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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## UWRF Women’s Hockey makes team history

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The UW-River Falls Falcons women’s hockey team made team history Saturday night by beating the University of St. Thomas 5-3 to win third place at the NCAA tournament.

“This was an awesome experience, it always is,” Head Coach Joe Cranston said. “To play the way we did and to score five goals against one of the best goalies in the country is great. Third place is the best we’ve ever done and we are very proud of that.”

The final game of the 2013-2014 season capped off a great year for UWRF. They went 23-5-3 overall on the season, won their first-ever NCAA Frozen Four game, will lose three seniors that are leaving as the top three scorers in school history and had the first-ever player make the All-Tournament team at the Frozen Four in team history.

UWRF had previously been to two other NCAA Frozen Fours but had never won a game there until Saturday. Brook Story had two assists in the weekend to move into third place all-time in Falcon scoring history tying with Jessica Thompson with 99 points. Katie Batters finishes second all-time in scoring with 112 points and Kait Mason finished as the all-time leading scorer with

131 points in her career. Both Mason and Batters leave as the top goal scorers in team history as well.

Cranston said he had predicted the three seniors would leave as the top three scorers in team history after their first ever game freshmen season.

Ashley Kuechle finishes her Falcon career as goalie after a great season. She went 18-3-3 and tied the all-time single season shutout record with seven this year.

The play of the seniors can be attributed to the success UWRF had this season but there were many other factors.

It could be attributed to the whole team buying into Head Coach Joe Cranston’s system. It could also be attributed to the fact that Assistant Coach Jim Walsh has worked hard to get recruits in every year and has had a hand in every single player that was on this year’s team. It could also be due to the fact that the seven freshmen grew up really fast and learned how to contribute at the collegiate level right away.

While all these factors are reasons for UWRF’s success this season, Batters mentioned a reason that is often forgotten at this high of a level in sports.

“The thing about our senior class is that we have been having fun since our freshman season. Our class



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
**The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team embrace at the NCAA Division III tournament where they won third place.**

is good at getting everyone motivated and having fun,” Batters said.

The Falcons also got big play from sophomore forward Chloe Kinsel all season long. She finished the season with a team high 33 points and was the first ever UWRF women’s hockey player to be named to the six-member NCAA All-Tournament team.

“I have big shoes to fill

with the seniors leaving,” Kinsel said. “This experience has been amazing and finishing third makes it even better.”

Kinsel was contributed to four of the Falcons seven goals in the Frozen Four.

She will have plenty of help with filling the senior’s shoes as the team returns its whole entire defense next year and another top scorer

on the team in Alice Cranston. Gillian McDonald and Meaghan Wenner will look to fill in the void at goalie with Kuechle gone.

This year will be one to remember for not only the women’s hockey team but for the whole athletics program and UWRF campus. The third place is the best finish in all of athletics since the 2008 women’s outdoor track and

field won the national championship.

For more  
photos of  
the UWRF  
women’s  
hockey team  
see page 7

## Student Senate presidential candidates face off

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The Student Senate election will be held April 1-3, and presidential candidates Anthony Sumnicht and Nicholas Vanden Heuvel are both ready to work for a better campus for students.

Sumnicht is the current vice president of Senate, but is running for president for next year since Sam Tauchen, the current president, will be graduating.

Sumnicht is also the current chair of UW Student Reps, a position that requires him to stay in contact with all UW-System campuses, which allows him to see what other issues or problems other campuses around Wisconsin are facing and then he can work toward avoiding or eliminating those same issues at UW-River Falls.

While candidates cannot run on the same ticket, they can campaign together. Sumnicht is working with Shelby Hehr, who is running for vice president, and Joseph Schmit, who is running for secretary.

The three students have developed a three-part platform that, if elected, they would work toward accomplishing in the next academic year. The first part of Sumnicht, Hehr and Schmit’s platform involves getting students more excited about UWRF and the surrounding community.

“We feel like there is a lack of Falcon pride on our campus, and we want to start addressing that,” Sumnicht said.



**Nicholas Vanden Heuvel, left, and Anthony Sumnicht, right, are the two presidential candidates for next year’s Student Senate. The Senate election will begin April 1, at 8 a.m., and end April 3, at 4 p.m.**

He also said there is a lack of connection between students and the city of River Falls, and the developing town and gown association will act as a bridge between the two entities.

The second part of Sumnicht, Hehr and Schmit’s platform is focusing on students in a holistic way, including the health and wellness aspect of being a college



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

signing UWRF’s website to separate operation and recruitment functions, working with the Office of Enrollment and Student Success to improve enrollment and retention and working with students to create a better organized student body.

Vanden Heuvel, the second presidential candidate, is currently the ethics chair of Senate, so he has a lot of knowl-

edge of governing documents and he also helped restructure the judicial section of the by-laws. He is campaigning with Stephen Middlemiss, who is running for vice president, and he said that their platform is simple.

“It’s just the students. We want to make sure the students are accurately represented,” Vanden Heuvel said.

He felt that while working on approving segregated fees this year, students were not being accurately represented.

“We need to make sure that that is happening because we are a Senate made for the students,” Vanden Heuvel said.

Also, Vanden Heuvel said he wants to improve Senate’s social media presence past OrgSync. He said that most students are on Facebook and Twitter, so Senate should be reaching out via those outlets more often.

Vanden Heuvel also said that since he used to commute to UWRF, he knows what commuter students want, unlike other members of Senate who have never had that experience.

He said he would seek to improve enrollment and retention by focusing on marketing and letting people know about the opportunities available at UWRF as well as the quality of education available. Since Vanden Heuvel is from the eastern part of Wisconsin, his family members were not even aware that UWRF existed.

“While we are a great school for agriculture, we’re not well known for a lot of other things outside of that,” Vanden Heuvel said.

Both Sumnicht and Vanden Heuvel are campaigning mostly on Facebook.

The election will take place on OrgSync beginning at 8 a.m. on April 1, and it will end at 4 p.m. on April 3.



# News briefs:

## Wyman Series presents unique choir concert

A Wyman Series event will feature One Voice Mixed Chorus, Minnesota’s LGBTA choir, at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 29, in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UW-River Falls. The event is free and open to the public.

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota’s only, and the nation’s largest, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight allies chorus. Founded in 1988, One Voice has been “building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song” for more than 25 years. Its 120 singing members range from ages 17 to 77. In addition, the chorus includes nearly 50 non-singing “Fifth Section” volunteers.

The award-winning chorus is known for its musical excellence, diverse programming and deep commitment to community outreach, and is described by Chorus America as “one of the region’s best ensembles.” The high-energy performance will feature guest artist Melanie DeMore and Avenues for Homeless Youth.

According to American folk singer Ronnie Gilbert, “Melanie DeMore’s singing is thrilling. This is not a voice that comes along every day. This is woman power wrapped in velvet.”

