



3-7-2019

The Grizzly, March 7, 2019

Courtney A. DuChene

Madison Rodak

Johnny Myers

Sam Rosenthal

Shelsea Deravil

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Courtney A. DuChene, Madison Rodak, Johnny Myers, Sam Rosenthal, Shelsea Deravil, Lillian Vila Licht, Thomas Bantley, Garrett Bullock, David Mendelsohn, and Zack Muredda



Chair of history department featured in Forbes

Maddy Rodak
 marodak@ursinus.edu

Associate Professor and Department Chair of History, Dr. Susanna Throop's book "The Crusades: An Epitome" has been making waves in the media. It was recently featured on the "Forbes Magazine" website in the article "5 Books To Help You Understand The Crusades" penned by contributor Matthew Gabriele. In the article, Gabriele deems Throop's book, "the best place to start for a general survey of the Crusades."

"I've been studying the crusades for almost 20 years now. I was interested in writing this book in particular because I saw an opportunity to revise the standard narrative of the crusades for the general public"

—Dr. Susanna Throop
 Associate Professor and
 Department Chair of History

In a piece for Ursinus Magazine, "Crusades Book Recognized by 'Forbes' as a Must-

Read," Mary Lobo '15 writes that Throop's book "covers a broad chronological look at the crusades from the 11th century to the 21st century and brings together a unique combination of European, Islamic and Byzantine historical approaches."

When asked about the topic for the book, Throop explained that the crusades are one of her many research interests. "The crusades are my area of scholarly expertise," Throop said. "So in that sense, the choice of topic is not surprising; I've been studying the crusades for almost 20 years now. I was interested in writing this book in particular because I saw an opportunity to revise the standard narrative of the crusades for the general public."

Throop also discovered many things about revising traditional historical narratives during her time researching the book. "One of the things I discovered is how difficult it is to revise a traditional historical narrative. However, I also learned that it was possible, and that my own view of the crusades shifted as a result of writing the book. Certain trends — like the shift towards

Christian nationalism in Europe during the later Middle Ages, or the utter contrast between the history and the mythology of Richard the Lionheart and Saladin [two leaders of Christian and Muslim forces in the Crusades respectively] — really came into focus for me as a result of this writing."

The "Forbes" article was very important for Throop. "The person who wrote the "Forbes" piece is a colleague whom I deeply respect; for him to praise my book in that way, in such a public forum, meant a great deal to me," Throop explained. "It signaled that I was not alone in thinking it's important to write for the public and to publish Open Access [the ability for any library to directly access a book] — that some of the colleagues I respect the most appreciate those values, too."

In the "Ursinus Magazine" piece, Mary Lobo touched on how Ursinus students Morgan Larese '18 and Elijah Sloat '18 assisted Throop during the research and writing process of her book. Lobo went on to explain that Larese and Sloat "worked closely alongside Throop to plan



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

a structure for the book, laying out ideas and arguments chapter by chapter and identifying themes that she wanted to use throughout the piece."

"The book wouldn't have been the same without them and their work," Throop said when asked about the collaboration process with Larese and Sloat. "They were true collaborators, and their insightful and critical

questions, as well as their good ideas, made the book better in all kinds of ways."

Overall, when asked about what her initial reaction was to seeing her book featured on the "Forbes" website, Throop said, "I felt humble and proud at the same time, odd as that may sound. I also felt very grateful."

David Perry shines spotlight on college problems

Johnny Myers
 jomyers@ursinus.edu

Colleges are often accused of being overly politically correct, but Dr. David Perry says that accusation is wrong. On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Perry gave a talk called "Colleges Have 99 Problems (But Political Correctness Ain't One)" and on Thursday, Feb. 28, he gave a lunch called "Study Humanities and Save the World." Perry is a journalist, activist, and undergraduate career advisor for history majors at the University of Minnesota.

Perry argued that there is nothing wrong with political correctness, and that colleges should

be careful about giving platforms to hate speech. Perry also argued that we need to shift public attention to the real threats to higher education today. His list of "99 problems," is in response to media sensationalism about political correctness on college campuses. Actual problems that Perry mentioned include student debt, homelessness, hunger, predatory loans, and the prestige economy, essentially the idea that one can do everything one is supposed to and there will still not be work available.

Perry was introduced by Dr. Susanna Throop, Associate Professor and Department Chair of History at Ursinus. Throop

stated that the topic "engages the controversy and encourages us to think beyond the boundaries of the controversy as is currently framed, and to ask what truly threatens higher education communities across the country." Perry's background as a professor at Dominican University, a small liberal arts college, as well as working in administration for the University of Minnesota, "has given him a truly unique perspective on not only higher education, but on the way that higher education is depicted and discussed in the media," Throop said.

Matthew Seeburger '22 attended the talk. He found the

speaker interesting, and said that he values "[his] freedom of speech as much as my personal health."

"I was pleased to hear that there would be some sort of discussion regarding how one of my most important values is handled on college campuses," Seeburger said. "I can now consider free speech much less prominent a problem on college campuses. While I do disagree with his claim that freedom of speech is not a problem at all, I realize that there are numerous other problems that should take precedence over free speech, like student hunger/homelessness and tuition prices."

