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## The Grizzly, April 28, 2016

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## Students prep for Philly Experience

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For the Fall 2016 semester 15 students will have the opportunity to take part in a new Ursinus program, the Philadelphia Experience. The Philadelphia Experience is, according to the Ursinus website, an immersive one semester program in which students have the opportunity to take classes and do internships, service projects, and research in University City, Philadelphia.

For the entirety of the semester students will live and work within the Philadelphia community. Students will be able to choose from three Ursinus courses: Memoir Writing taught by Dr. M. Nzadi Keita; Race and Ethnicity in Philadelphia taught by Dr. Roger Florka; and Introduction to Theater taught by Prof. Domenick Scudera. Students will also be able to take courses through Drexel University, do independent research, or participate in a civic engagement project.

*"I realize that I am extremely privileged, and I know that very few people from my community will ever have the opportunities that I have at a small liberal arts college."*

—Alexandria Luben  
Sophomore

They will also have the option of doing an internship in a variety of areas, including arts and culture, business, education, environment, health and medicine, information technology, media and communications, non-profit and government, and science.

The flexibility of the program and the many options offered will allow students to customize their schedule based on individual in-

terests. Students will be given a greater freedom in their learning.

"I've signed up for a four credit internship or civic engagement project, but I don't know what I'm doing for that yet—I have to do some research and look around," said junior Mara Koren. "I'm interested in nonprofit organizations, preferably one that seeks to help fight hunger or homelessness. For my other credits I'm taking the memoir in Philly class with Dr. Keita and the first semester of an honors project with Dr. Keita. I'm also planning to take an English class at Drexel, but they haven't released their course schedule yet, so I don't know what that will be."

For some students the opportunity to work within Philadelphia and help promote community conditions is part of the allure of the program. Students are excited to be able to apply what they learn in Philly to their own communities.

"The civic engagement project in Philadelphia is one of the things that interests me the most," said sophomore Xichang Wu, a Chinese international student. "I plan to work on some kind of civic engagement when I go back to China. I want to learn how it works in Philly so that I can have some experience and be able to apply what I learned from this project to China in the future."

"I realize that I am extremely privileged and I know that very few people from my community will ever have the opportunities that I have at a small liberal arts college. Therefore, I am dedicated to taking full advantage of this experience and bringing all that I've learned back to my community," said sophomore Alexandria Luben, who is hoping to

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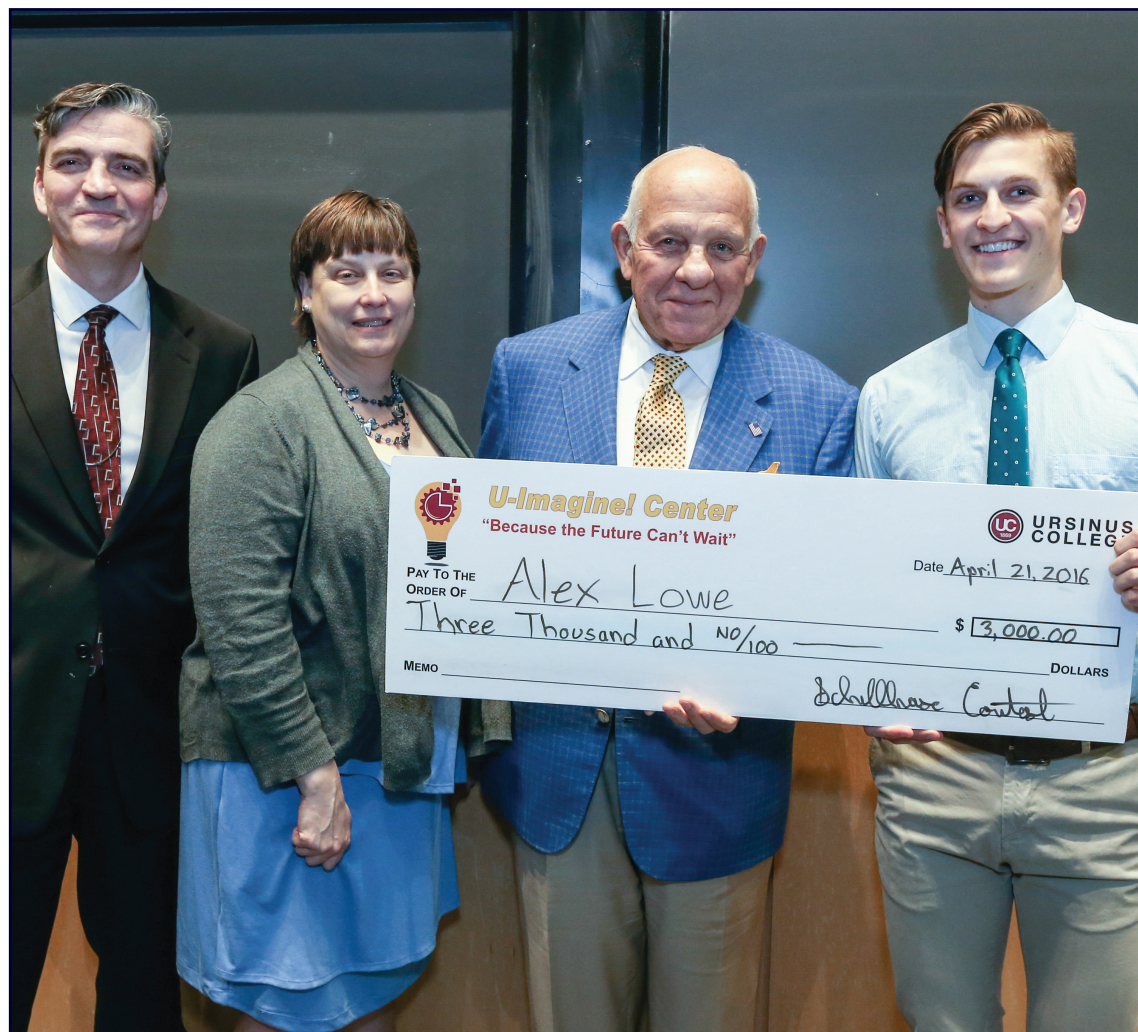


Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

From left: Kelly Sorensen, associate dean; April Kontostathis, interim dean; Will Abele '61, donor and originator, and the student winner, Alex Lowe '16. Lowe's essay was titled "Reparations for Racism: Why the Persistence of Institutional Racism in America Demands More than Equal Opportunity for Black Citizens." Second place went to Jordan Ostrum '17, whose essay was titled "Feminist Futures and Campus Changes: Dismantling Ursinus College's Greek Life." Third place went to Alicia Baker '17, whose essay was titled "Raj Rajaratnam: Cheater".

## Commencement speakers and valedictorians named

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The Ursinus Class of 2016 will have its Commencement on Friday, May 13. The ceremonies will take place on the front lawn of Ursinus in front of the Berman Museum. In addition, Ursinus will hold its annual baccalaureate ceremony on Thursday, May 12.

In an email sent to students, it was announced that Wayne W. Meisel, director of the Center for

Faith and Service at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., will receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Ursinus and will offer the baccalaureate address.

Ursinus students La'Shante Cox, Elspeth Sarro, Aastha Gautam, and Edward Malandro will also be offering remarks at the baccalaureate ceremony.

According to the email sent to all students, this year the commencement address will be given

by Constance H. Williams, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Williams will also receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the college.

In addition, the Class of 2016's valedictorians were announced in the email. They are Kristen Nicole Costello, Alexa Lynn Hanson, Jacob Anthony Hollingsworth, and

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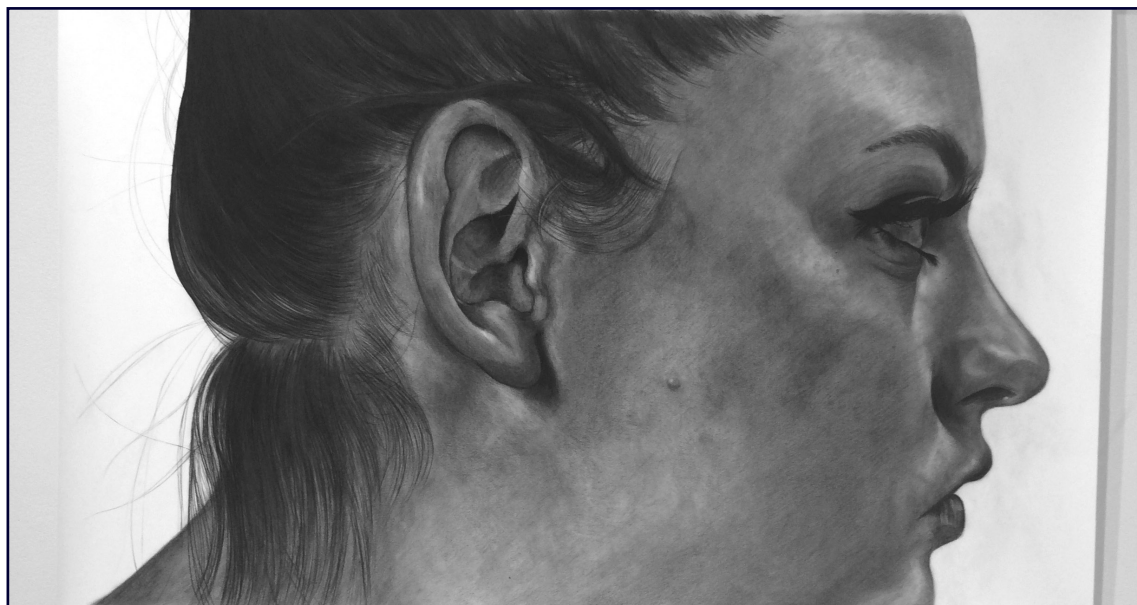