For more information about One Voice Mixed Chorus, visit [www.ovmc.org/](http://www.ovmc.org/). More information about DeMore can be found at [www.melaniemore.com](http://www.melaniemore.com).

For more information on this event or accommodations, call 715-425-4444 or visit [www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/WymanSeries.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/WymanSeries.cfm).

## UWRF hosts pig auction

UW-River Falls will host the 9th Annual Show Pig Auction at noon, on Saturday, April 5, at Mann Valley Farm. Approximately 130 pigs will be available to view beginning at 10 a.m.

The student-raised show pigs are from litters sired by top quality boars from Shaffers Gold Rush of Indiana. Many of the pigs purchased at the 2013 auction proved to be top competitors during the fair season last year, including: Grand Champion Carcass – Marathon County; Overall Grand Champion Hog – Hubbard County, Minn.; Champion Market Gilt – Pierce County; Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog – St. Croix County.

Bob Johnson of Badger State Auction will again provide auction services. UWRF students Kathryn Williams, of Slinger, and Emily Warren, of Burlington, are co-managers of the event.

Because of the ongoing threat from the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) Virus, buyers are asked to take specific precautions to help prevent the spread of this highly contagious

disease: wear boots and shoes free of manure and dirt, preferably cleaned with a bleach solution; wear clothing that has been freshly laundered or not exposed to other hogs or a stockyards environment (this includes jackets and caps); wash and clean your truck, trailer and hog crates if they have been exposed to other hogs or stockyards; traffic on the farm will be routed around the swine facilities. Please respect the signs and other directions that will be posted on the sale day. Also, please stay in the vicinity of the sale and viewing area and do not wander around the farm; all pigs must be removed from the premises on the day of the sale. Pigs will not be held for later pick up.

The Mann Valley Farm is located two miles west of River Falls at 129 Glover Road. Maps and directions to the farm can be found on the UWRF website at [www.uwrf.edu](http://www.uwrf.edu).

For more information about the sale, call Williams or Warren at 715-821-7094.

## Agricultural technology contest hosted by UWRF

UW-River Falls will host the 54th Annual Agricultural Technology Contest on March 29, 2014.

The contest began in 1961 with the hope of giving high school youth the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that they were learning in their agriculture classrooms. The first year 17 schools and approximately 600 students participated in the Agricultural Technology Contest. In 2013, the campus welcomed over 60 schools and more than 1,000 students in the contests.

Today the contests focus on agricultural communications, agricultural mechanics, agronomy, dairy cattle evaluation, farm business management, floriculture, food science and technology, forestry, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, meats, nursery/landscape, soils, veterinary science and wildlife.

A new contest area for 2014 that students can participate in is agricultural education. Within this competition students will develop and present a lesson plan on a topic of their choosing. In addition to their teaching skills, students will be tested upon their knowledge within agricultural education.

This year, UWRF coordinates the Wisconsin FFA state contests for agricultural communications and food science and technology. First-place teams will advance to compete at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., this October.

Six of these contests also serve as qualifying contests for the Wisconsin FFA Association Career Development Events (CDE) to be held April 25, 2014, in Madison, Wis. These contests include agricultural technology and mechanical systems, dairy evaluation, floriculture, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation and wildlife. New to our qualifying contests is the addition of a veterinary science contest.

Middle school students can demonstrate their skills by participating in the agriscience contest that’s offered. Students also have the

opportunity to compete in the 35th Annual Crop Show and a Power Tool Drag Race. Another highlight of this year’s event is the change of the type of tool students use when building their vehicle to compete in the Power Tool Drag Race.

The Power Tool Drag Race is a unique opportunity available to students, who are interested in problem solving, creative design, research and development and engineering. This year students must power their vehicle using a 120-volt circular saw. This event is coordinated and sponsored by the UWRF Agricultural Industry Club.

Each year it takes over a hundred volunteers to ensure successful contests. Faculty and staff from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) serve as chairs for each of the contests. CAFES students volunteer their time as student chairs and assist on the contest day. Leeann Hitsman, an agricultural education major from Cleveland, Wis., is serving as this year’s contest coordinator.

The assistant coordinator is Kathryn Chapman, an agricultural education major from Portage, Wis. Tim Buttles serves as the faculty chair for the contest and Fay Westberg of the agricultural education department assists with overall contest preparations.

In the fall of 1912 the agriculture department began teaching in a total of three rooms in South Hall and with two and one-half instructors. Fifty-three men enrolled for the first school year. For more details about the contests, please visit the Agricultural Education Department website at <http://www.uwrf.edu/AGED/CDE/AgriculturalTechnologyContest.cfm>

## Annual Bowls for Hope event raises over \$6,000

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls hosted the fifth annual Bowls for Hope event March 12, in the University Center, raising \$6,600 for Grow to Share, Inc. Each year, UWRF works with the community to raise funds through Bowls for Hope for a worthy organization that makes a difference in the St. Croix Valley.

Grow to Share is dedicated to bringing fresh produce, hands-on gardening experiences and educational programs to our community. More than 25,000 pounds of vegetables have been donated to area food pantries and shelters, as well as directly to families in need through a “Weekly Produce Share” program.

“We, at Grow to Share, are pleased and proud to be a part of this community,” said Grow to Share Secretary Anna Zalusky. “The funds raised will allow us to grow and improve the work we do. We are very grateful to everyone who worked to make Bowls for Hope a success. What an incredible event.”

This year’s event was a zero carbon footprint event made possible by the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development in support of Grow to Share.

For an entrance fee of \$20 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under, participants at the event selected and kept a bowl that was created in ceramic and pottery classes at UWRF, River Falls High School, Meyer Middle School, the Renaissance Academy or by area artists. Attendees then sampled, at no extra charge, soups donated and served by area restaurants. Guests voted for their favorite soup of the evening and the winner was the Green Goblin Soup with Saffron Oil & Spiced Pecans from The West Wind Supper Club.

Artists contributing bowls for the event were Ingrid Bjerstedt-Rogers, Bob Brodersen, Bob Fritz, Jay Jensen, Doug Johnson, Randy Johnston, Jennifer King, Michael Luthmers, Casey Maude, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Wendy Olson, Doug Peterson, S.C. Rolf, Joe Singewald, Steve Zalusky, Scott Zeinert, Inver Hills Community College students of Wendy Olson, Jay Jensen and Joe Singewald) Anne Buchholz’s class at the Renaissance Academy, Randy Johnston’s class at UWRF, Kelyn King’s class at Meyer Middle School and Gina Pedriana-Basche’s pottery classes at River Falls High School.

Participating restaurants providing and serving soup were Bo’s ‘N Mine, Coach’s Bar & Grill, Dish and the Spoon Café, Junior’s Bar & Restaurant, Kilkarney Hills, Paddy Ryan’s Irish Pub, Perkins Family Restaurant, River Falls Hospital Sodexo Dining Services, South Fork Café, The West Wind Supper Club, UW-River Falls Sodexo Dining Services and Whole Earth Grocery.

