles. One would be professional. Otherwise, privatize the majority of your current one – especially photos.

With all the caution surrounding social site use, some may decide to nix social media all together. Don’t do this. Not only won’t you be able to fan Rachel Responds, but employers will worry you don’t know your way around those sites.

Social Media is listed as one of five skills in “Do you have the tech skills employers want?” by thedegree360. onlinedegrees.com.

Jobs that benefit from the

use of social media want applicants who can use these sites. Without a profile on these sites employers may dismiss you.

If you’re not applying for jobs that use social media you should still have a profile.

“First off, it’s important that you have profiles on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. If you don’t, you won’t seem as relevant and companies might think that you’re hiding something,” according to the Time article.

When Rachel Responds’ fans were posed with the question, “What would an employer say if they read your Facebook right now?” Casey Doten said, “Well, he definitely doesn’t lack personality. Could be a wild card.”

Although Facebook and Twitter etiquette is necessary, Doten touches on an important point.

Using social media is a type of personal advertisement. According to “5 Clever Ways to get a Job Using Social Media” by Dan Schawbel on

Mashable.com, using these sites as a virtual resume is highly effective.

Your profile should showcase your personality, especially for those applying for jobs in the creative field.

According to the Time article, employers like to get a feel for how a candidate will get along with the team by gaining information about their personality from their profile.

So Doten’s “Wild Card Personality” may very well land him a job.

Facebook and Twitter need to be managed for possible search but the most important profile to have in the job search is a LinkedIn account. This is a social site with networking purposes for business professionals.

UW-River Falls Career Counselor Caitlyn Perszyk said in a LinkedIn Presentation that it’s important to not just have a profile but actually use the profile.

Spend some time entering your information into the

site, adding your resume and creating your headline. Join professional groups and comment with your thoughts. Employers like to see that you are well-rounded.

To get started correcting, or checking, your social media behavior visit website www.reppler.com.

Create an account and log into all of your social media sites. The website will scan your personal sites, score you and give you an easy way to edit or delete offensive content.

In the future when you get a hankering to post something offensive – such as your pong championship – remember to do so with grammatical correctness. Or better yet, don’t do it at all.

Send your questions, concerns, or quandaries to Rachel on her Facebook page “Rachel Responds” and follow her on Twitter.

Hunting not for everyone, still creates good memories of family, wildlife

Tyler
Smith

Columnist

Thanksgiving is only a few days away, and that means hunting season has arrived.

Hunting, I’ll admit, is not, I repeat, not, for me.

When I was 12-years-old and had passed gun safety, I went hunting with my grandfather, uncle, cousin and dad on a rustic homestead located near my hometown of Plum City, Wis.

Since my earliest childhood memories, I could remember wanting to go hunting with my dad and grandpa. They would wake in the earliest hours of the morning,

spraying bottles of scent killer on their clothes, then proceed to heat up leftover chili on the stove.

I would wave goodbye to them as they left for the woods. All day I would be upset that I was unable to go with them and my grandmother would console me by making hot chocolate and homemade soup.

When I turned 12 though, I finally got the opportunity to go hunting: to my detriment.

Eager to begin the day, I wriggled into the bright orange hunting gear - sucking my stomach in as I pulled up my coat zipper.

The first hour of hunting was majestic. The wind caressed the trees and me, like a fluffy blanket. The fresh smell of wood perfumed the

morning air. I had never been more wide awake in my life.

The second hour of hunting: a little less majestic. The wind no longer caressed me - it stabbed at me. The fresh smell of wood that perfumed the air only made me hungry for some hickory smoked bacon.

I was falling asleep.

After I woke from my brief siesta, the boredom resumed: for the next three hours I had whittled a spear from a fallen tree branch.

I had ignored all of my surroundings. My father told me later on that a 10-point buck had gone behind me while I had been “messaging around with my fiddle stick.” I didn’t care, the whittling was more fun.

Noon hit, and the best part

of the hunting trip happened. Lunch.

Only my cousin Corey and I came up from the woods for lunch. Not surprising, we were the two fattest guys in our hunting party. We both looked at the buckets of chili gluttonously.

Waving goodbye to each other, we both descended back into the confines of the woods.

An hour after I had returned from lunch, an adult doe walked right in front of me. She was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen, besides the left over Little Debbie Snack Cake I once found in the backseat of my car.

