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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Director of Admissions assumes new role

Jack Tuthill

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Mark Meydam, UW-River Falls' current director of Admissions, has found a new role on campus as the very first director of enrollment management operations and technology within the Enrollment and Student Success division.

Meydam described his new role as a business analyst position. One of his first duties as director of enrollment management operations and technology will be to help the campus become more electronic and less paper-dependent.

Another of Meydam's main focuses in his new role is student retention; working harder to keep students on campus once they arrive. "Our goal is to pull together the recruitment effort, with an emphasis on retention," Meydam said.

Meydam, a 1985 UWRF graduate with a bachelor's degree in agriculture education, has worked on campus since he was a sophomore student in 1982. Meydam began simply as a student worker, spent one year in the College of Agriculture department and later

settled into Admissions in 1986. He has been there ever since.

"It's rewarding talking about experiences I had to potential students," Meydam said. "Connecting with future students and sharing how River Falls changed my life, that's the most rewarding and fun part of the job."

Meydam has not just made an impression on past students, but on staff members as well.

"I've known Mark for 20 years," said Kristina Anderson, associate vice chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success. "He has been a lifer. He bleeds red and white in that office."

Anderson, who helped recruit Meydam to Enrollment and Student Success, believes his expertise made him a no-brainer for the open position. She described Meydam as a student-oriented, multi-talented gem.

"Mark and I are both very excited about the potential of this position to positively impact

the student experience as well as staff's use of technology," Anderson said.

Meydam will work closely with all areas of the Enrollment and Student Success division, but also with the Division of Technology Services (DoTS), Institutional Research, Financial Aid, the Registrar's office and academic departments.

"Our goal is to pull together the recruitment effort, with an emphasis on retention," said Director of Admissions Mark Meydam.

Meydam, who was a member of the original eSIS implementation team, found a niche in technology, which eventually led to him becoming the face of Admissions. He has been director since June of 2007.

His relocation to Enrollment and Student Success was a big-picture move for Anderson. In his new job, Meydam will also work with high-level data systems, operational technology and enrollment projections.

Finalists for the open director of admissions position began interviewing on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Anderson is looking for someone who can take over and build on what Meydam has spent years developing. Faculty and students were encouraged to attend the open meetings,

which ran from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28. Among the finalists are Kristen Hatfield, LeAnn Brown, Joel Helms and Matt Huber.

"I'm looking for someone to take us to the next level," Anderson said. "Help us become the college of choice."

Meydam, who stresses teamwork and customer service, shared advice for whomever takes over as director of Admissions.

"Communicate with people across the university," Meydam said. "Help us work together as a team."

Meydam will continue to act as Admissions director until the position is filled, which should not be vacant for much longer. Once a new director is named, Meydam, whose office is in South Hall, will cross Cascade Avenue and settle into North Hall.

Having been working on campus since 1982, Meydam has seen his fair share of change and he is optimistic about the future.

"I've been through a number of reorganizations," Meydam said. "It's about working together towards a common goal."

Retention, recruitment issues present challenges

Niki Hovatter

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The number of new freshmen at UW-River Falls has decreased by about 20 percent since the peak of enrollment during fall 2008, according to statistics from recruitment and retention officials.

Recruiting new students has been a challenge for UWRF in recent years, due to a lower population of graduating high school seniors in the area. Attracting students and then retaining students is one goal of UWRF, said Kris Anderson, associate vice chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success.

Low numbers for recruitment and retention are issues that plague universities across the country.

"It's not just a UWRF phenomenon. It's a national phenomenon," Anderson said.

Anderson said marketing will be crucial in order to recruit new students. She specifically said she would like to see revisions of the UWRF website and social media.

"I think we have all the pieces, but we just need to pull it together in an intentional way," Anderson said.

Anticipating change in demographics of the area and being prepared for those changes will be important. Presenting UWRF as a di-

verse and inclusive community will be crucial, especially with the expansion of the local Latino community, Anderson said.

Research has been done to find reasons behind the decrease in the student population at UWRF. Admissions and retention staff are currently drawing conclusions based on the statistics.

While some students decide to leave UWRF, most decide to stay; about 72 percent of new students return for a second year, along with about 76 percent of transfer students.

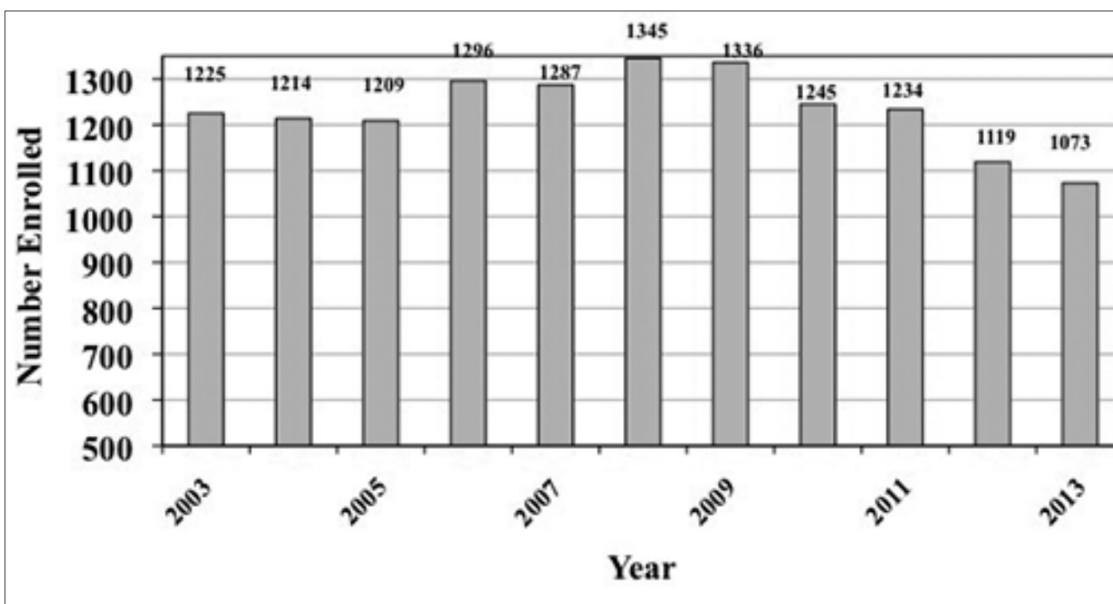
Meg Kawse, a senior majoring in marketing communications, chose to stay at UWRF because it was a simpler choice. She also stated that internships will be more valuable in her field than where she obtains her degree.

The number of students at UWRF is lower than desired. Having a decrease in students on campus means that there are less segregated fees, which go toward funding for campus resources, Anderson said.

A strategic enrollment plan has been set in place to identify a goal for ideal campus population of UWRF.

Several programs have been implemented to retain new students. One goal of programs like Falcon Schol-

Number of new freshmen fall semester



Kris Anderson

This graph compiled by Kris Anderson, associate vice chancellor for enrollment, shows that the number of new freshmen decreased from 1,345 in 2008 to 1,073 in 2013. This decrease has become a concern for UWRF and universities around the nation.

ars and learning communities within residence halls is to connect and engage students on campus.