Other issues that Seeburger learned about that face college students, including high tuition costs and clinically diagnosed anxiety and depression, were important conversation points for Perry.

Seeburger was not the only one who found the talk insightful, as it was a sentiment shared by senior, Joe Makuc. "I liked David M. Perry's talk. I appreciated his commitment to accessibility in presentation, including spoken descriptions of his slide's contents. He convincingly demonstrated that outcry about "political correctness" focuses on

See Perry on pg. 2

Book club brings students and faculty together

Sam Rosenthal
sarosenthal@ursinus.edu

One Book, One Ursinus provides a welcome opportunity to escape the obsession with grades in academia. By discussing “Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, students get a chance to interact with faculty from all departments in a casual environment.

Inspired by One Book, One Philadelphia, this new club lets students put themselves on an equal ground of discourse with professors. It doesn’t matter who you are, because everyone is discussing the same book for the same club this semester, so everyone can talk about the book in an informed manner.

“The best thing is when you hear from someone that you didn’t hear from before or expect to hear from. As a teacher, I’m always happy when something touches a quiet student and encourages that person to speak up.”

—Dr. Meredith Goldsmith
Professor of English and
Associate Dean

“The best thing is when you hear from someone that you didn’t hear from before or expect to hear from. As a teacher, I’m always happy when something touches a quiet student and encourages that person to speak up,” said Dr. Meredith Goldsmith, Professor of English and Associate Dean.

The club is possible because of the Inclusive Community Grant. “We received an Inclu-

sive Community Grant from the President’s Office to purchase the books, so we were able to make those available [for] free to community members... We’re hoping to make a reading of a common texts dealing with race in America, by an African American author or an author of African heritage, an annual event starting in Black History Month and going through the spring semester,” Goldsmith said.

Students make their presence known, but the club is unique in its active participation from faculty. “In the first discussion event, my table was a mix of faculty, staff, and students, and it was wonderful to hear each person’s perspective on the novel, in particular how it relates to their experience. I think this initiative attracts an equal mix of faculty, staff, and students because ultimately we are all at Ursinus for the same purpose: to learn interesting things in the presence of interesting people. I think it’s been particularly fun for students and faculty, because although we’re used to reading and discussing books together, we don’t often get to do so without the pressures of deadlines and grades,” said Dr. Talia Argondezzi, Director of the Center for Writing and Speaking Program.

The diversity of student and faculty is reflected in the diversity of the author of “Americanah,” Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who is Nigerian. The themes of identity provide interesting discussion topics because of their complexity and intersectionality. “Americanah is a wonderful novel with a lot of ways in. It’s about a heroine who is a Nigerian immigrant to the United States, a young woman consider-

ing the options and opportunities available to her (romantic, professional), and — perhaps most importantly — a person of color who didn’t consider herself ‘black’ until she arrived in this country. So the book allows us to see race in the United States from an outsider’s perspective. The heroine, Ifemelu, is also a wonderfully frank, at times unsparing character — she calls it like she sees it! These topics sound quite heavy, but it’s also a very funny, accessible novel,” Goldsmith said.

Despite the novel’s fun

“I think it’s been particularly fun for students and faculty, because although we’re used to reading and discussing books together, we don’t often get to do so without the pressures of deadlines and grades.”

—Dr. Talia Argondezzi
Director of the Center for

nature, only a few avid readers were at the event last week. “The event is planned for everyone and we welcome students, faculty, and staff. This first event was mostly staff members. We’d love to get more students in,” said Goldsmith.

One Book, One Ursinus will have breakfast together on Thursday, March 28 at 9:00 in the morning, with what is sure to be another fulfilling discussion of “Americanah.”



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FACULTY COMMENCEMENT AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

While commencement is a time primarily to mark the accomplishments of our graduating students, it also is a time when Ursinus College recognizes the distinguished achievement of a few faculty members. Students have the opportunity to nominate faculty members for recognition by the campus community through their receipt of the following two awards. The awards will be given as part of the Commencement ceremonies in May. Recipients are nominated by students, recommended by a committee composed of faculty and administrators which submits a short list to the President, who under the terms established for the awards, makes a final selection.

Distinguished Advising and Mentoring Award: An adviser works in a formal advising capacity, such as first-year advising or major/minor advising. A mentor is a person who offers guidance, support, role-modeling, and advice to another person.

Distinguished Teaching Award: For many years Ursinus has recognized faculty members for outstanding teaching by awarding the Distinguished Teaching Award. The award is given in recognition of teaching excellence.

The deadline for nominations is March 20, 2019.

Continued from **Perry** on pg. 1

outing incidents, and that this outcry is connected to an erasure of pervasive structural problems in academia (including censorship of student newspapers and chilling speech against students and faculty),” Makuc said.