Live piano music was provided by Nan Jordahl, emeritus assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and associate professor of communicative disorders.

To date, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$27,600 for local charitable organizations.

For more information, contact Mary Van Galen at [mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu](mailto:mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu).

## Unversity center to hold International Bazaar

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host its annual International Bazaar from 6 to 9 p.m., on Tuesday, April 1 in the University Center. The event is free and open to the public, but a ticket is needed to reserve your spot.

Enjoy food from around the world, cultural demonstrations and activities and great entertainment. Food will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom with a show from 8 to 9 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest, all in the University Center.

Reserve your spot by picking up a ticket from the Information Desk in the University Center. Last year the International Bazaar drew more than 600 guests so be sure to pick up a ticket before they are gone.

For more information, email Global Programming Society Advisor Shelby King at [shelby.king@uwrf.edu](mailto:shelby.king@uwrf.edu) or call 715-425-4444.

## River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

- Michael Anthony Parnell was fined \$263.50 for operating a motor vehicle off roadway on Blue Stem Pathway.
- Jacob John Juelfs was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at the Ampitheater.
- Rodrigo Lanzarin was fined \$452.50 for giving alcohol to an underage person in Grimm Hall.

- Kristina A Reiter was fined \$817.50 for operating with PAC .08 or more and fined \$817.50 for operating while intoxicated on Cascade Avenue.
- Dieimes Bohry was fined \$452.50 for being of age and failing to prevent an underage person from consuming alcohol.
- Felice Maciel De Azevedo was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.

- Michelle Natala Wibiksana was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption in Grimm Hall.
- Jake Edward Fritsche was fined \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia in Grimm Hall.

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

Check out the Student Voice online at [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com)

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# SART provides services for abuse victims

Alexa Hilt  
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For the past 13 years, the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) has been a small building located on North Main Street.

People drive by the building daily without thinking twice about what it is and the significant impact it has had on a number of people, including students at UW-River Falls.

SART is a non-profit organization for women and men ages 13 and older who have experienced things such as sexual assault or domestic abuse. They offer treatment services that help people with both physical and emotional healing in Pierce, St. Croix and Polk counties.

Erin McNiff is a client services coordinator for SART and works with the SART ed-

ucation program that has been a part of the UWRF campus.

“We started an education program where we go into schools, come to campus, work with law enforcement and nursing classes, and community groups,” McNiff said. “The reason we started the education program was because of how much people didn’t know, and how much they blamed themselves and fell into the mists of society. We try to do a lot of prevention and education in general.”

The St. Croix Valley SART is only one of two teams in the country that treats people to the extent that it does, the other being in Kansas City, Mo. They also have the largest service area in WI, and the only ones who have a forensic team, an advocate team and an after-care team in the Midwest. Jennifer Elsesser, an intake counselor, is thankful for

the impact SART and its many services have made at UWRF.

“The thing I really appreciate about SART is that when we meet with students who have been through a horrific situation we know that we are sending them to a good place, and know that there are people there to support them and give them the help they need,” Elsesser said. “It feels really good for us to have that relationship. We have wonderful resources and we really appreciate it.”

SART and the agreement is has with University has given students, faculty and staff a chance to meet with people such as McNiff. Alice Reilly-Myklebust, the director of Counseling and Health Services, hopes to bring awareness to SART and the free services they offer.

“I think students know that there are ser-

vices available, but until they need it or have a friend that needs it they don’t really know exactly what’s there for them,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “What we hope to do is let students know that there are services available and to call somebody and we will help get them connected.”

SART’s goal is to help people through difficult times when it comes to assault and abuse, and give them a place to feel safe.

“No matter what has happened, whether it’s previous or long term, or how they feel about it, it is not their fault,” McNiff said. “We are here to support them, guide them, and provide them with information to make their own decisions and support them along the way, and if they have general questions or want to help someone else to know that we are here.”

# Upcoming bluegrass festival offers musical opportunities

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The River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Festival will take place April 4-6 in downtown River Falls, and while many students may not know a lot about bluegrass music it is still an opportunity to take in some Midwestern culture, eat diverse local food and jam to some good old fashioned guitar picking.

The festival is sponsored by the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau. According to Judy Berg, the Chamber’s tourism sales marketing manager, at least 2,000 people are expected to take part in next weekend’s events. Berg hopes that their recent efforts through target marketing and social media will bring more attendees than in years previous.

“Each year we try to add something new to the festival, this year it’s the beer and wine tasting event,” Berg said.

The beer and wine tasting event will kick off the festival on Friday night at 6 p.m. The event will be located at Riverwalk Square at Mall on Main and will showcase regional microbrews, international wines and local craft beer, cheeses and meats. The festival is free for all, but this particular event does cost \$20.

According to Berg, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism’s data predicts that each individual who stays the night during the festival will spend an average of \$180. For those who do not stay the night will still spend an average of \$58 within the community.

“Anytime you can bring in tourism to the city it’s very effective,” Berg said.

There are also two main performing acts that cost \$30 on Friday and Saturday night at Junior’s Bar and Restaurant. This year’s acts will be The Rambling Rooks and Pert Near Sandstone.

Pert Near Sandstone, of Minneapolis, will take the stage Saturday night and are expected to draw a large crowd. They have played at such historic venues as First Avenue, Orpheum Theater and the Cedar Cultural Center, all of which are in the heart of Minneapolis’ music scene.

Pert Near Sandstone’s six studio album, “The Hardest Part of Leaving,” hits limited stores on April 15, so festival attendees can expect to hear some new material from a long-traveled, experienced bluegrass band.

The Rambling Rooks, a

trio of skilled musicians, will take the stage Friday night. The Rambling Rooks are made up of a bassist, guitarist and a mandolinist, who all shared fame in the 1990x with the Lonesome River Band.

Free jam sessions will be available for any local musicians willing to participate, as well as 10 other free concerts from local bluegrass bands.

“The jam sessions are a casual environment for everyone to hang out, perform and share their musical talents,” Berg said.

One of the great functions of the festival is that it offers free banjo, ukulele and clogging workshops on Saturday afternoon at Brickhouse Music. The banjo was recently made famous by the ever-popular British folk band Mumford & Sons, while the ukulele is best known as a

Hawaiian instrument.

“Music festivals in general can be good ways to hear lots of music at once,” said Gail Olszewski, lecturer of music at UW-River Falls.

Olszewski is an expert piano player and has participated in many similar music festivals, most notably the 2009 Boston Early Music Festival.

“If you’re not familiar with that particular genre, it can be quite educational,” Olszewski said of music festivals. “For attending musicians, (festivals) can provide good networking opportunities and for those performing, good visibility and publicity.”

Joseph Hagedorn, another UWRF lecturer of music, is an expert guitarist and has performed in many states with violinist Leslie Shank as the “Shank-Hagedorn Duo” since 1989. Hagedorn also won the 1990 Guitar Foundation of America solo competition, which launched his performing career.