This fall, two retention specialists were hired to increase the success and retention of new students at UWRF.

Noah Hilte, a UWRF physics graduate, mentors students who are pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math

(STEM). Megan LaFontaine, multicultural retention specialist for the Academic Success Center, mentors those who identify as students of color.

Hilte and LaFontaine act as compliments to academic advisors and provide additional resources and support for new students. Students are able to set up appointments with retention specialists to

voice concerns or gain support on a variety of issues.

"My goal is to help students reach their success," LaFontaine said.

The challenges of each student are different and are identified through conversation with retention specialists. Both Hilte and LaFontaine have had a number of positive interactions with students.

Hilte described an appointment where he was able to help a student interested in engineering search for careers for an hour. A student personally thanked LaFontaine for helping her make the Dean's List.

All students are encouraged by Anderson to get involved in the campus community and spread the word about UWRF.

Political science associate professor pens book on public opinion in cities

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Neil Kraus, associate professor of political science, wrote "Majoritarian Cities," a book regarding public opinion in a local setting.

The book was published in October 2013 and focuses on Minneapolis and Gary, Ind. Kraus has lived in both cities, which is why he became interested in researching them.

Kraus covers five issues in "Majoritarian Cities" and relates them to public opinion. In Minneapolis, he researched education, law enforcement and affordable housing, while he researched education and riverboat casinos in Gary.

"In every city, the schools are a big issue no matter where you are, so that was kind of an issue that I was going to choose no matter what city," Kraus said.

Kraus chose to study affordable housing in Minneapolis because it was a prominent issue in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when Kraus was beginning his research.

"There was a lot of back and forth about what the city should do about affordable housing. It was just a big deal locally," Kraus said. "That issue was an obvious choice."

"On the issue of law enforcement, it was kind of an obvious choice too, because there was quite a bit of debate

and discussion between the Minneapolis Police Department and mostly minority communities about a bunch of issues related to police treatment," Kraus said.

According to Kraus, the issues relating to police treatment were often centered on young males, and the tension resulting in an incident in the early 2000s.

See Kraus page 3

Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Neil Kraus, associate professor of political science, wrote a book titled "Majoritarian Cities." The book was published in October 2013.



News briefs:

Students take top honors at regional dairy science conference

A UW-River Falls Dairy Club team took top honors in the quiz bowl competition at the Midwest Regional American Dairy Science Association- Student Affiliate Division (AD-SA-SAD) Conference in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

More than 400 students from 13 universities around the region attended the conference to expand their knowledge on the dairy industry. Steve Kelm, professor of animal science, accompanied the 44 members from UWRF who attended. The conference included educational sessions, intercollegiate competitions and networking or social events.

UWRF competed in both the junior and senior divisions of the quiz bowl competition and took home top honors in the senior division Friday evening. The senior team included: Jeff Neuser, Manitowoc; Isaac Solum, Rice Lake; Erik Warmka, Fox Lake; and Eric Zwiefelhofer, Bloomer. The senior team placed first after defeating UW-Madison in the semi-finals and Ohio State University in the finals. The junior team, consisting of Liz Boesl, Boyceville; Eryn Orth, Winona, Minn.; Brad Rostad, Zumbrota, Minn.; and Sierra Solum, Rice Lake, was defeated in the semi-finals.

Each year at the conference, a new Regional Officer team is elected. Tim Borgardt, Oshkosh, was elected as an Officer at Large for 2014-15.

Each year a different school is selected to host the ADSA-SAD conference. UW-Platteville will host the event in 2015. UWRF last hosted ASDA-SAD in 2011.

UWRF hosts open house for St. Croix Valley Bull Test

The UW-River Falls Department of Animal and Food Science, St. Croix Valley Bull Test and UW-Extension will host an educational program and open house. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the formal program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, for cow and calf producers at the Dairy Learning Center, on the UWRF Mann Valley Farm, 129 South Glover Road, northwest of River Falls.

The educational program will include an introduction on how to use Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) predictions to select bulls that fit the needs of a cow herd. The session will be conducted by Brian McCulloh of Woodhill Angus, Viroqua. A second session, presented by Amy Radunz, assistant professor of Animal Science, will focus on genetic defects and how they should be managed by commercial cow and calf producers. This past summer another genetic defect, Developmental Duplication (DD), was identified in the Angus breed. The Angus Association is allowing carriers of the DD defect to be registered.

Producers will also be able to preview the bulls available at the upcoming Bull Test Sale set for Saturday, April 26.

There is no charge for the program, but individuals are asked to pre-register by contacting the St. Croix County Extension Office at 715-531-1930. The UWRF Student Beef Management Team will be providing lunch for \$6 per person.

UW-River Falls to premiere planetarium show ‘Chasing the Ghost Particle’

The UW-River Falls Physics Department and the Society of Physics Students will present the full-dome planetarium show, “Chasing the Ghost Particle: From the South Pole to the Edge of the Universe,” at the UWRF Planetarium at 7:30 p.m., with refreshments available at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 27, in Room 201 of the Agricultural Science building. The event is free and open to the public.

The show takes an incredible 30-minute trip from the most extreme places in the universe to inside the IceCube telescope, a huge detector buried deep in the Antarctic ice. IceCube is designed to chase neutrinos coming from the distant universe. Neutrinos are extremely small particles that are almost undetectable, earning them the nickname “ghost particles.” They are expected to give us new information about some of the most powerful environments in the cosmos, expanding our understanding of black holes and exploding stars beyond what we have obtained from other types of telescopes.

UWRF has been a member of the IceCube Collaboration and its predecessor AMANDA since 1998. Four Physics Department staff members and three students have deployed to Antarctica for research. More than 50 undergraduates have worked on these projects at UWRF in the last 15 years. The IceCube project was recently awarded the 2013 Breakthrough of the Year by the British magazine Physics World.

“After years of effort, involving hundreds of people from Wisconsin and more nationally and internationally, we knew IceCube was a great story that we had to share,” said Jim Madsen, UWRF Physics Department chair, and associate director of the IceCube project leading the education and outreach efforts.

“Chasing the Ghost Particle” is a joint production of the Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center (WIPAC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM).

For more information, contact Madsen at 715-425-3235.

Theatre presents ‘Vinegar Tom’

The UW-River Falls University Theatre will present “Vinegar Tom” at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 27-28, and March 1, 6-8 in the Syse Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

“Vinegar Tom,” written in 1976, focuses on the women of the 17th century who were suspected, charged or even hanged for allegedly practicing witchcraft. These women were often single, older and with knowledge of herbs and traditional methods of healing.

The action of the play is interrupted with a number of songs, sung by the actors in contemporary dress, which comment on the action and draw parallels to our present day society.

“The staging, costumes and songs are all done in a way to connect us to the current relevance of the story, forcing the audience to question the ways in which women are viewed and treated,” said Director Sean Dooley.