Makuc also believes that the talk raised critical issues that affect all colleges. “I agree with Perry’s assertion that colleges are facing a vast swath of pervasive structural problems. If colleges represent junctions for student and faculty knowledge production, then colleges must first become more accessible to students and faculty, challenging academic paywalls, welcoming people regardless of background, and most importantly, giving students and faculty the resources they need to comfortably learn and think (whether those resources be food, shelter, fair wages, or accommodations)” Makuc said.

Perry also led a lunch discussion with students about how he came to his current career path, his work as a journalist, and how

he sees those jobs working with his activism. Makuc found the lunch as enlightening as the talk. “I thought the luncheon was very thought-provoking and engaging. I appreciated Perry’s candid thoughts on his own career path, and I appreciated his advice for balancing public representation for organizations with representation of oneself in activism” Makuc said. On February 28, Perry led a workshop for faculty and staff titled “Accessibility is a Conversation: Getting Beyond the Accommodation Letter.” Perry claims that an accommodation letter should be the “beginning of a conversation between professor and student” as opposed to “the end of the matter.” The workshop aims to “learn how to initiate and sustain this kind of conversation with students, and why doing so has the potential to positively transform the classroom for everyone, including ourselves.” The talk was co-sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs, Disability Services, and the Arts & Lectures Committee, as well as a number of academic departments.

The GRIZZLY

Volume 43 Issue 16

The Grizzly is a weekly student-run publication that serves the Ursinus community. Views expressed in The Grizzly do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or college.

Ursinus Grizzly
601 E. Main Street
Collegedale, PA 19426

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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Ariana Brown reads at Ursinus



Photo courtesy of Christopher Diaz Photography

Courtney DuChene
coduchene@ursinus.edu

“This one is for all the black people in the room,” spoken word poet Ariana Brown says from behind her microphone. She looks down at the floor, takes a breath and begins. Quiet snaps fill the room when members of the audience hear lines that resonate with them.

Brown’s poetry reading occurred last Thursday at 6 p.m. in Pfahler auditorium. The room was packed with students and faculty who came out eager to hear the two-time Academy of American Poets prize winner and the 2014 collegiate national poetry slam champion perform her work.

Originally from San Antonio Texas, Brown’s poetry focuses on her Black-Mexican American identity. In one of her poems from the reading, she critiqued colonialism with the line, “they know nothing of holding the earth without the impulse to own,” and in another she asked the question, “in what version of the story do black women win?”

Throughout the night, she bounced effortlessly from serious poems about race and identity in America to poems about thrift shops, family, and an ode to public transportation that any UC student who’s ever tried to take SEPTA to Philly would relate to. Between poems she joked with the audience, asking “what do y’all do for fun here?”

and laughing when the entire room grumbled “Reimert” and “alcohol.”

Senior Zonia Rueda found Brown’s reading and references to Afro-Latinx artists to be one of the most appealing aspects of her work.

“My favorite part of the reading was when she read the poem about her favorite artist Ozuna. I love how she talked about how this Afro-Latino artist was making great music especially in the reggaeton genre,” Rueda said. “I loved how she one day wanted someone to post the reading of this poem on social media where Ozuna can hear it and perhaps meet him. I found it interesting that it was not just a poem of loving an artist but how Ozuna is one the best reggaetoneros in music industry as one of the only Afro-Latino artists.”

Rueda is also president of ALMA, one of the campus student groups that helped support the event. Dr. Teresa Ko, who organized the event, is a professor of Spanish at Ursinus and coordinates the Latin American Studies minor. She created the poetry night program as part of the Inclusive Community Grant “Strengthening the Latino/a/x Community of Ursinus,” which she worked on with Dr. Xochitl Shuru, Rueda, and Stephanie Guzman the president of L.A.X., a Latinx student organization on campus. Other departments that helped support Brown’s reading were the Gender, Women,

and Sexuality Studies minor, the African American and Africana Studies minor, the Latin American Studies minor, the Modern Languages Department, the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department, and Ursinus’ Arts and Lectures Grants.

Ko believes Brown’s reading fits into the goals of her inclusive community grant project nicely.

“I think Ariana Brown’s poetry night fits really nicely to our goals to strengthen the Latino/a/x community of Ursinus. Of course, one event won’t do it but I thought poetry that connects us all was a great place to start. I felt that her performance helped the members of the Latinx community feel connected to each other but also to strengthen our ties and solidarities with others. Many, many people stayed after the poetry reading to hug and talk to each other, get autographed books from Ariana Brown, and take selfies,” she said.

Rueda shared why ALMA wanted to support the event.

“ALMA wanted to be part of this because we thought that her poetry was amazing. We thought that she would really captivate the audience and could identify with all Latinos and Afro-Latinos, Rueda said. “We wanted the Ursinus community to learn more about what it means to be Afro-Latino and that there are so many subcategories within the Latino/Hispanic community. We wanted to do this with a performance such as poetry because it draws people in.”

Many people at the reading were moved by Brown’s words. Ko noted in particular the powerful effect that her poems had on students.

“I thought it was cathartic, powerful and magical. Many of us commented how we were fighting back tears and laughing at the same time,” she said. “As I was driving Ariana back to the hotel, I asked her how she felt about traveling to so many places. She said she ‘needed’ to because they re-energized her. She said she was leaving especially energized because the audience at Ursinus had been ‘with her,’ participating and responding. I would say, likewise, her visit energized and re-energized our students.”