“I do not have that much knowledge of bluegrass music except that I enjoy it,” Hagedorn said. “I think in general that music festivals are an excellent venue for all kinds of music and I hope this one is a big hit.”

The Roots and Bluegrass Festival will have two competitions. The first is the upper Midwest flatpicking guitar championship, which will be held on Saturday evening; a singer/songwriter competition will also be held. Last year’s flatpicking champion won a handcrafted guitar valued at \$2,800; a similar prize will be up for grabs this year.

“Bluegrass is growing among younger generations,” Berg said. “It’s a good chance for UWRF students to come out a give it a try.”

# Preparations for North Hall auditorium renovations begin

Miranda Hammel  
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One hundred years of history has echoed in the corridors of North Hall and as the new renovations for the auditorium are being prepared, more history is about to be made.

With expectations of starting the renovations on July 1, the plan has been put through the ringer for over a year due to budget costs and new state rules and regulations. Not only those changes have caused a burden but the administrative changes and state contracting and constructing projects which has slowed things down on all campuses and all state projects have also been an influential factor. The repairs were supposed to start this time last spring, but instead the Active Learning Classroom in the basement of Hagestad Hall was contracted out instead, being more within the budget.

The budget for the North Hall Auditorium is \$1.4 million, in which UW-River Falls is contributing \$346,000. The remainder of the costs is being picked up by the 2011-2013 UW-System Classroom/Instructional Technology Improvement Capital Budget.

Tim Thum, senior facilities engineer, is project manager of the renovations to North Hall. With the blue prints laid out on the table, Thum said that with the changes to the auditorium, the space will be up to date on current lighting and heating codes.

According to Thum all the seating is to be replaced and downsized from the current 582 seats to 356. The chairs will have fold outside desks attached to them, similar to the seats in the River Falls Theater in the University Center. With the to-be-expected painting and plaster repairs, all the lighting is to be replaced to be more efficient, the ventilation system redone, addition of air conditioning and the stage will be raised.

The biggest change being made aesthetically is on the north side where a courtyard used to reside outside the building. The windows that looked out to the courtyard are going to be “opened up” or renovated in a way to where it looks like it is open and looking outside, which is how it used to look when the building was first built in 1914.

The upper level of the auditorium is also supposed to be updated with new chairs and flooring, but only if the budget allows. None of the updates being made are environmentally friendly, but the space is getting a much needed remodel.

“It’s just a little face lift for an underutilized space,” Thum said.

Thum is not sure why the auditorium has been closed off or not used the past two years, but he knows that it wasn’t because the space wasn’t safe, it was just the university and the faculty’s choice to not use the space, or use it as much.


Last spring Facilities Management bid this project, and the project will be bid out again to be contracted out though the Division of Facilities Construction Management (DFCM). According to the website, DFCM is the building manager for all state-owned facilities and is responsible for all aspects of construction and maintenance of state Buildings, assisting the Utah State Building Board in developing its recommendations for capital development projects and allocating capital improvement funds, overseeing all non-higher education and non-judicial branch leases and controlling the allocation of state owned space

A construction bid process is very formal and is the process in which a general contractor (and, in some cases, the architect), is selected to work on a construction project. In some cases, the only thing that matters in the construction bid process is presenting the lowest price to the owner; in other cases, the contractor’s qualifications are as important, if not more important, than having the lowest dollar amount.

“We are expecting to start renovations July 1 and finish in time for 2015 spring semester, so we will still be working on the renovations through fall semester, but hopefully all the heavy construction will be done over the summer before students and faculty will be around,” Thum said.



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EDITORIAL

# Student Senate lacking efficiency, student support with 2014 election

The Student Senate at UW-River Falls has made numerous positive changes this year to campus. However, with the current election and recent Senate meetings it has come to our attention that Senate may not be heading down the path to obtain its goal of getting more students involved.

Primary elections for Senate closed on Wednesday, March 26, and the final election opens Tuesday April 1, at 8 a.m. and closes April 3 at 4 p.m. While there was an email that was sent out to students, the lack of campaigning on campus has not gone unnoticed. With two presidential candidates, little information has been given out to students about the candidates’ goals if they were elected as president. The presidential debate that was filmed by Focus On U allowed the candidates to opine on certain issues, but we feel that it was not advertised to campus effectively.

The primary election attracted about 200 students to vote, which is larger than previous years. However, there are approximately 6,000 students on campus and only having 200 students vote is not ideal in having an accurately represented election. More campaigning would shine a spotlight in the direction of Senate and attract a larger amount of participation. Being a student leader on campus has to do a lot with the people you and the connections you have made. The question that arises for us when looking at the number of people who participated in the primary election voting is: how many of these students are friends or have associated themselves with the candidates enough times to know them on more than an acquaintance level?

Senate meetings are also another way to get students engaged and while the meetings are generally informative, the efficiency aspect needs attention. Senate is concerned with the weather policy on campus and while the amount of people who enjoy walking outdoors in negative 60 degree temperatures is slim, the time that is spent discussing the policy in recent Senate meetings has drawn attention away from current issues such as the election. In two different meetings, Senate has spent a collective amount of two hours discussing just the weather policy alone when it really does not have much control over the decision on when school is cancelled. It is feared that students on campus will not get involved when meetings are too long and staying focused on tasks is not being shown as possible.

Shorter meetings, staying focused and increasing the campaigning for elections would be positive changes to get more students involved in Senate.

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

## STUDENT VOICE

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Tuesday, April 1, two candidates will be running for the office of River Falls mayor. One is a UW-River Falls graduate who was also mayor from 2004 to 2012. I am that guy. Not many issues come before the River Falls City Council directly affecting students. Parking? Yes, but not often. Cooperation with UWRF on issues like re-designing Cascade Avenue? Definitely. Improved accommodations for bikers? For sure.

In the last issue, I suggested two reasons to vote for me. Here are two more reasons to consider. I’ve also given enough money to UWRF over the past years to be in the Chancellor’s Circle, a category requiring total gifts of at least \$10,000. I give because I recognize that without UWRF, River Falls would be just another small town in west central Wisconsin. I also do so because I realize the value of UWRF to me and to students over the years. Students, faculty and support staff make this town a very special place.

Second, I am an avid supporter of athletics, the arts and all things competitive. This year, I have seen “Chicago” and “Vinegar Tom.” Both were

great, as are the various art displays on campus. I also saw many home football and basketball (men’s and women’s) games. I was entertained and impressed by many individual performances in all of those games. I would also like to congratulate all of the agricultural judging teams, which always do well against big and small schools.

To vote, you must be 18, have a River Falls address and be registered. You can register online on the day of the election at your proper polling place, depending on where you live. You must have proof of residence. Dorm residents east of South Hall can vote at the University Center. Dorm residents west of South Hall must vote at River Falls High School on Cemetery Road. Other registration possibilities are found on the River Falls City Government website.