The doe nuzzled about, trying to find some food that lingered underneath the snow-packed ground. The

doe, hearing me, looked up in my direction.

Being the “professional” hunter that I am, I waved to the doe: it seemed unalarmed by my presence.

The doe lingered about as I undid my thermos and poured a glass of hot apple cider that my grandmother had packed for me.

Never have I felt more at peace in that moment, but, ultimately, peace does not last.

The doe looked up at me one last time, smiling. A loud concussive wave boomed into my ears.

I yelled madly, as the doe fell to its side. I think I even cried.

I saw my dad running down the top of the hill, holding his fists high. I stared blankly at

him.

The one moment that I treasure most about that trip was seeing my grandfather’s smile when he exited the woods. He said that same doe had crossed his path an hour before, and he stared at it as well.

We shared that moment together. We shared serenity.

Since that unfortunate day in the woods, I prefer to stay at home drinking hot chocolate and eating homemade soup, but being around family, that’s what life is all about.

Parting words: never give up your family, their all you got - unless you happen to find a Little Debbie Snack Cake somewhere.

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The Student Voice is hiring all positions for the spring semester!

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Barnett: Found strength through faith

From page 1

In the middle of summer, UWRF notified Tom that he would be offered his position back teaching music even though the trial had ended in April.

After UWRF placed him on leave for the entire 2011-2012 school year, Blake Fry, the special assistant to the chancellor, said that the administration had to conduct its own investigation that was separate from the courts.

Tom was notified by Chancellor Dean Van Galen that UWRF would offer him his job back, and now he is in his 12th year of teaching at UWRF. For the fall 2012 semester, he has four classes.

“Teaching’s been great,” said Tom. “I’ve

been busy preparing lectures. I always wanted to come back. I didn’t want to be on leave, but I respect the decision of the administration.”

Tom said he has since received an outpouring of support from faculty and students.

“Barnett went through a very difficult time being away from UWRF for an entire year, and we are happy to have him back in the department,” said UWRF Music Professor Kristin Tjornehoj. “The music department faculty and staff managed to keep their energy and focus on creating a positive environment with educationally strong objectives for students through the year.

Student reactions are hard to judge, and I cannot speak on behalf of others, yet I have not seen any negative outward response by students or staff.”

One of the biggest surprises for Professor Barnett has been the number of people who have come up to him and shared similar stories of having a friend or family member being wrongly accused of a crime and had to endure a similar trial.

He said that around 15-20 people have shared their stories.

“No one wants to talk about it, but when they see that you’ve been through it too, we can find comfort in knowing that we can make it through it,” said Tom.

Student Elliot Novak, who has had several classes with Barnett, said his initial reaction to the accusations against Barnett was to not have any opinion, and to believe that Barnett was innocent until proven guilty because the same thing had happened to someone he knew. Novak is a music major and former student

of Barnett’s and has known Barnett for two years after taking several music classes with him.

“It hits you hard when it is someone you know. It isn’t Hollywood; he is a member of our community. It can be a critical distraction when you look to allegations versus the truth,” said Novak. “But Tom’s a good guy and I applaud the music department and UWRF for not being subject to unfound suspicion.”

Barnett said he hopes that if anyone takes away anything from his story, it is to stay strong in your faith and to enjoy the blessings of today.

“We have today,” said Tom. “We have today to hold each other’s hands. We have today to see that each day is a blessing. So why is our situation so bad?”

Trial tests faith, endurance of professor

Thomas Barnett goes through eight months of hearings, proceedings and trial

<p>Aug. 15, 2011</p> <p>Tom Barnett attends movie with son and son’s friend.</p>	<p>Oct. 4, 2011</p> <p>Preliminary hearings begin in the St. Croix County Circuit Court.</p> <p>Judge Eric Lundell finds probable cause to move case forward</p> <p>Nov. 10, 2011</p> <p>Barnett pleads not guilty to charges of second degree sexual assault of a minor and false imprisonment charges.</p>	<p>Feb. 13, 2012</p> <p>Final pre-trial reveals that witnesses admit to lying to officials about their own sexual activity. DNA evidence excludes Barnett as a possible contributor.</p> <p>Feb. 28, 2012</p> <p>Trial is scheduled to begin, but is postponed due to weather concerns.</p>	<p>April 11, 2012</p> <p>Barnett’s trial begins in the St. Croix County Circuit Court.</p> <p>April 12-14, 2012</p> <p>Jury deliberates.</p> <p>April 14, 2012</p> <p>Barnett declared not guilty of all charges.</p>	<p>Summer 2012</p> <p>Barnett is notified that he can return to teaching at UW-River Falls.</p> <p>Fall 2012</p> <p>Barnett resumes teaching music classes.</p>
<p>Aug. 16, 2011</p> <p>Hudson police show up at Barnetts’ home.</p>				
<p>Fall semester 2011</p> <p>Barnett is placed on paid administrative lead by UWRF.</p>				