Photo courtesy of Erin McKinney

This charcoal drawing of Sam Wanta '18 was included in the collection of art by Hemi Park '16 that is on display in the Berman Museum of Art.

## Berman displays student art

**Erin McKinney**

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Each year, toward the end of the spring semester, the Berman Museum of Art presents the work of student artists. These exhibits display an array of mediums and artistic style and provide some insight into the talent and experiences of students on campus.

Students with work in the 2016 show include senior Hemi Park, a studio art and mathematics double major, and junior Anthony Alvarez. Both Park and Alvarez presented their capstone projects during CoSA. Students who presented at CoSA were not the only ones whose works are featured in the exhibit.

The show includes the work

of students of all class years. Students with work in the show include: Sarah Wilbert, Kayla O'Mahony, Teddi Caputo, Lillith Zhu, Mario Heitman, Aubrey Basla, Kate Bormann, Mattie Egerter, Neomi Haut, Oriah Lopez, Sonny Rimler, Kayla Sallada, Madeline Scuderi, and Rebecca Lorena Torruella. These artists are presented in a formal museum

setting for perhaps the first time.

Park's collection, titled "Memorabilia: Love Teeth," "explores the idea of love, analyzing and sharing my confidential experiences and emotions through seemingly mundane objects," according to the CoSA presentation description. The piece takes up an entire corner of the main gallery on the Berman's first floor. Included among the pieces are a charcoal drawing of Park's close friend, Sam Wanta, a sophomore at Ursinus; a table holding white sculptures surrounded by black cloth; a case of dried flowers; and a series of "micro-drawings" featuring the fine detail with which Park says she is most comfortable.

Attending the capstone presentation on April 21 provided visitors a glimpse into Park's artistic process. The sculptures present were created to represent the artist's wisdom teeth, and the black cloth surrounding these sculptures are articles of clothing from relationships of which Park was a part, each of which is stitched with a "significant phrase" from the relationship. Continuing the theme is the glass case filled with dried bouquets. Lastly, there is the large drawing of Wanta,

which Park said was a means to get through a creative block.

Alvarez's collection, titled in the museum as "Working Men," is a series of photographs taken by Alvarez over an extended period of men in various cities. His presentation revealed an ultimately last-minute adjustment. Alvarez said that he would actually like to retitle the work "Disregarded and Great."

Alvarez sought to show the men in their most comfortable state, whether that was at work or during the rare periods of rest they were granted. One photo that stood out among the collection of action shots and standing subjects was a photograph of a man sitting. Alvarez explained that this photo was taken during a conversation with the individual who was just getting off work. The individual fell asleep on the bus he shared with Alvarez. According to Alvarez, the photos focus on the men that society often overlooks.

The student art show is held annually at the end of the year, and is open to the public. It is free for all to attend, and will be up until the end of the school year.

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intern with a community service organization or an arts program.

The program will also allow the 15 participating students the opportunity to break out of Collegeville and learn and explore in a new city. For many of the students Philadelphia will offer a new and exciting change of pace.

"[Philadelphia] offers much that is left to be longed for in a small town like Collegeville... its menagerie of dogs, museums, neighborhoods, peoples, and cultures [will be] compelling to explore. There is so much going on in Philadelphia, that I imagine it [will] be an intellectually stimu-

lating experience," said sophomore Naseem Syed.

By offering a program in Philadelphia, Ursinus will also be allowing students an opportunity to learn in a new place without having to go too far. The close proximity of the program will give students the ability to stay connected to Collegeville if they want or need to, while still allowing them an off-campus experience.

"I thought about studying abroad this semester but decided not to," said Koren. "This feels like a good compromise. It will be close enough to school that I can come back when I need to but still something new in a new place."