The cast includes: Freshman Ashley Sager of New Richmond as Goody, Junior Adam Witherspoon of Bloomington, Minn., as Jack, Sophomore Sophie Sieh of Hastings, Minn., as Susan, Junior Nic Ambroz of Waseca,

Minn., as Doctor/Packer, Sophomore Kendra Yarke of St. Paul, Minn., as Betty, Sophomore Megan Rogers of Mendota Heights, Minn., as Joan, Freshman Hannah Tamminga of Rochester, Minn., as Margery, Sophomore Brent Bundgaard of Osceola as Man/Bellringer, Junior Vanessa Brooke Agnes of Forest Lake, Minn., as Ellen, and Junior Lisa Miske of Anoka, Minn., as Alice.

Given the subject matter, the play is intended for mature audiences only. Tickets are \$11/adults, \$9/seniors 60+ and \$6/students.

Tickets can be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, beginning Feb. 17, and one hour prior to performances.

For more information or to order tickets by phone, call the Box Office at 715-425-3114.

Summer camp offered to young engineering enthusiasts

UW-River Falls will host the UW-Madison College of Engineering’s Camp Badger Exploring Engineering July 6-12 on the UWRF campus. Students with an interest in math and science who will enter eighth grade in the fall are invited to apply by March 10.

The week-long summer camp provides an introduction to what engineers do and is designed to interest young students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines (STEM). Participants stay in the UWRF residence halls and eat in the campus cafeteria.

“Experience has taught us that this is the best way to help young people understand engineering,” said Camp Director Phillip O’Leary, a professor of engineering professional development at UW-Madison. “Campers are directly involved in the learning process and they leave with a better idea of what engineers do in real-life situations.”

Each day campers follow a 12-hour schedule of activities, all facilitated and chaperoned by university faculty and college students. Popular activities are field trips to local companies and engineering facilities. Activities also include project-based exploration, hands-on exercises, team-building projects and small-group discussions. All campers receive a workbook with questions designed to guide journaling and discussion of their experiences. There are no tests.

This summer marks 16 years of successful sessions in Madison and the fourth summer on the UWRF campus. Interested students are invited to apply no later than March 10 for the 30 spots available per week.

Qualified applicants will possess determination, creativity, problem solving and time management skills, as well as the ability to get along well with others in a team environment. Cost for the full week, including lodging, meals and field trips, is \$595 per student. Need-based scholarships are available.

“One goal of Camp Badger is to offer an experience to kids who would not otherwise have the opportunity,” O’Leary said.

Females, representatives of traditionally underserved populations, minority group members and young people who have not had an experience with a pre-college program are encouraged to apply, O’Leary said.

For additional information, including application forms, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/YouthandStudents.cfm> or contact the UWRF Outreach office at 715-425-3256.

Dairy pilot plant project receives \$1 million

Dairy industry leaders at UW-River Falls have kicked off fundraising efforts to make needed updates to the university’s Dairy Pilot Plant.

UWRF is one of few campuses in the nation delivering a 360-degree experiential-learning opportunity for undergraduate students to work in a dairy plant production environment and participate in new product development, from testing to marketing, from production to final retail, in addition to being able to access the key academic components in the classroom.

Launched in June 2013, the fundraising effort has reached \$1 million in gifts and commitments, one third of its goal to raise \$3 million in private contributions to update and upgrade equipment in the Dairy Pilot Plant. UWRF will also seek to secure an additional \$500,000 in institutional and state funding for facility renovation and modernization.

“This transformational renovation of the Dairy Pilot Plant is a high priority project for the university,” UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen said. “The renovation will modernize our facilities, expand our capacity to support business and industry and enable us to provide high-quality hands-on experiences to a new generation of leaders in Wisconsin’s signature industry.”

“This is a very important project for UWRF and the Wisconsin dairy industry,” said Dave Fuhrmann, president of Foremost Farms USA, Wisconsin’s largest dairy cooperative. “The demand for trained dairy processing and product development personnel will continue to grow in the future. Foremost Farms will look to UWRF for qualified candidates for the positions we’ll have open in the future. We are confident the investment that is made today will provide the expertise our business needs.”

Specific outcomes of the renovation project will include an overall modernization of the equipment and processes and an increase in space dedicated to the Dairy Pilot Plant, bringing the facility from 1,600 square feet to 6,000 square feet. This will allow for the separation of raw product handling and whey processing and the creation of independently functioning spaces for cheese and ice cream production.

Space will be added for raw milk processing and separation, along with increased HTST capacity, additional cheese vats and a cheese aging room. An improved ice cream manufacturing space will feature temperature control, updated processing equipment and separate raw and pasteurized processing areas. A classroom and training area overlooking the cheese processing space will also be added.

For more information on the dairy plant renovation, visit go.uwrf.edu/dairyplant or contact Dean Gallenberg at 715-425-3784.

Dance team hosts ‘Dancing with the Stars’

The UW-River Falls Dance Team is hosting its 4th annual Dancing with the Stars show.

The show will be on Thursday, March 6, at the Abbott Concert Hall in Kleinpell Fine Arts. Doors will open at 7:00 PM and the show will start at 7:30 PM.

Tickets went on sale on Feb. 26 and will be sold for \$5 ahead of time and \$7 at the door.

Contact danceteam@uwrf.edu with questions.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Feb. 25

- Cole Hunter Anderson was fined for possession of marijuana at Grimm Hall.
- Lucas David Ronnei was fined for possession of drug paraphernalia at Grimm Hall.

Editor’s note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and River Falls Police Department

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The Student Voice is hiring for this semester!

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Kraus: Book relays over decade of research

From page 1

“After this riot there was this big process that went on for a couple of years, where the police department was negotiating with the federal government,” Kraus said. “It was just this big, big debate in Minneapolis too.”

Concerning the issues covered in Gary, Kraus said there is not as much going on there because it is smaller and a poorer city, therefore there was a limited array of topics to research.

“There was this issue of casinos, which most cities don’t have, but in Indiana the law is different,” Kraus said.

Indiana’s state legislature passed a law that allowed select cities to adopt the riverboat casinos, which Kraus found to be a topic that had a strong public opinion. Also, the issue of riverboat casinos is not something that can be covered in Minneapolis.

The process to write “Majoritarian Cities” has been ongoing for over a decade.

“The serious writing of chapters and stuff

like that started about nine or so years ago, but I have interviews dated 2001,” Kraus said.

Kraus interviewed 36 people; 19 were from Minneapolis and 17 were from Gary. The interviews were conducted in groups or individually.

“I wasn’t a very good interviewer because I deliberately didn’t tape any of them,” Kraus

said. “In an ideal world you could tape everything, but I found that as soon as you start documenting, it chills them even more.”

Therefore, there are not many direct quotes in “Majoritarian Cities,” because Kraus only wrote notes, mainly background information. Some of his interviewees also provided him with extra resources, including reports and studies. The interviewees included people like former and current elected officials, judges, school of-

ficials, people in some measure of authority and lawyers.

“They were all people that would be called elites in social science terms,” Kraus said.