Sally King/Student Voice

Thomas Barnett (left) was on trial for an alleged sexual assault of a minor. He was represented by Defense Attorney Timothy O’Brien (right). His trial began April 11, 2012.

Sally King/Student Voice

Thomas Barnett’s wife, Chris, embraces family and friends after Barnett’s verdict was read on Saturday, April 14 at 10:40 a.m. Barnett was declared not guilty of charges of second-degree sexual assault of a minor and for false imprisonment. These charges were brought forth on Aug. 16, 2011, at the Hudson Theatre.

Holidays focused on thanks celebrated around world

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, with only a week until we get to get together with our families and stuff our faces with turkey, stuffing and, most importantly, pie.

While Thanksgiving is a holiday primarily celebrated in the United States and Canada, several other countries around the world have their own Thanksgiving holidays to celebrate.

This may come as a surprise since many people typically think of Thanksgiving as the Pilgrims coming to the New World. Now, it is a holiday to celebrate everything that we are thankful for. People all around the world can take time on this holiday to focus on the things in life that they appreciate the most.

The holiday is celebrated on the

second Monday in October each year in Canada and is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November each year in the United States.

It is celebrated so early in Canada because of the earlier winter, and, therefore, harvest. The holiday is known to have several different traditions from country to country, so it is typically extended through the next weekend or the weekend that falls closest to the day that it is celebrated.

Throughout history, Thanksgiving was a holiday known to have roots in religious and cultural tradition. The United States bases Thanksgiving off of the English traditions from the Protestant Reformation. Today, it is more commonly celebrated as a secular and casual holiday.

There were no permanent English settlements in Canada until the early 18th Century. Even though this is the case, the first Canadian Thanksgiving has a historical background. It is traced back to 1578 when explorer Martin Frobisher

tried to find a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean. Their celebration was not to celebrate harvest, but to celebrate thanks that Frobisher had safely completed the journey, despite storms and icebergs.

People also trace the roots of Thanksgiving back to French settlers led by Samuel de Champlain. They are celebrated for having found New France and celebrated successful harvests.

Now, Thanksgiving takes place to give thanks at the close of the harvest season. The original act of Parliament recognizes the holiday in a religious manner, often referencing God, but most people celebrate it in a secular manner.

Late autumn observance of the holiday became more common when immigrants came to the country, such as the Irish, Scots and Germans.

In other parts of the world, countries celebrate a similar holiday to Thanksgiving. In Germany, they celebrate a holiday called

“Erntedankfest,” or the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival. The holiday is widely observed on a religious basis, though it is also quite similar to the United States, as they celebrate with a large feast.

In Grenada, an island west of India, Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on Oct. 25. Though similar in the name, the holiday marks an occasion vastly different from that of the United States or Canada. It marks the U.S.- led invasion of the island in 1983, following the deposition and execution of Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Japan celebrates Labor Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 23, and it has been celebrated since American occupation during World War II. They use this as a day to give thanks to fellow Japanese citizens for their labor and production. An ancient harvest ceremony has been celebrated to honor hard work.

Thanksgiving in Liberia is celebrated to commemorate its colonization in 1820 by free

American blacks.

Many of the pilgrims actually came from a city in the Netherlands called Leiden, where they resided from 1609 to 1620. The Dutch still commemorate this today with a non-denominational religious service in Pieterskerk, a Gothic church. They celebrate this on the American Thanksgiving Day to commemorate the guidance that the pilgrims received upon arrival in the New World.

With only a week to go until Thanksgiving here in the United States, it is time to look forward to the parades, food and family. There is a lot to be thankful for in all of our lives and this should be a day used to recognize that.

And, if nothing else, it serves as a much needed break for all of us as this semester begins to wrap up. Just remember one thing: the day after Thanksgiving is the best day of the year to sleep in.