Word on the Street

It’s the middle of the semester. How do you feel about midterms/spring break?

“One more week towards graduation”

-Kieran DelMelfi, 2019

“I can’t believe spring break is finally here. Time flies by fast!”

-Kailyn Cohen, 2020

“I feel a little stressed because of the homework and studying for midterms. Also, I am feeling relaxed that I am going to have spring break with my family.”

-Aaron Edwards, 2021

Features: standout Paul Cottam senior profile



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

As graduation approaches, “The Grizzly” will be featuring profiles on seniors. This week, Paul Cottam looks back on his four years at Ursinus. See features pg. 5

Student worker profile: Wismer workers

Sierra Warner '22 and Ashley Chavez '22 share their experiences.

Shelsea Deravil
shderavil@ursinus.edu

Dealing with classwork in college is tough enough as it is. Adding a demanding job on top of that list is a lot of added stress. Nonetheless, many students are dependent on their jobs at Wismer to pay for tuition and purchase necessities. A few Ursinus students spoke with "The Grizzly" about how they balance school with their jobs in the dining hall.

Sierra Warner '22 works at Jazzman's in lower Wismer. Working noon and night shifts, Sierra said the regular students that come to order their meals can sometimes be rude. Warner finds it frustrating that during the busiest part of her Wismer shift, students will order from Jazzman's and ask seconds later if their meal is prepared: "They expect their meal to come immediately, and [that] puts an extra load of stress on you, which you don't need. [I] have other stuff to worry about." For example, because of her Jazzman's night shifts, Warner stays up late to complete her biology assignments.

However, Warner enjoys her time at Jazzman's when

it comes to her coworkers. Coworkers like Cheryl keep Warner talkative and energized throughout her shifts. Additionally, thinking about money motivates her to push through. "I'm drained after my shifts," she said, "[but] I need the money in order to [purchase] the things I need."

Ashley Chavez '22 works at upper Wismer and has had similar experiences. Chavez used to wake up at 7:00 a.m. to attend her shifts, where she "made coffee, filled up the fruit waters, [and] helped with opening...which was a lot to do [in that timeframe]." She found that listening to music helped her get through her shifts. In addition, she said she didn't always enjoy her time in upper Wismer. "I [temporarily] stopped working there this semester because... I didn't like its environment anymore," Chavez said.

She also explained that at times it was hard to balance classes, activities, and sleep. However, once she begins her jobs as an RA and tour guide, upper Wismer may no longer be a necessity for her.

Warner and Chavez agree

that having a job on campus is a balancing act. They're thankful for the monetary income and experience from working in Wismer, but know that it is also important for them to balance their work schedules with homework, extracurriculars, and sleep.

WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice
to The Grizzly

Join us for our
weekly news
meeting

Thursdays,
5:30 p.m.
Ritter 141

Fridge of the week

Who would dare to put peanut butter in his fridge?
Christopher Moreno '22.



Calling all interesting fridges! If you have a refrigerator you would like featured in the Grizzly, please email sicoleman@ursinus.edu



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Upper Wismer dining hall.

Features on seniors: Paul Cottam

Lillian Vila Licht
livilalicht@ursinus.edu

While we know that seniors are trying to avoid thinking about May, we have passed the 100 day mark, last week the STAT held a senior class Quizzo at the Trappe, and graduation is steadily approaching. “The Grizzly” wants to sit down with seniors to talk about their time at Ursinus and their plans for the future. We started with Paul Cottam. Cottam is a six-foot-nine, 3-year member of the men’s basketball team, current RA of Schreiner, member of the Airband Committee, and an Politics and Applied Economics double major. He also works with the student-managed investment fund looking at international equities, and spent a summer at an internship in Dubai.

What’s your favorite memory from Ursinus?

Hanging out in Wismer with my friends is pretty up there because it’s relaxing and easy going....if I had to pick one out, I’d probably say my parents came to a basketball game my sophomore year, which was pretty cool. I never had my whole family at a whole game before in this country [Cottam is from the United Kingdom], so that was pretty special for me getting to see all of them.

Did you enjoy being a part of Model UN?

It was really cool going to be involved in something like that and seeing what having a degree in politics could do for you because I had never been interested in politics before I had gone to this school. I didn’t

take my first politics class until the end of sophomore year, but now it’s one of my majors and potential career options. I think going to Model UN was a big turning point in letting me see what I could do with the career and space and gaining an understanding of what actually goes on there and seeing the way it works.

Can you talk a little bit about your internship in Dubai?

So my brother lives out there. He works for a bank— Standard Chartered Bank in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and obviously as a part of the ILE [Independent Learning Experience] requirement at Ursinus, you have to do some form of internship or research, so I wanted to do an internship. I talked to my family about it and my brother basically said I can get you [an internship] out here and you can stay with me for the summer. He managed to put me in touch with some people. I spoke with them, sent them my resume, did an application process, and got to intern there for 5 weeks [this past] summer. I was working in the wealth management division of an investment bank . . . [which is] basically an investment firm managing around 10 billion dollars in assets from various portfolios and managers. I was working on a team of six people. I would research securities on their behalf, look into companies’ financial statements, and try to project values of their stock price using financial models in excel. I would also edit and write portions of their publication.