Have I convinced you? If not, just remember: you will be committing a random act of voting kindness, which will make you feel uncommonly good!

Don Richards

# Study abroad allows great memories



Photo used with permission by Kristin Klimeck  
**Kristin Klimeck poses at the Great Wall of China. She has traveled to Scotland and China while at UW-River Falls.**

Kristin Klimeck  
Guest Columnist

I have many stories and adventures to share from my education abroad experience and I have found that “a good tale never tires in the telling,” which is a Scottish proverb.

My name is Kristin Klimeck, a graduating senior, with a marketing communications major. I have had the opportunity to travel many parts of the world with help from the Global Connections office. I have been a part of the Wisconsin in Scotland program and also the Experience China program. I have had many amazing and life changing endeavors that include: hiking the Great Wall, climbing Mount Olympus in Greece, riding bike on the ancient wall of Xi’an, navigating a group of fellow students through Rome, participating in traditional Scottish ceilidhs, wandering through a bamboo forests and much more. I can only share a few of the incredible moments that I have had with Scotland and China.

Scotland was not a debate for me. I always knew I wanted to go and once I found out UW-River Falls had a program that could get me there, it was just a matter of when. Wanting more than ever to be immersed in a culture bursting with tales of fairies and castles straight out of story books, I suddenly found myself signed up and accepted into the program for the spring semester of my sophomore year. Soon an impulsive decision would turn into a life-changing journey. The Wisconsin in Scotland program was beyond my expectations and enhanced my desire to experience new cultures. My eyes had been opened and I was ready to get lost in another culture. I never thought that another opportunity would present itself so quickly or that I would jump at the chance.

Four short years later I was face to face with another chance to travel. China, a vast expanse of uncharted territory for me, required more thought and discussion than Scotland. It was the next place on my travel bucket list, but was it the right choice at this point in my life? Here was an opportunity to experience an entirely different culture and a time to push the limits of my comfort zone. A chance to absorb myself in ancient traditions and landscapes, open doors for others seeking new ventures and

cultivate my understanding of a people with such a rich history. I had a door standing wide open for me, all I had to do was walk through it. The pieces fit too perfectly, so pushing away any doubts I walked through that door and am now beyond ecstatic with what has currently transpired.

My experiences in China to date have been nothing short of phenomenal, much like Scotland. There are always fun activities to do, sights to be seen and food to eat. The most lavish dishes can be found at any sit-down restaurant while street food is equally as delicious. Rice is easy to come by and the steamed buns should be illegal. My favorite are the pork steamed buns and I eat them regularly. While taking in the sights it is easy to rent a bike from one of the many bike stations situated throughout Hangzhou. Many times while riding a bike or walking around the city, I am in wonder at why more travelers do not come to China to experience this fascinating country.

Contrary to China, the language barrier was not as prominent in Scotland and navigating through the cities was a simple task. In Scotland, double-decked buses were the mode of transportation, food was just as drool inducing as ever, only it was very different from that in China. Meat and potatoes reign supreme and a good old pasty will satisfy any hunger pains. If you were a food connoisseur, or maybe an adventurous food junkie, haggis and blood pudding are a must try. After filling up on pasties, getting lost in the historical towns and mist-enshrouded hills were a favorite past time. Living in a palace is probably the most exciting thing in life.

Two very different countries with equally fascinating and rich histories produced memories and lessons that I will forever carry with me wherever I go. To say that I have had an incredible time is an understatement, but to say that I do not regret either of my decisions to participate in both programs is the truth. I am deeply grateful to UWRF for having these programs and giving me the chance to broaden my horizons, discover more about myself than ever imaginable, and to learn more from my experiences than a classroom could ever teach. As said by the late and great Chinese Philosopher, Confucius: “I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”



# STUDENT Voices

What are you looking forward to this spring?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



**Michelle Wibiksana**  
**Freshman**

“I’m ready to wear thinner clothes and go outside.”



**Ashley Hemann**  
**Sophomore**

“Looking at the flowers and planting flowers.”



**Situ Lawson**  
**Senior**

“Bask in the sun.”



**Matthew Rud**  
**Junior**

“Wear T-shirts and shorts.”



**Landy Cao**  
**Sophomore**

“Fly a kite.”

## Spring break trip focuses on social justice

Molly Breitmün  
Columnist

Over spring break I participated in a Destination program with eight other UW-River Falls students and our staff advisor in Atlanta, Ga.

We partnered with the Medici Project, a nonprofit whose mission is to connect students with service opportunities. Each day, our Medici Project guide exposed us to two service-learning activities within the theme of ‘urban poverty.’

As we traveled around to different sites, we learned that this glimpse into Atlanta’s urban poverty might be more effective in shaping our lives, than the lives of the people we hoped to serve. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders at Harper Archer Middle School may not remember the three days we spent mentoring them in their math classes. And we were amongst a sea of faces when we served brunch to over a hundred people living with homelessness at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Certainly, our efforts contributed to the web of support that exists to strengthen Atlanta’s communities. Our smiles and enthusiasm might have brightened someone’s day or gave much needed respite to staff facing overwhelming need. I hope that the eighth grader that approached me to ask about how he could pursue a science career will hold onto my words of encouragement and advice when he struggles to pay attention in class. But all I have control over is my own actions and what I choose to do after such a profound experience.

My ‘aha!’ moment came during a late night group reflection. We were participating in a talking circle, where we each had to answer how we would individually take action after our spring break trip. Reluctantly, especially as the trip leader, I admitted to the group that this particular trip originally had not been my first choice.

I am a conservation major and had participated in four other alternative spring break trips that all focused on the environment. It only seemed natural to me that I should be paired with my implicit

strengths. But the Universe or Amy Lloyd, the UWRF Service Coordinator, knew better and gave me the Atlanta trip to lead and focus on social justice work.

In group reflection, I shared that I had gotten so wrapped up in the technical and academic facets of preserving the environment, that I had lost touch with the reasons why conservation is so important to my humanity. Last semester, in my literature of environmental justice class, I did the mind work to see that social justice and environmental justice are inextricably intertwined. My Destination experience though, gave me the time and space to do the heart work to really let that sink in.

Harper Archer Middle School, almost completely composed of children of color, has 100 percent participation in the federal free and reduced lunch program. According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals.

Visiting these children deeply moved my Destination team. Personally, I wanted to take that rowdy bunch of eighth graders into the woods adjacent to their school and let them tear at the kudzu vines that are choking out their native plants and trees. Also, along a power line easement, a massive, growing pile of tires continues to be illegally dumped within sight of the middle school’s classroom windows. I need these children to know they are not part of a social dumping ground that will leave them chronically disadvantaged like the state of the natural environment that surrounds them.

While I have no immediate answers, as how I will address social and environmental injustices in the long haul, I have been given the opportunity to reflect in a complex and dynamic setting. Challenges, solutions, frustrations and successes were presented in diverse ways over a week of service. My Destination experience in Atlanta has framed a new way of looking at the world and how I must take responsibility within it.