Next semester will be the first semester that this kind of program will be offered at Ursinus, so it is hard for students to know exactly what to expect from the Philadelphia Experience. However, the 15 students chosen for the program are willing to step up to the challenge of participating in a new experience and seem excited to try something different.

"I am most excited about completely owning this experience," said Luben. "I realize that it truly is what I make of it, so I'm going to push myself to be inquisitive and courageous. I want the Philly Experience to be an intriguing chapter in the book of my life."

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Anna Ayres Kozitzky. The salutatorian is Rebecca Kate Keenan.

"It's nice that all of my hard work and effort have paid off," Costello said. "I'm really excited to start the next chapter of my life."

Another speaker at commencement will be the senior class president Danielle Grimes. She will introduce Williams and Olivia Keithley, the Ursinus College student commencement speaker. Keithley is a politics major with minors in education and African American and Africana studies.

"I plan on speaking about the

way in which Ursinus has transformed us," Keithley said, adding that she didn't want to give too much away before the ceremony.

Keithley was chosen to speak after seniors were nominated by fellow seniors to be the commencement speaker. After finalists were selected, each gave a two-minute audition speech. Keithley was chosen by a committee of faculty, students, and deans.

"There were a lot of really incredible people nominated," Keithley said. "So I was incredibly humbled to be chosen."

The commencement procession on May 13 begins at 9:20 a.m. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m.

### THE GRIZZLY

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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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# End-of-year Q&A with President Brock Blomberg

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Although it was only his first year as president of Ursinus College, Brock Blomberg has already begun instituting big changes to the school. The Philadelphia Experience will have its first semester next fall, the college is preparing for its sesquicentennial anniversary, and the school is aiming to raise funds for new programs and resources. Still, this year also saw a great number of hardships. An armed robbery occurred in Reimert in the fall, student Michelle Buck passed away before winter break, and a norovirus outbreak sickened upwards of 200 people.

The Grizzly recently sat down with Blomberg to discuss how he feels about his first year, the challenges he faced, and what Ursinus can do going forward. The answers have been edited for clarity.

**Q: What has been the biggest struggle this year for you as a first-year president?**

Blomberg: Well, I think a lot of this year as a long blind date. I knew a little bit about the college, the college knew a little bit about me, but it's taken a while to acclimate to each other. I feel really happy that this is going to turn into a match, but I think that is going to take a little bit of time. That with some of the tragedies that we've had—Michelle Buck's passing was particularly difficult for the whole community to deal with, that with the norovirus at the end of it. So, you combine these real challenges—people passing and people getting sick—with also getting to know one another, and it's been a little bit of a while for everyone to get to appreciate each other. But I'm learning a lot about the students here—I think they're fantastic students—and I'm very proud and honored to be the president. And my sense is that there is some good feeling on the other side too.

**Q: What has surprised you most about Ursinus?**

Blomberg: I think one thing that surprised me a little bit is how consistent the narrative has been for students today versus students in the past. When I have met a lot of alumni, and they say certain things about the way

students were when they went to college, there's a lot of continuity there. There was an alum who was at alumni weekend, and she said there were several students who said "How may I help you?" And she said that's just the same kind of thing as when she was here several years ago. So, it surprised me that the college has been able to maintain that level of consistent student engagement over all that time period.

**Q: What are three books that you would recommend to seniors to read after graduation before they enter the workforce?**

Blomberg: Well, one is a book called "How Google Works," by Eric Schmidt and Jonathan Rosenberg. Schmidt was the CEO of Google and Rosenberg was his number-one marketing guy. Basically what the book does is lay out how Google works, and it's not a bad roadmap for how people should try to think about the culture and organization in which they operate. So, I think going out into the workforce, as you're young and you're thinking about what organizations are like, how you move in an organization, and what kind of models there are, I think "How Google Works" is a fantastic model for that. A second book I would encourage people to read would be "David and Goliath" by Malcolm Gladwell. Basically the point there is that people have always thought of David as the underdog and Goliath as the one who should have won the contest. But if you look at it really carefully, David had a lot of advantages, like the sling he used. He was a lot faster than Goliath. And this is a great metaphor, I think, for how we see society. Some of the older ideas and ways of doing things are not necessarily the ones that are going to be most advantageous, even though they have what appears to be the advantage in the market place. It's the David, the startup, the group who can be really thoughtful in thinking about the future. I think that mentality and mindset is really important to understanding how to be successful. The third book is "The Sense of an Ending" by Julian Barnes, which won the Booker Prize several years ago. I would just

encourage people to do that because I think people need to find a personal book that touches their heart. This one touched my heart because of the way it talks about dealing with tragedy and how we move on. I'm not suggesting this is what everyone should read, but I think that everyone should probably look for whatever that book is that can touch their soul.