Geography Professor John Heppen has read parts of “Majoritarian Cities” during its various drafts.

“What sets this book apart is that Dr. Kraus

“What sets this book apart is that Dr. Kraus has spent hundreds of hours talking to people and doing fieldwork,” said Professor John Heppen.

has spent hundreds of hours talking to people and doing fieldwork,” Heppen said. “He just doesn’t look at census data or read what others have written; he gets the actual information and views

from the people who matter in Minneapolis.”

Kraus also conducted informal interviews with numerous citizens in both Minneapolis and Gary about their public opinions on the five issues he focused on.

“Majoritarian Cities” is Kraus’s second

book. The first one, “Race, Neighborhoods, and Community Power,” focused on the politics of race in Buffalo, N.Y.

“I knew I wanted to do another one,” Kraus said. “One way to do it is kind of immerse yourself in all the literature that’s out there, because I thought I had something to add but I wasn’t quite sure what it was.”

Once Kraus had a topic in mind that he thought he had a unique angle on, he began his research. Kraus said that the main message of “Majoritarian Cities” is that city governments often enact policies that are not necessarily in line with the majority of public opinion. He named high-poverty schools as one of the most important issues that need to be addressed.

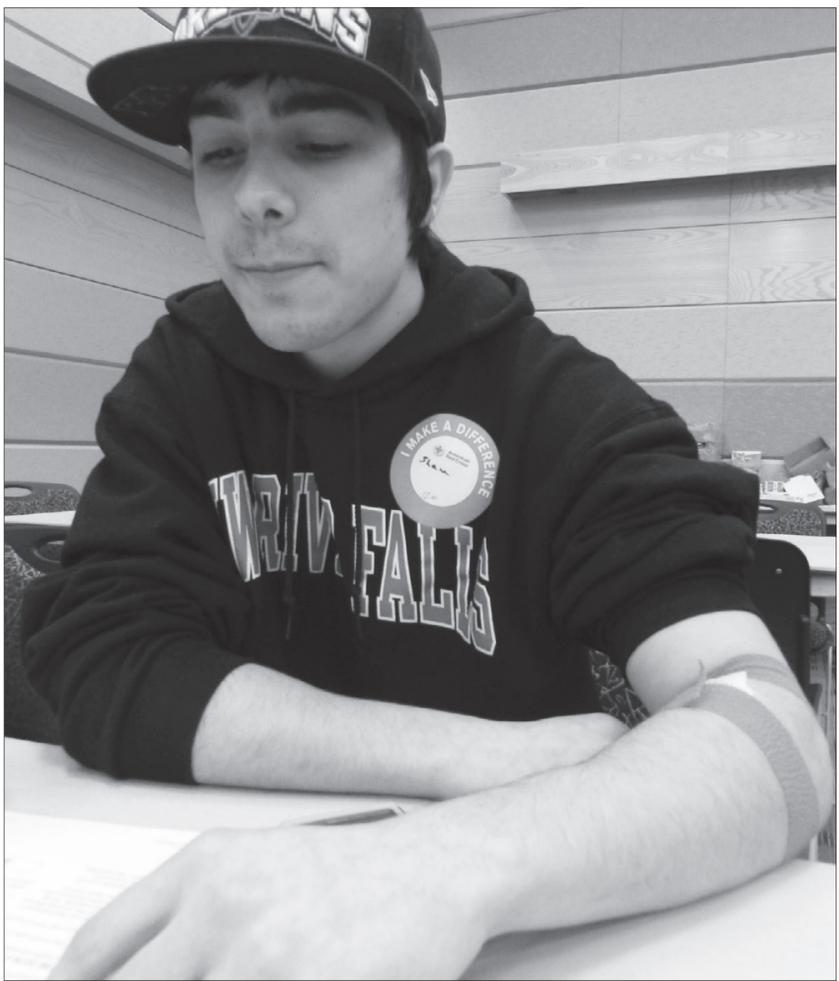
“I think in any city, of any size, that is probably the most pressing issue,” Kraus said. “It is what to do with the public schools, what to do with the schools that have a large number of low-income kids.”

UWRF hosts American Red Cross community blood drive



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Left: Students Hannah Jenkins and Sophie Wordehoff volunteer to donate blood as phlebotomist Valerie Ross prepares Jenkins for the process.



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Above: Shane Ballard, student, rests and reads after donating blood. He is reading the flyer that the American Red Cross provides, which explains what precautions and actions that donatees should take after giving blood. A few of these tips include drinking plenty of fluids, especially water, and also avoiding strenuous exercise.



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EDITORIAL

Lack of snow removal sparks concern for student safety

This winter has been brutal. With the negative temperatures and the messy snowstorms, sidewalks and parking lots on campus have succumbed to the collection of ice and snow. As students we are expected to trek across campus and lately, it has been quite a dangerous activity. The ice has invaded the majority of sidewalk space, leaving students to slip and slide rather than walk to classes. The lack of ice removal and salt has not gone unnoticed by students and it is concerning that there is potential to get injured. There are snow removal vehicles that have been seen clearing pathways on campus from snow. Without them, students would not be able to distinguish sidewalks from lawns; therefore the snow removal crew is appreciated. However, the timing of the snow removal could be more directed away from the busy passing times for students. The snow removal vehicles are usually cleaning off the sidewalks as students are walking to class and it can be quite dangerous. Coming so close to students with equipment that large is subject to injuries, as the drivers do not always see students.

More snow removal and safety concerns are brought on by the parking lots on campus. In previous years, students have received emails to relocate their vehicles so that the parking lots can be properly plowed. However, this year that is not the case. After this past week's snowfall, students are now climbing over frozen snow piles to get to their cars. Although there has been an email sent out to some students to move their vehicles from certain lots, it did not happen until a week after the snow had arrived.

Snowplows do plow the drive of the parking lots but that pushes the snow behind cars, leaving students to shovel themselves out. While that is not a big deal on its own, the problem starts when everyone has to remove the snow that is blocking his or her vehicle in. Where does that snow go? The answer is: between the vehicles. Not only are students having to pile up snow in every open space, they also have to clean off the snow that has accumulated on top of their vehicles which once again, ends up between them. This is a hassle when students need to open their vehicle doors or even back out of their parking spaces because snow is piled up under the tires and in front of the doors.

With March only being days away, we can only hope the warm weather arrives soon, eliminating the snow and ice problems. Until then, stay safe.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Old Facebook messages bring up fond memories

Natalie Howell
Columnist

A few days ago I was putting off homework while messing around on Facebook and I began reading my old messages, starting from the first message I had ever sent. It took a while, but at the end of my little journey back in time I realized two things. The first thing is how badly I used to type. Someone really should have just taken away my computer and hit me in the head with it. "Hw r u??? im gr8." will never be okay. What kind of rush was I in where could not add the extra letter to "how" to make it a real word? Could I not spell the word "great?" Let's just hope that part of social media never comes back. While I was kicking myself for my crimes against the English language, I realized something else; the majority of the people I messaged when I was younger I am no longer in contact with. Whether it was because of a stupid fight, someone moving away or just simply growing apart, I took a minute to mourn the relationships and the people that are no longer in my life.