*Molly is a non-traditional student majoring in conservation with a minor in GIS. Her interest in campus sustainability was fostered by becoming an undergraduate fellow for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainability Community Development as well as by her peers in the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture.*

## Newly-minted world traveler enjoys Tokyo’s sights

Rachel Molitor  
Columnist

For spring break, a professor and four UW-River Falls students traveled to Japan.

For 11 days they traveled across the island of Honshu, making various stops along the way. I was one of these 4 students. As a small group, we got to easily jump onto crowded public transportation and race through train stations. It was a whirlwind of activity but one that I believed all four of us fully enjoyed. The sights, sounds and tastes of Japan were unlike anything I had ever experienced before but they were still something that I would gladly do again.

I should mention the fact that I have not traveled much. My experience is Minnesota, the bordering states and one memorable trip to Michigan. To say I am a world-wise traveler would be a bald-faced lie. So my experiences in Japan are ones with eyes off a newbie traveler; perhaps those with more experience would say my observations are obvious but to me, they are new. Okay, there is your one and only disclaimer.

Japan is a bustling, technically advanced yet ancient civilization. There has been a central

government ruling in Japan since at least the 7th century, though it should be mentioned that several history books written back then say that Japan has been around since the 7th century BC, but for the sake of this column we will go with what our history books say.

The starting point of our trip was the capital of Japan: Tokyo. Tokyo is one of, if not the largest populated cities in the world, with the greater Tokyo area containing over 35 million people. There are a lot of people there to say the least. To help the population move around, there is a network of trains that crisscross the city. One, the Yamanote line, encircles the heart of the city and is perhaps the most used line in Tokyo. Our guide book mentions, and I believe it, that during rush hour, attendants on the platforms have to push people into the overcrowded trains and windows have been known to shatter. My group never had to deal with that big of a crowd but our personal space was severely encroached on, so there is still that.

Our hotel in Tokyo was in a prime location, several blocks from two different train stations. Also, right behind our where we were staying were a large number of small shops, located in the

nooks and crannies of smaller buildings. During and immediately after World War II, this was a black market area but my guide book assured me that most of the shops were completely legal now. Never the less, the shops of Candy Store Alley (Ameyayokocho) were varied. In the evening, large crowds of people wandered through this area, passing the time by eating, shopping and gambling.

Also near our hotel was Ueno Park, which contained several museums and, at the time, budding cherry blossoms. If you ever go to Tokyo and want to experience culture, history and nature, Ueno Park is an excellent place to start. Not to mention the fact that a zoo is located in the park which contains pandas.

Beyond those two very convenient locations, Tokyo seemed to be filled with entertaining things to do no matter what your interests were. Random historical places dot the city along with restaurants, karaoke shops and public transportation stations. It is a large bustling city which seems to stretch for miles. If you want a blast of Japanese culture in the environment of a busy city, Tokyo should be on the top of your list. Stayed tuned readers for other fun things to do in Country of the Rising Sun!

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.)

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# Track team eager to start outdoor season

Ben Lamers  
benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

Unlike the weather outside, both the men’s and women’s track and field team has made the transition from its winter season to the spring season.

The teams have begun training for the outdoor track season, as they leave a successful indoor season behind them.

“This was an exciting indoor season, and very exciting for me, with it being my first season here at River Falls,” said Head Coach Matthew Cole. “I was happy to see our girls qualify and compete well at the national level.”

Seniors Kimberly Lueck, in the 60m hurdles, and Amanda Rothbauer, in the 800m run, both qualified for the indoor national meet, which was held on March 14. It was the first trip to the national meet for both Lueck and Rothbauer, and it was the second straight season in which UW-River Falls had two runners qualify.

“I have had the goal of making it to Nationals in a relay since my freshman year, so I was very excited to qualify in the open 800,” Rothbauer said. “It was awesome that Kim Lueck also qualified in the 60 hurdles so we got to travel together.”

While neither runner qualified for finals in their respective events, both runners broke both their personal records, as well as both of the school records at nationals.

“They both had a very good meet, and it was both Kim and Amanda’s first national meet,” Cole said. “They worked hard this indoor season and worked harder to make it to the national meet.”

With the indoor season in the books, both teams will now turn their attention toward the outdoor track season. Senior Scott Jensen said that the team is looking forward to the outdoor season at this time of the year.

“I think what most people on the

track team are looking forward to outdoor is just being outside. It is always nice to be able to practice outside where you have more room and fresh air,” Jensen said.

Both Cole and Jensen said that times should continue to drop for the runners on the team.

“Also we are now four months into our training so we hope to see times drop and be able to have more people qualify for the conference and national meets,” Jensen said.

“As long as we keep working hard, and follow our process, it’ll all pay off in the end and we’ll be running, throwing, and jumping our best when it counts the most,” Cole said.

The men’s team finished eighth in the WIAC in the indoor season, and is looking to improve on that placement in the outdoor season. This effort will be bolstered by some runners and throwers Cole said could break out as national contenders.

