

# Hey UW-Parkside friends!

I had one heck of a winter break. I was honored with the chance to travel to Florida for Mascot Nationals! And it turned out to be a great break from the Wisconsin weather too!

I spent 21 hours on the road to Florida not stopping for anything besides jerky and Charmin Ultra. After a full night of hibernation, the next day was the competition. As many of you who follow major media outlets such as the Kenosha News and Journal Times already know, I placed third nationally in divisions VAA and below. I was able to meet up with some old pals from the fall mascot camp in Milwaukee. Chip, Sparty and Goldie were looking as energetic as ever. I was also able to meet a few new friends such as YouDee, Big Al, Aubie and the Syracuse Orangeman. We took turns bowling Orangeman because he made a perfect ball.

The day after the competition we were able to explore some attractions. A few of the mascots and I went out to eat. I almost got into a fight with a dinosaur waiter over an uncooked steak. I was the bigger bear and walked away. We eventually ended up at Disney World! The cheerleaders and dance teams were there and gave us the attention that mascots crave. We all laughed as we galloped down the magical roads. The kids loved us too. We were having a great time until we were rudely interrupted by a random celebration party that the Disney mascots seemed to be in charge of. Apparently, they think it's OK to just cut traffic and ride around in their carriages. Each one of the well-known Disney characters danced in unison along with their backup dancers and people on stilts. They invited us to Disney World and I'm sure they meant well, but they upstaged us and didn't even invite us to dance with them. We took our minds off of it by going on all of the super-fun rides. They were all great, but they had a minor problem with one of the rides. I ended up stuck in a boat listening to "It's a Small World" for 25 minutes; I think it should be the new UW-P school song... it's a catchy tune, and it's still in my head!

I was pretty tuckered out by the end of the trip, but I had a GREAT WINTER BREAK!

Ranger D. Bear