It is strange, isn't it? The way people come and go through our lives never really seems to have a certain rhyme or reason. Some people are just beside you without an explanation, while with others it involved a long journey of hardships and laughs. But it is surprising how it ends. Especially with the transition from high school to college we have seen friendships dissolve quicker than we ever thought possible. And maybe it is because of distance, because we never saw those people enough, but perhaps it is just because we have changed. It is kind of a scary thought, but it is one we have all had to face at some point in our lives. Maybe the change is just that you do not like the same band anymore, but unfortunately sometimes change is the enemy of friendships. When you look through old conversations and see who you used to talk to and what you used to talk about, it can sometimes amaze you how you dealt with the things you were forced to deal with. You look through all of the stupid gossip and drama that every teenager faces, you look through the Facebook invites you got from your friends say-

ing, "Party @ My House!" that brings back fond memories. You also look through the nonchalant conversations that you took for granted with the people you no longer speak to and you wish you could have that kind of conversation with that person again. You look through all of that and you decide that there is no way that you have not changed, because how couldn't you? We tend to change with our environment and mold into the people around us, so it is easy to assume that when the people we associate with walk out of our lives, a little part of ourselves goes with them. I guess at the end of the day, all we can do is smile at the memories we had with those people and move on. Like I said before, some people enter and leave our lives without much of an explanation, and we can spend our days wondering why and wishing that things would go back to the way they were. However, that will not do us any good. So we smile at the old Facebook messages and we move on and maybe clean out our inbox. Because that is all we can do, right?

Senate Corner: Student Senate to vote on segregated fee increases for next academic year

Matthew Shutey
Legislative Affairs Chair

It is late winter and a great melt is just around the corner that will signify the beginning of spring, but before we can get there, we have to get through budget season! Student Senate spent several hours of last week reviewing and listening to the presentations of advisory committees on their budget proposals for next year. The budgets that were reviewed last week were the Stadium Fee, Differential Tuition, Enrollment Center, Child-care and Municipal Services proposed budgets; all with no increases requested. The Carding Office budget requested a 3 percent increase, the Career Services budget requested a 2.95 percent increase, Student Health budget requested a 2.9 percent increase, Residence Life budget requested a 3 percent increase and the Student Life budget requested a 3 percent increase. These increases will go to balance the budgets of

each department and help with the cuts that are happening all over the campus. On Feb. 25, Senate reviewed budgets for the Textbook Services budget requesting a 3 percent increase, the University Center budget requesting a 3 percent increase, the Dining Services budget requesting a 3 percent increase, the Recreation and Sports Facilities Hunt Arena requesting a 3 percent increase, the Recreation & Sports Facilities Kinni Outdoor Adventures budget requesting a 3 percent increase, the Recreation and Sports Facilities Intramural Complex budget requesting a 3 percent increase, the Athletics budget requesting for a 3 percent increase and the Recreation and Sports Facilities Intramural Athletics budget which is not requesting an increase. Also on Feb. 25, Senate voted on the budgets that were reviewed last week. In other news, on Feb. 25, Dylan Asp was appointed to the at-large senator position that was previously vacant.

Be the first person to find the lost Falcon feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theater! (105 S. Main St.)

Playing Feb. 28- March 6
"Monuments Men"
7 p.m. & 9:15 p.m. daily (Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.)

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins! The winner will be announced on the Voice's account on Twitter @uwrfvoice.

Congratulations to last week's winner, Bailey Colbert!

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor: editor@uwrfvoice.com

Biology majors experiment with ceramics class

Alexa Hilt
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Students are encouraged to try out different classes in different subjects as they start their college career at UW-River Falls, but some students are experimenting with different classes and subjects toward the end of their college years.

Rhonda Willers, an art lecturer at UWRF, has students with majors in a wide variety of subjects such as horticulture and theatre, but two students in her introduction to ceramics course this semester that have majors out of the ordinary for an art course. They were biology majors, Sophia Leoni and Nik Stephens.

“On the first day of class, I ask everyone to introduce themselves and share why they are taking the course. Both Sophie and Nik mentioned that they are biology majors,” Willers said. “Sophie was interested in the course as practice for future surgical skills, and Nik was interested in the course for skills related to future mold and model making within dentistry.”

Stephens, a senior at UWRF, believes that taking Willers’ ceramics course will benefit him in the long run with his future career path.

“I plan to be a dentist,” Stephens said. “Dentistry requires a lot of manual dexterity, just as ceramics does.”

In every profession, one must be able to develop many solutions to projects and challenges. Willers has



Desi Danfoth/Student Voice

Recently, biology majors Sophia Leoni and Nik Stephens took a ceramics class in order to further their skills as future medical professionals.

witnessed classes like her ceramics course help students use creative exploration and mental exercise which can benefit them in the long run.

“In my experiences outside of UWRF, I have met many retired surgeons who enjoy taking ceramics workshops because it utilizes the fine motor skills they have acquired in their years of medical practice,” Willers said. “It also re-enforces and

builds critical hand-eye coordination.”

Not only does taking classes like ceramics help students for what is to come in the future, it also helps them become more diverse people and gives them the opportunity to get to know new people.

“One of the benefits of attending a liberal arts based university is the emphasis on becoming a well-rounded

individual in both knowledge and practice,” Willers said.

“The experience of taking a course outside of one’s major area of study encourages many elements such as meeting and working with new people who might think differently than you, and exposing yourself to a new topic that might inspire another avenue of study that you hadn’t considered before.”

Whether students decide to

attend dental school and enter into a field of prosthodontics or orthodontics like Stephens, or become an art lecturer at a university, Willers is a firm believer in experimenting with courses outside of your major.

“Sometimes a seemingly unrelated course can relate very strongly to your future profession. Personally, as an undergraduate student at UWRF, I began in other fields

of study before becoming an art major,” Willers said. “I had taken an introductory-level soil science course and the basic chemistry courses on campus and now find them both to have provided me with valuable information that I use in my professional life as both a ceramic artist and Professor on campus.”

STUDENT VOICES

What is your favorite book?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



Ying Sun
Sophomore
“The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein.”



Cami Pace
Senior
“The ‘Wicked’ series by Gregory Maguire.”



Andrew Le
Freshman
“The Vladmir Todd Chronicles’ by Heather Brewer.”



Rachel Baker
Senior
“Anything by Laurell K. Hamilton.”



Ebi Nagberi
Senior
“‘Rich Dad, Poor Dad’ by Robert Kiyosaki.”



Danillo Leite
Junior
“‘The Flight of the Emperor’ by Laurentio Gomes.”

Adversity hits swim team once again

Ryan Tibbitts
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The UW-River Falls men's and women's swimming and diving teams pride themselves in coming together as one team this year, and will continue to do so with their upcoming dilemma.

"We are not a huge team but when you combine the two, you spend a lot of hours and time together and it really grows into a team bonding experience," junior swimmer and men's team captain David Zasko said. "You saw that at the beginning of the year when it did not look like we would have a coach. We all came together to find Coach Bollinger which was all through that team and family bond we have, but there will be more of that coming our way."