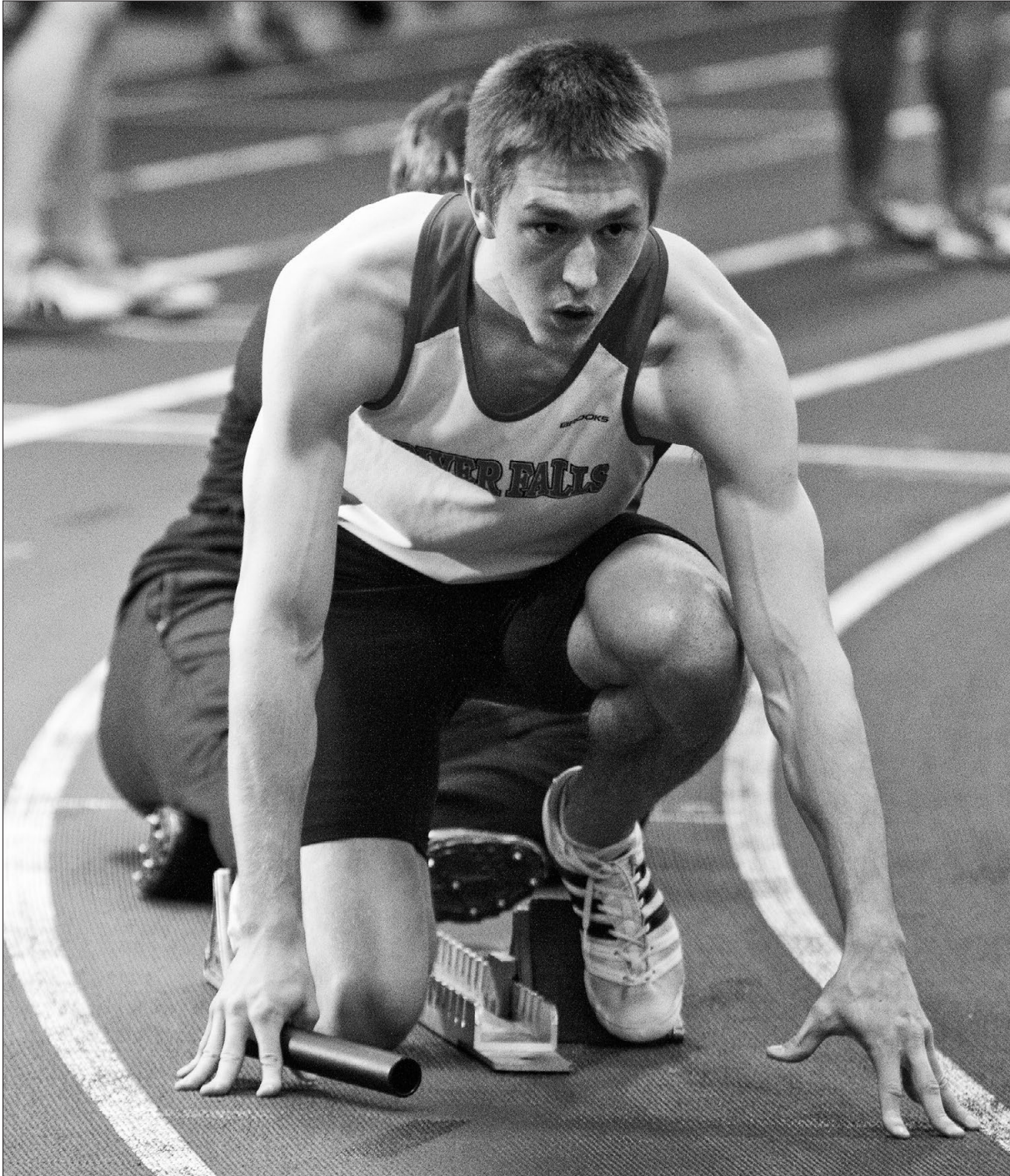
“We have some good young sprinters that I’m really excited about, and I think we could put together a really good team outdoors,” Cole said. “David [Paynotta] and Ben [Tykwinski] really had the best shots at going [to nationals], and proved that they are national caliber kids.”

The women’s team, much like the men’s team, will aim to improve its WIAC placing in the outdoor season after also finishing eighth during the indoor season.

“Conference is a big goal for us all, and I hope to see as many people qualify for that meet as we can – hopefully more than we brought to indoor,” Rothbauer said. “It’s nice to have a representation there, to compete and make our mark on the conference stage.”

However, a lot of the potential success of the outdoor season hinges on whether or not the team can run at its meets.

“Outdoor season is short. If we miss a meet then we’re really hurting. But we do have a good place to practice and work out, so we’re



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
**UWRF men’s track and field runner prepared and waiting in his blocks before the gun starts his race.**

good in that regard,” Cole said.

Jensen said that those circumstances are not lost on the members of the team.

“Outdoor is a short and unpredictable season, so people know they need to be ready to perform at every meet because the weather may only give us one nice day,”

Jensen said.

Rothbauer added to what Jensen said by agreeing that the outdoor season is very short. The team only has four meets before the WIAC meet.

“Outdoor isn’t very long and there isn’t a lot of meets, but the ones we do run at will give us chances to see

good competition and get quality marks,” Rothbauer said.

Both teams will run their first outdoor meet on Saturday, April 5, at Carleton College, and will then return home for the Falcon Invitational on April 12.

## Coaches vs. Cancer raises money for American Cancer Society



Photo courtesy of Jim Thies  
**UWRF student athlete participants for Coaches vs. Cancer week present funds raised to Community Relations Coordinator Kellie Borrows for the American Cancer Society.**



# Women’s hockey wins third place in nation at NCAA Championship

The women’s hockey team finished third in the 2014 NCAA Championships, with a 5-3 win over St. Thomas on Saturday, March 22. This season the Falcons made it farther than ever before. Not only did the team make history, but two individual players did also. Sophomore forward Chloe Kinsel was the first UWRF women’s hockey player ever to be placed on an All-Tournament team in a NCAA Championship. Senior forward, Katie Batters was named to the All-American team. The Falcons returned from Plattsburgh, N.Y. Sunday, March 23.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
Falcons celebrate their 5-3 win over St. Thomas to receive third place in the nation.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
A UWRF women’s hockey player shooting and scoring one of their five goals on St. Thomas opponent in Plattsburgh, N.Y. at the NCAA Championships, placing third overall.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
Senior forward Brook Story regains the puck for UWRF Falcons against St. Thomas.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
The UWRF women’s hockey team celebrate at their home bench after a key play.



# Laughing, singing with ‘Muppets Most Wanted’



It is time to play the music; it is time to light the lights. It is time for “Muppets Most Wanted,” bringing good humor and gags back to the theaters they belong in.

Even the Muppets know that a sequel is inevitable with any great Hollywood flick, and there going on a European tour for theirs. Aided by their new manager Dominic Badguy (Ricky Gervais), Kermit’s leadership is brought under questioning and Badguy is playing it all to the advantage of his newly-freed boss Constantine, the greatest thief in the world.

Looking very much like Kermit, Constantine trades places with the showman frog in order to steal a priceless treasure along the Muppets tour, leaving Kermit in the prison he escaped. Kermit will need to trust his skills and his friends’ perception if the Muppets are

**It’s time for “Muppets Most Wanted,” bringing good humor and gags back to the theaters they belong in.**

going to see their next show together. The Muppets were not something I grew up with too much, but I really grew to appreciate them when they came back to us in their earlier film, called “The Muppets.” The first film in their new series was jam packed with so many clever jokes, celebrity cameos and puppet slapstick that it really did show why the Muppets were so loved to begin with and why they are timeless. With “The Muppets Most Wanted,” it does not reach the same emotional levels as the first film, but like any good sequel, it does enough to keep you thoroughly entertained.

Usually I would knock a film for using a



plot that has been used many times before, used here is the switched places plot. However, what can be really appreciated is how fresh the film makes it feel, that even though you know there is going to be a big villain reveal at the end, you are still sucked in through the comedy and musical numbers.

Speaking of musical numbers, this film is chock full of them. Having the same music director from the last film, “The Muppets Most Wanted” has plenty of toe-tappingly good songs that make you laugh as much as you want to sing along. It is good to see

that even in a sequel the music of the Muppets is not squandered or downplayed in importance.

