Students Interested in Physics and Engineering,

We’re excited that you want to learn more about the Physics Department at UWRF. We enjoy helping you be successful whether you are interested in a degree in Physics, or preparing for an engineering career through the Physics/Engineering Dual Degree and Pre-Engineering programs at UW-River Falls. We offer several paths to a career in engineering either through well-established relationships with Colleges of Engineering or our Applied Physics Degree. These paths are outlined at www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Engineering.cfm.

We have an excellent department that has been nationally recognized as a Thriving Physics Department. UWRF is a small to medium size school with 6,500 students. Even though we are not a large university, our program ranks in the top 10% of all physics-producing undergraduate schools in the country.

Our physics and engineering alumni are working at 3M, Sebasta Blomberg, Hysitron, Twin Cities Signal, Banner Engineering, Aspect Automation, Mortensen Engineering and other industry leaders. We currently have alumni pursuing PhDs in engineering or physics at Princeton University, Washington University, Michigan State University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Michigan, and the University of Worcester in England.

As undergraduates, our students have interned at NASA, Cirrus, 3M, Trane, Banner Engineering, and the Mayo Clinic. Funded by the National Science Foundation, our undergraduate students have participated in summer research experiences at Cal Tech, M.I.T., Michigan State, Vanderbilt University, Baylor University, the University of North Dakota, the University of Delaware and Stockholm University.

We have multiple opportunities for global experiences. We’ve had students and faculty work and teach in Ecuador, Sweden, Tunisia, Antarctica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and China. We even had three students cruise on the Swedish icebreaker Oden from Sweden to Chile via Antarctica. UWRF is also a member of the international IceCube project http://icecube.wisc.edu/, a collaboration of more than 38 institutions that have built and now operate a neutrino and cosmic ray observatory at the South Pole.

Physics and Mathematics major, Kyle Jero, on the deck of the icebreaker Oden in the Antarctic Ocean. Kyle operated a particle physics experiment aboard the Oden.
In the UWRF Physics Department, you will find a fun, collaborative and supportive environment with a tradition of success. Our instructors have earned numerous teaching and advising awards. Our Society of Physics Students club is one of the largest and most active in the nation. Our rocket team recently won first place in its first year of competition.

With one of the most gender-balanced faculty in the country, we encourage women and students of color to look at our welcoming program. Non-traditional students, veterans, and LGBTQ students have found our department a positive place to pursue their college degree.

Scholarships are available from UWRF. Next spring we will be awarding two $1000 Physics Alumni Scholarships to incoming students. You will receive scholarship information and application instructions for both the general scholarships and the physics scholarships after being admitted to UW-River Falls.

You can find more information about our program at www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/ but the best way to learn about our program is to visit. The UWRF Admissions Office can help you arrange a visit, and one of our faculty members would be delighted to meet with you!

Please call (715-425-3235) or e-mail (james.madsen@uwrf.edu) me with any questions you have. In the mean time, continue to take as much physics and mathematics (especially pre-calculus and calculus) as possible. We hope to see you on campus!

Sincerely,

James Madsen, Ph.D.
Professor, Chair
Department of Physics