Did you enjoy living abroad for

your internship?

It was a pretty different make up from the UK or America where I spend most of my time. Everything’s brand new, but the culture is very different, so you’ve got to be a bit more cognizant of the way you’re acting in public spaces. But it was really fun seeing a different part of the world. I’ve never been to the Middle East before. I got to interact with some people—some people I’m still connected with in various professional senses. It was a really cool experience getting to see a new place, understand the different dynamics of their economic political situation, and just to get to experience another different culture.

Since you are from the United Kingdom, what was being an international student at Ursinus like?

It’s definitely a different experience. The culture shock wasn’t really too much for me just because I think the UK and America are quite similar in some ways. There are still some things that are still very strange to me, like standing up for the National Anthem — didn’t really care too much for that. Other things were a just bit foreign to me like walking into Dick’s [Sporting Goods] and [there being] a rack full of guns that they’re selling. . . for me particularly, basketball was tough because we didn’t get to go home from August right through May, so it would be a long time without seeing my family, especially freshmen year. But there were other international students on the basketball team who I was pretty close with, and we figured

it out together. So when everyone else would go home on winter break, we would all hang out together. We all had each other to talk to about it, so it never seemed as lonely as it might for other people because I had other people to share the experience with.

What are your plans after you graduate?

I’m looking for jobs in the U.S. right now, primarily looking in the D.C. area. I went to a career fair a couple of weeks ago in D.C. I’m currently applying to both investment firms and international development firms in D.C. I’ve been in contact with some connections I’ve made through various [networking platforms] like LinkedIn, the career fair, and I’ve had my application flagged for the recruiter, so I’m hoping to hear back. It’s only been 2-3 weeks since I’ve been actively applying, so I’m still pretty optimistic.

How have your professors helped you succeed? Is there a specific instance that stood out to you?

Shoutout to Professor Karreth. He’s been really crucial in helping me find my passion for politics. Like I said, I didn’t really care before school started, didn’t mean that much to me, and I wasn’t super involved, but I think for one of my [Diversity] requirements, I took International Politics with him and I was instantly hooked. I didn’t even want to skip the reading. I loved participating in class and learning more things about the world. And I think I took him every semester since then. I really liked

his classes and he’s very good at motivating students to do the best work they can, always has time — always answering everyone’s emails. So I was inspired by the effort he puts into teaching these classes, and the passion he has for studying these things wore off on me and I found it very interesting too.

Do you feel Ursinus has prepared you for life after college?

It’s done a great job education-wise. I think I’ve matured a lot in the last four years. I learned a lot about forming relationships just living in the residence halls, understanding how to live with other people, [learning how to] compromise—you learn more about yourself doing those things. As far as academic terms, I’m super grateful for the education I received here. I really like the professors and the people I’ve worked with on ResLife. Everyone’s always really open to help, especially the alumni network. I would say everyone around you is putting you in a position to do the best you can, but then again, someone has to hire you, so they can only do so much, but I feel like I’ve been cultivated in a way to perform to the best of my ability.

Are there any last thoughts and reflections on Ursinus that you would like to add?

I’m very grateful for the opportunities I’ve had here the last four years. I’ve met people that I will be friends with for life, I met my girlfriend, and I met a bunch of influential professors and staff, so I’m very thankful for the four years I’ve had here.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Faculty Salon - “You Need to Read this Book:” Classic Texts, Urgent Contexts 3:45 p.m. Bears’ Den	These Bears Don’t Hibernate: New York City 7:00 p.m. New York	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break

America could use a universal basic income

Thomas Bantley
thbantley@ursinus.edu

America has witnessed dramatic changes to our economic system over the last couple decades. A corrupt government that is run by and for elites has alienated working-class Americans. The rise of globalization and automation has also eliminated many of the well-paying industrial jobs that generations of Americans depended on. A bold solution to address these problems would be a universal basic income.

This basic income would be a social security payment given out to the people of this country without them having to fulfill any specific quality, test, or work requirement. The money would not be means-tested, or made conditional based on whether or not the recipients are eligible based on certain criteria. A common proposal for a basic income, supported by such policy wonks as entrepreneur and 2020 presidential candidate Andrew Yang, is a dividend of \$1,000 a month or \$12,000 a year for every citizen above 18 years old. Some

might ask how the government would pay for this. A program such as UBI could be paid for by raising payroll taxes, creating a value added tax, and taking from the military budget. In addition, much of the cost of the UBI would be paid for by consolidating existing welfare programs.

Some would associate this program with socialism or communism, two political ideologies which have been greatly stigmatized in American society. But the UBI does not nationalize the means of production or attempt to create a classless, stateless, and moneyless society. There also exists a popular perception that if employers pay their workers less, people will not want to work. The issue with this idea is that we are failing to recognize that the UBI is necessary because workers have been paid less to do more for decades. No one is going to stop working to live on the UBI because no one wants to make just \$12,000 a year.