Earlier this year the team was able to find Mike Bollinger with less than a month until the season started after two candidates had withdrawn their names from the job and the athletic department told the team they were in danger of being suspended.

After coming together to save their the season the team is facing the possibility of losing their program yet again just days after their final meet ended. They recently received an email on behalf of the Chair of the Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Grace L. Coggio.

In the email the team was told that the Athletic Committee, chaired by Coggio, along with Athletic Director Roger Ternes and Assistant Athletic Director Crystal Lanning, will host a town hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 3, in the Blanche Davis Theatre in Kleinpell Fine Arts. The meeting will be held to gather information and discuss the \$1.7 million university-wide budget cut, its impact on the UWRF sport module and the future of the swimming and diving program. Everyone including the public is invited to attend this meeting.

"This meeting will allow for public input, help to provide an understanding of the overall budget and allow the opportunity for students and athletes to share their thoughts," Coggio said.

Coggio said she would be available for more comments after the meeting when there is a better understanding of what will happen.

"We get done with conference Sunday and a couple days later we get this email saying the program might be cut," Zasko said.

This is not the first time the UWRF swim program has been in danger. A story in the Student Voice from Cristy Brusoe on Nov. 19, 2009, reported that in June 2009 the UWRF swimming pool that was located in Karges broke down. This led to three public meetings throughout the fall of 2009 discussing whether or not the program would be cut. After the meetings the Athletic Committee voted 6-1 to keep the team leaving the final decision to the chancellor who decided to keep the team. The team has used the River Falls High School swimming pool ever since.

This season, the UWRF swim teams did not have a tremendous season overall, and finished the season with two sixth place finishes at the WIAC meet last weekend.

"We got off to a rough start having Bollinger come in late but once we got going it was a good season. We settled down

and times starting dropping," Zasko said. "Having a new coach can always be a shock until you get used to him but he is a great coach."

Junior swimmer Candy Hoelzel said the season went really well and the team had a lot personal bests and top ten times that is not updated yet because the team just got back Sunday from competing at the final meet.

Hoelzel said Bollinger helped to keep the aspect of being one team and being a family.

"He is big on not quitting on each other. We had some practices where he set up chairs alongside the pool and had us sprint as fast as we could for a certain amount of time. He said if we decided to quit we could get out, sit in one the chairs and watch everyone else suffer without getting to go back in. Nobody ever quit," Hoelzel said.

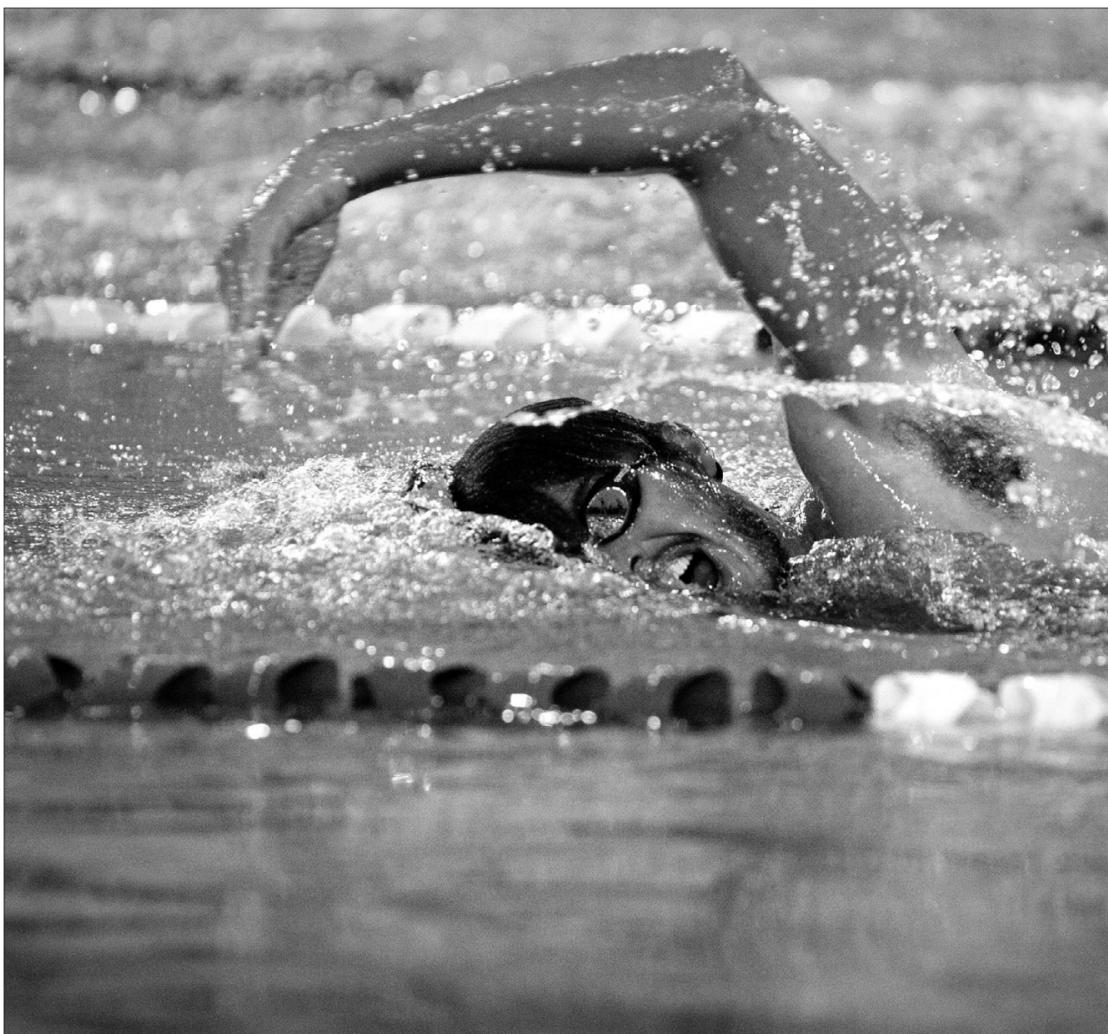
The team has kept the mentality of not quitting on each other throughout this season, including right when they re-

ceived the email from Coggio.

"There is a lot of talk about going to this meeting and trying to get everybody to show up and show support for the team," Zasko said. "I got a hold of everybody last night and talked to them about it. Everyone is expecting the worst from it because at the beginning of the year we saw that scare of being suspended and we are assuming this could be the end for us."

Hoelzel said that a number of students that were going to come to UWRF to swim this year did not end up coming because they were unsure if there would be a program. She said that there are a number of members on the team that could transfer to a school that has a team if the program gets cut which would cause the school to lose money as well.

"I could not be happier with how the season turned out. There was some great times and team bonding and I just looking forward to hopefully being back next year," Zasko said. "We hope for the best but expect the worst."