Cameos from celebrities are also prevalent, as is with every Muppet movie, and they are all used to the advantage of the comedy. Ricky Gervais plays a good henchman, Ty Burrell plays a hilariously inept detective and Tina Fey is great as a Broadway-obsessed jail warden. Each cameo role is done well, even though the film does have that feeling that they had to draw from a

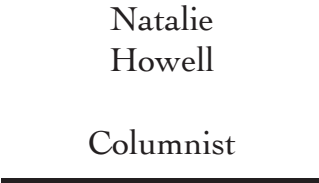
deeper well of celebrities. “Muppets Most Wanted” is not a perfect film though, despite the fun I had. It does suffer from a few awkwardly set up jokes and plotlines that do not necessarily get resolved, along with it needing to utilize its Muppet cast a bit more; after all, it is a Muppet film, so use them often and with gusto. Even with the movie being very self-aware that it is a sequel and is not going to be as good as the earlier film, I still craved the same emotional ties and satire that pervaded the first film.

“Muppets Most Wanted” is what I would call a good movie, a good Muppet movie, but overall settling for slightly lower ambition and selling itself short. These are the Muppets, and their popularity is deservedly coming back, so why not go all out and make the crowd cheer for more?

For what it is worth, “Muppets Most Wanted” is a funny and entertaining picture that carries a good recommendation from me that will titillate young and adult fans alike, though it may leave you with a hunger for more of the wackiness and ambition the first film had.

*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*

# Understanding danger in conspiracies



If you have been watching the news for the past couple weeks, chances are that you have seen almost nothing but news stories about Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. the airplane that went missing on Sunday, March 9.

We have heard about the pings that have been received and the debris that has been found that could possibly have come from the missing plane, we have heard the heart-breaking testimonials from the missing passengers’ friends and family, but most recently we have been reading stories that are bound to appear with any mystery or tragedy: conspiracy theories.

For this particular story, the conspiracy theories are that the plane getting lost was not an accident. that it involved foul play and that the Malaysian government knows what happened to the missing plane but they are keeping it a secret. The most shocking conspiracy from this list is that the plane is not actually missing at all.

We have heard this kind of conspiracy theory before, including tragedies such as the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy and even when the Twin Towers were attacked on Sept. 11.

We hear or read these things and all we can do is re-think things. That, or totally pass the sometimes cra-

zy theories off as something some bored nut job thought up. We have to take it upon ourselves to decide what is true and what is just another lie that is being force-fed to us by who knows who. But how do we decide what is true or not? Do we pass up the most out-of-there theory because we believe it is too crazy to be true?

Personally, there is nothing I love more than a good conspiracy theory. I have read countless books on John F. Kennedy’s assassination and I am currently reading another and I am only a little ashamed to say that I have bought into several stories about who really was behind the death of America’s beloved president. I think it is safe to say that I am obsessed. Sometimes conspiracy theories are fun, right? It can be a good time trying to decide what really happened

**Nobody wants to know that their loved ones died in vain.**

and sometimes buying into the fact that some things may never be known or letting stories convince you that the government is evil. It is not like anyone is getting hurt by these theories, right?

But that is the thing about conspiracy theories. People do get hurt. I mean, I did not know anyone who perished in the 9/11 attack, but if one of my loved ones died and I later was on the Internet and

came across a conspiracy theory saying that the 9/11 attacks were a plan so that the U.S. government could blame terrorists and go to war, I would be hurt. That theory, and many like it, offers the idea that the people who died in these tragedies, the tragedies that were “staged”, died for nothing. In suggesting that and encouraging the crazy conspiracy theories that you find on the Internet, you are hurting the ones who were involved and their loved ones.

The best thing that you can do when a loved one has died is find closure, and closure may be close to impossible to find if you never know what really happened. Also, of course, the people who lost a loved one in a tragedy do not deserve that.

So I guess what I am trying to say is that maybe we should not spend our days believing in the conspiracy theories that we find on the Internet, believing that something was a hoax and that our government is out to get us.

Because when that happens, it hurts those people who were involved in some way. Nobody wants to know that their loved ones died in vain, and when conspiracy theories float around saying something did not happen or that the government staged the tragedy, the deaths of those people who perished lose significance. And when it comes to death, significance and meaning are horrible things to lose.

*Natalie Howell is from Rochester, Minn., and is planning on majoring in journalism.*

# Learning from Spanish master music conductor



Falls music department. For the entire week, the symphony band and university band were honored to work with Toni Blasco Lambies, a guest conductor from Valencia, Spain. Lambies came to UWRF knowing very little English, and had to come to rehearsals with a translator, who knew very little music.

Though there was a language barrier with many of the musicians, it was a learning experience, and Lambies is a guest that the music department will remember for years to come. He surely exemplified that music is a language that everyone can understand.

Lambies was born and raised in Buñol, Spain. He began studying music there at the age of 10 at the Centro Instructivo Musical “La Armónica” (CIMA). While at CIMA, he was a member of both the symphonic band “La Armónica” and saxophone quartet. After completing his studies there, he advanced to the Conservatory of Music, also in Buñol. While there, he took courses in music theory, music history, transposing, pedagogy and saxophone (his primary instrument). He adds that he was an excellent student at the Conservatory, which was only the beginning of his immense success.

While Lambies does a lot of performing on saxophone, he spends the majority of his time teaching and conducting. He conducts a number of bands in and around Valencia, including the municipal band at Pinto, youth band of CIMA, Buñol’s high school band, Musical Union Higuerauelas in Valencia and the Cultural-Artistic Association “Benito García de la Parra” in Toledo.

He has also appeared as a guest conductor in both Toledo and Spain. In addition to conducting, Lambies has served as Professor of Saxophone at the School of Music at “Lira”

in Pozuelo de Alarcón and “Beatriz Galindo” Institute of Goya Street in Madrid.

Lambies works hard as a performer as well, having performed in halls and auditoriums such as National Music Auditorium in Madrid, Seville Cathedral, Teatro de la Zarzuela and Teatro Monumental of Madrid. He has also performed abroad in France, Hungary and Italy. One of his most exciting experiences came in 2000 when he was selected to perform with musicians around the world at the Vatican.

The concert bands in Spain differ greatly from American concert bands. Bands typically have around 150 members, which are almost triple the size of American concert bands. Most bands hold rehearsals that run from morning to night, making sure their program is nearly flawless. Musicians here at UWRF were in awe when Lambies described this, obviously impressed by what he is a part of back home.

I not only saw this as a unique musical experience, I saw it as a unique cultural experience. Prior to college, I studied Spanish for six years, so I was excited to finally listen and speak to a native speaker. I could pick up on most of what he was saying, though actually talking to him in Spanish was a bit more nerve-wracking. He was very patient with and friendly to us, which made working with him that much easier. Lambies was not shy, and he worked with every single member of the band to make sure they were comfortable with the music and that their efforts were appreciated. The connection he made with us was so great that he did not hesitate to tell everyone to add him on Facebook or send him an email. Working with Lambies is one of my fondest memories at UWRF.

Lambies is not the only one traveling around the world. Members of the UWRF and Mankato State Music Departments will be traveling to Spain this June to introduce more music to the Spanish people and learn more about their vast culture. The goal of this once-in-a-lifetime experience is to inspire people and make lasting memories, just like Lambies did with us.

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