By allowing people to have more money to spend on rent, health insurance premiums, copays, deductibles, and food,

we could make a serious dent in American poverty. UBI would allow students to spend more time pursuing education, thus increasing their intellectual capital. Having a constant monthly stream of money would allow workers to negotiate for better wages and benefits and give entrepreneurs more financial independence. Basically, the bill would give people the supplemental income to improve their quality of life.

This policy proposal does not exist in a vacuum. As the century moves forward, automation becomes a more pressing issue for American workers. For example, according to consulting firm Pricewaterhouse Cooper, automation can eliminate 38% of U.S. jobs by the 2030s. Specifically, professions such as truck drivers, finance and insurance agents, and restaurant workers could all be lost due to automation. However, automation can benefit society by increasing efficiency in the economy and the production of goods and services that consumers demand, and universal basic income could be part of the solution.



Image courtesy of Danielle Friedman-Hill

New housing process could be a new mess

Garrett Bullock
gabullock@ursinus.edu

Since housing is so central to our lives as students, it is unsurprising that the new housing policy is causing an uproar among us. Clustering is Residence Life's most recent attempt to rebalance flaws in the housing system. The policy seeks to alleviate student anxiety, give students a better chance to live with friends, and break down the non-inclusive culture of certain residence halls. After clustering, the second step - to be implemented next year - is to remove the squatting process in its entirety.

While created with good intentions, the clustering/no squatting policy presents a wealth of new issues that, ironically, threaten to exacerbate the problems they seek to address. I do not intend to debase any group or office: I write with the utmost respect for all involved. Instead, I only hope these recommendations are taken seriously.

Clustering allows students to select housing in groups of 3, 5, 6, or 8, meaning friends can live together more easily. Many students end up stuck on Main Street their sophomore or junior years, with friends scattered between houses - two in Clamer, two in Duryea, etc. Clustering would fix this problem by allowing friends to "cluster" in one space. The chronology of the clustering selection, however, endangers seniors' chances of getting a single or a room in New or North. Clustering goes before the senior lottery, which has caused many people on campus to fear that a rising sophomore could get a single before the senior lottery even starts. However, if the order was senior cluster, then senior lottery, then junior cluster, then junior lottery, etc., seniority would be preserved and people could still live with their friends.

This solution seems to make sense, but it is tough to know what the cluster application process actually looks like;

Residence Life has provided little official insight on how they will determine which cluster applications to accept. The "Fall Housing Information" section on the Residence Life website states that "clusters will be assigned based on class year, lottery number, and housing ability."

But will there be other criteria, like disciplinary record or group affiliation? Will application reviews be subjective, or will there be clear quotas to ensure fairness? For example, will there be 30 singles reserved for Seniors every year? Will Reimert suites be allocated based on lottery number, or will ResLife be able to choose who gets a suite based on who they think should have one (subjective)? Until ResLife clarifies their criteria on the Ursinus website or some other public forum, the application review process remains a mystery, and the senior-losing-out scenario remains possible.

More difficult to discuss is the topic of squatting since its

elimination, when combined with clustering, may actually exacerbate the problems it attempts to solve. These issues are primarily peer-pressure to live in suites and the strong white male culture in Reimert. While the current squatting system is too stable (it is very hard for new groups to enter Reimert), removing it entirely could allow more men to move in.

Without squatting, women's suites, which are currently preserved through squatting, would be up for grabs every year. If those suites are thrown into the clustering and the lottery, the women that want to live in Reimert — who are vastly outnumbered by men in Greeks, sports teams, and other groups that want to live there — are at a numerical disadvantage. Certainly, women could get their suites back and could increase their number of suites, but the numbers are hardly in their favor. No one should feel pressured to live anywhere, and all living spaces

should be and feel inclusive for all Ursinus students. Right now Reimert is not as inclusive as it could be, and removing squatting could make the situation worse. A simple solution for this is reduced squatting. If organizations were guaranteed squatting in one suite and limited to clustering one or two others, then women would be allowed to retain their suites, but space would still be created for new, ideally not just white male, groups.

Again, ResLife's change to housing is warranted, and their goals are admirable. The policy modifications I suggest are only meant to ensure the change to clustering can better achieve these goals. In no way do I speak for all students, but I know many share my concerns. I sincerely hope the students will not just be heard, but listened to on this issue.



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The "That was the coolest lax goal I've ever seen" Award: Bobby McClure



Photo courtesy of UC Athletics

David Mendelsohn
damendelsohn@ursinus.edu

It's no secret that I'm not really a lacrosse guy at all, but I was paid a handsome sum to attend and work at the UC Men's Lax game against Christopher Newport University at St. Paul's school in Brooklandville, Md. and was treated to a very exciting contest for my services.

The Bears had another huge win as they took down their third ranked opponent of the season, and junior Bobby McClure was the guy who sunk the goal that felt like the nail in the coffin.