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Above is junior, Lucus Hetzel swimming a distance event earlier this season at the River Falls High School. The town hall meeting will be hosted from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 3, in the Blanche Davis Theatre in Kleinpell Fine Arts.

Hockey teams to host WIAC semifinals



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Above is senior goalie, Ashley Kuechle. Falcons are looking good coming off of a five game winning streak. Semifinals start at 3:05 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in Hunt Arena.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Above is freshman Matt Wurst scanning the ice. The Falcons host the WIAC semifinals at home in Hunt Arena. They play at 7:05 p.m., Friday, Feb. 28, versus UW-Superior.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

WIAC PLAYOFFS

<p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH</p> <p>WOMEN'S HOCKEY</p> <p>HOME VS EAU CLAIRE</p> <p>3:05 PM</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST</p> <p>WOMEN'S HOCKEY</p> <p>HOME VS EAU CLAIRE</p> <p>2:05 PM</p>
<p>MEN'S HOCKEY</p> <p>HOME VS SUPERIOR</p> <p>7:05 PM</p>	<p>MEN'S HOCKEY</p> <p>HOME VS SUPERIOR</p> <p>7:05 PM</p>

Softball team kicks off season in Florida

Ben Lamers

benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls softball team will be fielding a squad with a much different look than it had last year.

“Ten of the 18 are first year players. Out of the nine starting positions, only three are returning,” Head Coach Faye Perkins said.

The team returns a handful of core players, though, including third baseman Sarah Bohlen, the only senior on the squad. Three of the team’s pitchers, plus its catcher Amber O’Connell, will also be returning this season.

“Sarah Bohlen, our lone senior, has done a great job being a leader on the team. This week we actually sat down as a team and came up with season goals. We are committed to working our butts off every day to be a top contender in the WIAC and eventually make it to regionals and nationals,” junior pitcher Brooke Lauritzen said. “We have very high expectations for ourselves but being as close of a team as we are, we can do anything

and we will all give 110 percent the whole season.”

Perkins said that the team’s infield should be its strength this season as it combines returning starters, as well as returning players who will be getting their first chance to start. The outfield, on the other hand, is a bit more of a question mark.

“I’m pretty confident in the infield this year. At first and second I have two sophomores starting, who last year we groomed for coming in this year,” Perkins said. “In the outfield we had three seniors that graduated and we were really preparing Hannah [Zurn] to step in this year. The outfield will have an opportunity to prove themselves.”

Overall, though, Perkins said that the defense should be the strength of this team. However, with 10 of the 18 players being first year players, hitting is another area where Perkins is not quite sure how the team will perform.

“In college there is a lot more movement and speed on the ball. So hitting-wise it will

be interesting to see how [the first year players] transition to that,” Perkins said. “That’s the big unknown, is how the bats will hold up. I’m looking for some people to step up.”

The team got its first chance to find out how these new pieces performed on Wednesday, Feb. 26, when it faced off against St. Mary’s University in a double header at the Rochester Dome. The Falcons won their first game 6-1 but lost the second 2-4.

The Falcons have not been playing in domes for too many years, but Perkins said that the games played indoors have a significant impact on the team’s season. Before the dome games, the Falcons would not see any game action until their trip to Florida. Now they see live action before making the trip.

The level of competition in both the dome games as well as the Florida game should help prepare the Falcons for their tough conference schedule.

“We’ve worked really hard as a team the last month and we’re ready to take on whatever comes our way, including the five na-

tionally ranked teams we play before our spring break Florida trip is over,” Lauritzen said.

The team will face two ranked opponents in the Rochester Dome. It will play a double header against No. 11 St. Thomas University, and one game against No. 7 Luther College.

When UWRF makes the trip to Florida over spring break, the schedule does not get any easier. The Falcons will face off against No. 20 Rowan University (located in NJ), No. 23 Babson College (located in MA), and No. 25 North Central College (located in IL).

“It’s a tough schedule to start, but all of that will prepare us for the conference games. Our conference will be extremely tough this year, as it always is,” Perkins said.

The Falcons next games will be a double header at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, March 1, against St. Thomas, and another double-header the next day at 8:30 a.m., against Buena Vista University, which is located in IA. Both of the match-ups will be at the Rochester Dome.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communication

Above is junior Abbie Morris pitching to an opponent. The Falcons face stiff competition as their season begins. Cheer on the softball team at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 1, at the Rochester Dome.

Falcons remaining winter sports teams

Men’s Hockey

School	WIAC	Overall
UW-River Falls	8-4	15-7-3
UW- Stevens Point	7-4-1	19-4-2
UW-Eau Claire	6-5-1	17-7-1
UW-Superior	3-7-2	9-14-3
UW-Stout	4-8	8-18

Women’s Hockey

School	WIAC	Overall
UW-River Falls	8-2-2	18-4-3
UW-Stevens Point	7-2-3	17-4-4
UW-Superior	4-4-4	14-5-6
UW-Eau Claire	0-11-1	4-19-2

Current WIAC standings as of Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Final standings for your UWRF Falcons winter sports teams and senior shoutouts

Women’s Basketball

The Falcons completed their season at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at home in Karges. Their season ended 4-12 in the conference and 6-19 overall. They finished last in the conference. Tess Lueders was the only senior on the team.

Men’s Basketball

The Falcons completed their season at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, in Platteville. Their season ended 3-13 in the conference and 8-17 overall. They finished last in the conference. The seniors on the team are Ben Gresmer, Justin Behnke, David Berthene, Ollie White and Zach Smith.

Women’s Swimming and Diving

The Falcons completed their season Saturday, Feb. 22, at the WIAC Championship Meet. Abby Dvorak was the only senior on the team.

Men’s Swimming and Diving

The Falcons completed their season Saturday, Feb. 22, at the WIAC Championship Meet. Seniors for the men include Peter Brudzinski and Mike Schuenke.

'American Hustle' wows with stellar cast, comedy



Ryan Funes
Reviewer

It is scamming all around in "American Hustle," a film that sends you through the lives of con artists and thieves and keeps you guessing at how it will all fall over.

Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) has been screwing people over for all his life; it's what he does best and he loves every bit of it. Even when the universe should punish him for this, he is given the love of his life in Amy Adams' character who is just as devious as him.

When the scam business seems to be going well, it all breaks down when FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper) busts them both, telling them that the only way they can get out of a jail sentence is by catching a

large group of politicians in a crime bust. Through it all, love and anger will be thrown about and people will be conned as everyone searches for that bliss we all crave called life.

A film that I had wanted to see for a long time, "American Hustle" interested me for its period piece appearance and the humor promoted in its trailers. It was something I was quite

excited to see, but I never got around to it until now. "American Hustle" is just as good of a film as I expected.

The film is more or less about con artists trying to find happiness. While every single character may have their own definition of the word, it is something an

audience can connect with while at the same time feeling a bit guilty about rooting for crooks and schemers. It is the kind of plot that works very well and keeps you guessing at how it is all going to eventually fall apart.