With the score 11-9 and less than 6 minutes to play, McClure was given the ball in a 1-on-1 matchup. I wish I could just show you the goal, but this is print journalism, so you'll have to settle for this bad description:

McClure crossed over the defender, spun, then crossed him over again before draining a shot from a solid 15-yards out. It was — in a word — awesome. McClure now has 106 career points. Nice work, Bobby!

The Bears are now 4-0, and have jettisoned themselves into the top dozen teams in the country, depending on which ranking system you like.

Swimming continued from pg. 8

while also contributing to four first-place relays.

Sturla, making her debut at the national competition, is excited to participate.

"Honestly I am so excited to be a part of this experience with these girls. The group of girls that are going are extremely motivated, positive and fun! To me, it's surreal and I'm just trying to soak it all in," Sturla said.

The men finished in fourth place in the conference, just 15 points behind third-place Franklin & Marshall College in a very strong overall performance.

They backpedaled their way into a fifth-place finish at champs a year ago, so the strong performance, despite only finishing one place better within the conference, showed a mark of improvement.

There are a few different things to which the members of the men's team attributed their improvement this season, since they also were tied for second in the CC during the regular season.

Senior Johnny Myers said, "Most of our improvements came from changing the team mentality. We knew it was unacceptable to get fifth place this year, and we had a more competitive attitude going into Champs."

"Most of our improvements came from changing the team mentality. We knew it was unacceptable to get fifth place this year, and we had a more competitive attitude going in to Champs."

—Johnny Myers
Class of 2019

Senior Dan Becker added, "[Head] coach [Mark] Feinberg brought in a group of incred-

ibly talented freshmen and the revamped training program took the team to the next level. Our senior leadership, especially from our Men's team captains, also helped to get our team in the right mindset for the season."

First-year swimmer Matt Snyder was of course not with the team a year ago as he was still in high school, but he believed there was an added emphasis on team camaraderie this year.

"Not only did we work incredibly hard at every practice, but we had each other's backs and were friends outside of swimming as well. I wanted to swim well in meets and at championships not only for myself, but so I can help the team in the best way that I could. I think being on a team where each person cares about each other and the team, success will inevitably follow," Snyder said.

Both teams faced several challenges along the way this year. The women, especially, lost several key seniors to graduation a year ago and had to work hard to replace their production.

Madden said, "I think that one of the biggest challenges the women's team faced this season was replacing the five seniors that graduated last year. The five of them alone contributed to over 150 points at our Centennial Conference Championship meet, were a large part of our championship-winning relays, and [several] even competed at Nationals last year."

The women's team is also slated to lose a very large and strong senior class after the season. They will lose Baker and Lyons, two of the best swimmers in the history of the CC, but their other seniors — Madden, Kathy Longenecker, Caroline Powell, and Gabriela Timuscuk — are consistently strong performers and scorers for the team. Knowing that they will be gone was a thought that remained in the back of their minds, to some degree.

Sturla said, "I think the biggest challenge this season was knowing that the seniors are leaving. They are such an amazing group of girls and we are going to miss them so much!"

There were also several injuries that had to be worked around as the season progressed, whether little bumps and bruises that had to be managed along the way or substantial injuries.

"I think being on a team where each person cares about each other and the team, success will inevitably follow."

— Matt Snyder
Class of 2022

"Avoiding injury and illness and maintaining team morale throughout the length of a very long season [was difficult for us]," Becker said, who had to miss the team's training trip to Florida because of an injured shoulder over winter break.

Both teams have a lot to be proud of after overcoming a multitude of challenges and being able to perform very well at champs.

"This season was one of my favorites in recent memory and I'm sad that it's over. I improved a lot in the pool and made some lifelong friends, so I can only look forward to next season to see what experiences this sport will bring me next," Snyder said.

Becker said, "I am very proud of what our team accomplished. It may not look like much, but our fourth place finish was the result of an inconceivable amount of hard work, grit, and spirit. Our men left it all in the pool. We gave it everything we had and we had a fantastic season. It is bittersweet to know my career as a competitive swimmer is over but it was a real treasure to end it with the guys that I did."

DeSimone continued from pg. 8

close his tenure on a high note after gaining three great years of experience as one of the team's top players.

"I think I've learned a lot from past teammates and leaders and watching and taking some of their guidance and advice into account but also staying true to [myself]," DeSimone said.

He has led the Bears to a 4-0 start, including a thrilling upset over 17th ranked Stevenson amid three victories over ranked opponents thus far. In those games Pete has posted 13 goals and 9 assists, leading the Bears in total points with 22. He's also established himself as a team leader, which is Pete's main focus this year.

"I think that individually I just want to have as much fun as possible playing, that's what I'm focused on this year. Team-wise, I think we're just focused on getting better every single day and competing day in and day out. If we do that I think we will be successful no matter the end result," said DeSimone.

With the final season underway, DeSimone wants to be known as more than just a great lacrosse player.

He said, "I want to be remembered for being someone outside of lacrosse who was a positive influence in the community, classroom and in social settings. Someone who worked hard, had a good time, and represented the college in a positive manner."