The directing is superb as well. Each shot is skillfully executed to give that right feeling and coherence to each scene. Set design in particular will entice viewers for its faithful recreation of the 70s and its vibes. I

came to believe the setting and was able to really get into the time period. Special props should go to the costume and set designers on the film.

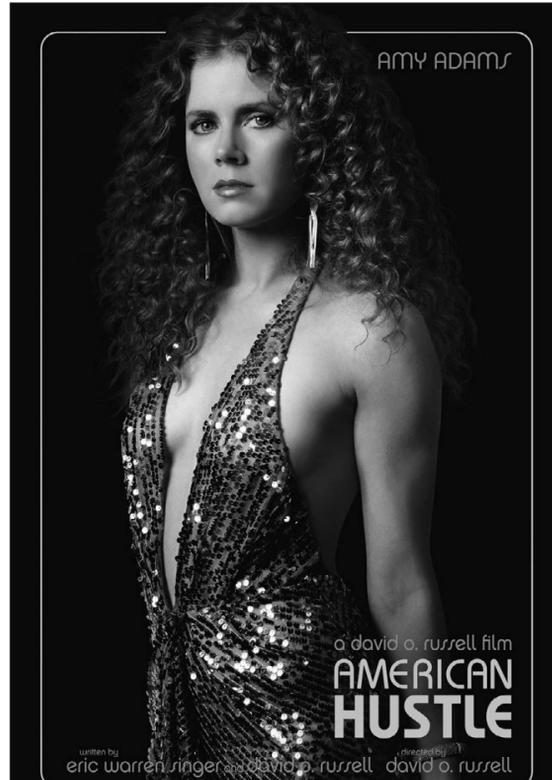
The acting is particularly laudable, with Christian Bale in particular giving an excellent performance as our main

weasel, Irving Rosenfeld. He explores his character well and gives him a personality all its own, making for a great showcase of his abilities. Amy Adams does equally as well as the love interest of Rosenfeld, taking on a role I never thought before she could handle; she performed adeptly as well.

"American Hustle" has a lot going for it, and it is no wonder as to why it has been getting award nominations across the board. With the only con I can cite about the film being that it can drag on for some parts and get slow.

Beyond that it is still a piece of art whose themes, style, design and acting will be remembered for years on and serve as a great example of character writing and art direction.

Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds. avv



Uncovering bright side to winter cold

Cristen Dempsey

Columnist

We all know, or most of us know, that winter is a miserable season. The cold hurts our faces, the ice is plentiful and too slippery to walk on, it gets dark before dinner and driving can be nearly impossible.

The worst part about it is that here in Wisconsin and Minnesota, it seems to go on forever. It comes around Thanksgiving and sticks around well into April. From year to year, those months just crawl by as we wait for the snow to melt and the thermometer to shoot up into warmer temperatures.

But maybe we can take a step back for a moment. When we look at the benefits of the frigid season, we may find that it is not as miserable as we make it out to be. Don't get me wrong, it is still

miserable enough.

One of the main benefits of the frigid winter months is that there are no bugs. Of course, during the summer, I can handle being bothered by bugs if it means warmer weather. However, it is still refreshing to not see the occasional boxelder hanging out on my bedroom wall, or a whole colony of mosquito bites up and down my leg.

Instead of swatting away bugs on my way to class, I am swatting away snowflakes, comparably harmless, until they accumulate on the ground. It turns out that bugs hate winter just as much as humans do, and it at least gives us something to look forward to as we slip on our boots.

Another benefit of winter

is that shaving becomes much less of an obligation. Not having to shave takes up much less of our time and gives us more time to watch Spongebob. So what if your legs look like a bear? No one is going to see under your pants. I honestly hope you all wear pants in the winter.

Even guys can get away with no shaving for a few months. A scruffy beard is just the thing to shield your face from the painful winter winds.

So, go on, put away that razor until April and turn on Spongebob. It is not like anyone else is shaving, so why should you?

Yet another benefit of the worst season is that there is little to no risk of sunburn. Who needs to apply layers

of sunscreen when they can apply four different layers of clothing? The red, burning skin from last summer has since gone away and there is no dealing with it for a good long time! Hooray! Even on those winter days when the sun actually is beating down, we are free to go outside without the SPF 50. Who knew winter days could be so carefree? I know I did not. Too bad about frostbite, though.

I sincerely hope that this list helped you overcome the miserable winter blues. If it did not, I don't blame you. It did not help me either. I just hope in the weeks that remain of the season, we can all lift our spirits and look at the bright side. Most importantly, it will end eventually. The bugs, razors and sunscreen will return to usher in spring and summer.

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

When we look at the benefits of the frigid season, we may find that it is not as miserable as we make it out to be.

Academy Awards offers little chance of surprise winners

Amanda White
Editor

"And the Academy Award goes to..."

Few words can tie my stomach into knots quicker than those. Who knows where my undying love for this ostentatious, fussy awards show came from.

The Academy Awards, or Oscars, are not carefree like the boozy, unpredictable Golden Globes, my other favorite awards show. By the time the Oscars roll around at the end of February, awards have already been awarded at the aforementioned Globes, the Screen Actors Guild Awards, Critic's Choice Awards and the BAFTAs.

The late placement of the Oscars means there will be few surprises. Everyone has a prediction or two.

The most interesting category for me this year is Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Lupita Nyong'o is the radiant red-carpet darling nominated for her role in "12 Years a Slave," directed by Steve McQueen. Nyong'o's main competitor is Jennifer Lawrence, who plays a stir-crazy housewife in "American Hustle." Lawrence won at the Golden Globes and the BAFTAs but Lupita Nyong'o won at the SAG Awards and Critic's Choice Awards.

As much as I love Lawrence, which is more than I care to admit, I would love to see Nyong'o win an Oscar. I have not seen "12 Years a Slave" yet, because the emotional impact is so great that I would rather watch it in the privacy of my apartment.

Lawrence played a fun character with fabulous costumes but Nyong'o played a deeply important character. Lawrence's Best Actress in a Supporting Role win last year for "Silver Linings Playbook" was well deserved, but I wonder if her popularity this year is warranted.

Personally, I enjoyed Christian Bale's performance the most in "American Hustle." Of course, Louis C.K.'s minor role had me rolling on the floor with his regaling of the ice-fishing story.

As a lifetime Leonardo DiCaprio fan, I always cross my fingers that he will win his first Oscar. He has been a consistently good actor since he burst onto the scene playing a special needs teenager in "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?" He was robbed of the Oscar that year.

However, I am just not sure that "The Wolf of Wall Street" is the movie DiCaprio will win for. It seems too light of fare for the Academy Awards.

Watch for Barkhad Abdi. Abdi recently won the Best Supporting Actor BAFTA for his portrayal of a Somali pirate in "Captain Phillips." Before becoming an actor and an awards season favorite, Abdi was a limousine driver in Minnesota.

The one thing I am most looking forward to is not an award. Idina Menzel, a Broadway veteran and a personal favorite for her characters in "Rent" and "Wicked," will be performing the runaway hit "Let It Go" from Disney's "Frozen." I am sure I will be replaying that performance on YouTube for a long time.

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