Photo courtesy of UC Athletics

Scores as of Monday, March 4

M. Lacrosse (4-0)	W. Lacrosse (0-3)	Track and Field	M. B-Ball (15-11)	W. B-Ball (17-10)	M. Swimming (6-2)	W. Swimming (9-0)
February 27: #17 Cortland: 9 #18 Ursinus: 15	February 27: Ursinus: 7 #3 Rowan: 17	February 23-24: Centennial Conference Championships: Men: 5th - 86.5 pts Women: 5th - 77 pts	February 22: CC Semifinals (@Swarthmore Coll.): Johns Hopkins: 67 Ursinus: 60	February 19: CC Opening Round: Muhlenberg: 38 Ursinus: 57 February 22: CC Semifinal: Ursinus: 51 Gettysburg: 74	February 21-24: CC Championships: 4th - 527 total points	February 21-24: CC Championships: 1st - 816.5 total points

Athlete spotlight: Peter DeSimone

Zack Muredda
zamuredda@ursinus.edu

When the Ursinus Men's Lacrosse coaching staff was recruiting players four years ago, they couldn't have known that they would bring someone in who is poised to take a spot atop the UC record books. But that's just what they got in now-senior Peter DeSimone.

DeSimone, an East Greenwich, Rhode Island native, attended La Salle Academy in his home state before choosing to continue his lacrosse career at Ursinus.

"I would say that I was pretty positive going into high school that I wanted to play lacrosse in college. It was always the sport I liked the most so it always just made sense that if I wanted to play collegiate athletics it would be the sport I chose," Desimone said.

Pete's father, Herb, played a big role for him during his youth along with having his own athletic ability. Herb Desimone played both football and lacrosse at Brown University and encouraged Pete to play multiple sports when he was younger. Herb

was also the person to show Pete his eventual favorite sport.

"My dad showed me the sport of lacrosse at a very young age. He played in college so he was vital in how I grew to love and appreciate the sport," DeSimone said.

In high school, Pete listened to his dad and was a three-sport athlete with football and hockey along with lacrosse.

At La Salle Academy, Pete was an all-state selection three times for lacrosse and in his senior year made the All-Western New England team.

He continued that success right into his freshman year at Ursinus where he was named the Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year after posting 24 goals and 19 assists.

In his sophomore year, DeSimone finished fourth in the Centennial Conference with 38 goals and paired that with 9 assists. In each of his first two seasons, he made second team all-Centennial Conference.

Now a senior and a co-captain for the Bears, DeSimone is ready to

See DeSimone on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of Mark Shevitz

The UC Men's Lacrosse Team is undefeated through its first four contests and are now ranked #12 in the country.

UC swim teams complete outstanding seasons; Women win 6th straight championship



Photo courtesy of David Sinclair

The Ursinus College Women's Swim team won its sixth straight Centennial Conference Championship and will send six (6) people to the national competition in Greensboro, N.C. later this month

David Mendelsohn
damendelsohn@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus College Swim Team completed its season on Feb. 24 with the conclusion of Centennial Conference Championships at Gettysburg College.

The women's team maintained CC supremacy by coasting their way to their sixth consecutive championship.

Members of the team were, of course, very proud of their accomplishment.

"Being a part of the team as we won our 6th consecutive conference

championship was such an exhilarating feeling. It was a lot of fun to be a part of a team that absolutely dominated in every event. As a senior, I couldn't think of a better way to end my swimming career," senior co-captain Katie Madden said.

Sophomore Gabi Howell said, "It was a ton of fun. The championship meet is such high energy, and watching my teammates destroy conference records and best times for four days pushed me to swim my hardest, which ultimately led to our success this season."

Ursinus will send a program-record six swimmers to the national competition in Greensboro, N.C. from Mar. 20-23.

Those six: Seniors Clara Baker and Peyton Lyons, junior Haley Sturla, sophomore Sophie May, and first-years Katie Schultz and Sophie Lear. Lear was named Most Outstanding Performer and Most Outstanding Rookie at the conference championship meet after winning the 50 free, 100 free and 100 breast

See Swimming on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday	Sun. Cont.	Monday	Wednesday
#12 Men's Lacrosse: 4 p.m.: @Montclair St.		#12 Men's Lacrosse: 1 p.m.: @Lycoming Gymnastics: NCGA East Regionals @SUNY Cortland	Women's Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: vs. Kenyon (@Nashville, Tenn.) Softball (@Clermont, Fla.): 2 p.m.: vs. Roger Williams 4:15 p.m.: vs. Smith	Baseball (@Kissimmee, Fla.): 2 p.m.: vs. Worcester St. 5:30 p.m.: vs. Gordon	Tennis (@Orlando, Fla.): vs. Transylvania Softball: 9 a.m.: vs. Fredonia Baseball: 10:15 a.m.: vs. SUNY Poly	Baseball: 9 a.m.: vs. Curry Softball: 9 a.m.: vs. Scranton #12 Men's Lacrosse: 3:30 p.m.: vs. Eastern