**Q: What is one thing you wish Ursinus students knew about you?**

Blomberg: I think understanding my journey, on the personal side, because as a president you don't really get a chance to "hang" and "chill" and get to know someone. We try to do a little bit of this with the Algonquin Club, but you rarely get a chance to take the makeup off. I think understanding that my journey is similar to a lot of peoples' journey here, and I think there is always some value in having a shared experience. Not that this is true of every student here, but I was a first-generation type of kid, I was adopted, I had my own challenges. I have four kids who are college-aged, so I understand some of the challenges that college kids are going through even though I'm of a different generation. On the personal side, there would be some value for people, but that only happens over time as you get to know someone.

**Q: What is one thing you wish the world knew about Ursinus?**

Blomberg: How about everything? I think this is a place that has a special sauce. I don't know that we've been able to get out in front because I think our gestalt has been to embrace the values of humility. I think it's good not to be overly boastful, but we have a lot here that is incredible. If people could just come to campus and see the remarkable stuff that happens between students and faculty and students and students and the beautiful campus. We fight so far above our weight class, and I think that's something, if I could just find a way to tap into people appreciating that more, it would go a long way to getting the kind of name recognition that is commensurate with our quality.

For more of this interview, visit [ursinusgrizzly.com](http://ursinusgrizzly.com)

## International Perspective *Lessons learned from time at Ursinus*

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Several months have passed since I came to Ursinus. What I have experienced has changed my perception. Even though I have stayed at UC for just a few months, I have found a new goal for my life at Akita International University (AIU), Japan.

Through some experiences at Ursinus, I decided to communicate actively with international students at AIU after returning to Japan. I would like to greet international students at AIU with a smile.

I would speak to them and invite them to a party. Thanks to my experience here, I have been able to see people's attitude more sensitively than when I was in Japan. I can understand how hard it is for international students to speak to other students in a non-native language.

This semester, I was the only international student to enroll in Ursinus College. In terms of making friends, what I faced was a little harder than other students.

Most of the students had already made their group of friends in the fall semester. This situation gave me uneasy feelings. At the same time, it let me reconsider my attitude, as a regular student of AIU, toward international students at AIU.

When I remembered my attitude toward international students, I could not be called friendly by any standard. I seldom talked to international students and did not even greet those that I had not met. Now I regret what I did to them.

Through my experience at Ursinus College, I noticed how much greeting and being talked to makes new international students happy and comfortable. One way to welcome international students is by greeting, speaking with them or inviting them to an event.

After putting myself in the same situation as an exchange student, I finally recognized their discomfort in speaking another language and being in a different culture.

This new life made me more self-aware than I was in Japan. It gives me new perspectives. At Ursinus, most of the students I meet on campus greet me with a smile when my eyes meet theirs.

When I experienced the situation for the first time, I thought it was odd for people to smile at a stranger.

However, eventually, the greeting became my favorite part of the culture at Ursinus College and the U.S. Just even being said "Hi" to makes new students feel at ease. This culture is the one I want to adopt, and I want to practice it whenever I meet international students in Japan.

Now I appreciate coming to Ursinus as an exchange student. My experience here is a great opportunity for me to feel sympathy for people who are in the same situation. The experiences broadened my points of view, gave me a chance to reconsider my behavior towards international students, and let me make a new goal for AIU.

Lastly, I would like to thank those who greeted, spoke to and introduced any kinds of new things to me. For you, that attitude might have been something natural and the simplest thing to do, but I could not do that. Therefore, I would like to encourage those people to keep doing it and know what a wonderful culture it is.

*Kanna Higuchi is a senior international student from Akita International University (AIU) in Akita, Japan. Her hometown is Nagasaki, Japan. Higuchi is majoring in global business at AIU and is a skilled archer. At UC, she belongs to the Japan Club, the Ultimate Frisbee Club, the UC Outdoor Club, and she hopes to join SASA.*



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## Passion for politics

*Ursinus' libertarians join a campus organization to discuss their views*

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It was a quiet Thursday night in early March on the Ursinus College campus. The twelfth Republican debate for the 2016 presidential election was set to begin, with Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and John Kasich comprising the remaining candidates still fighting for the Republican nomination. Most Ursinus students, or at least the Republican Party followers on campus, were bunked in watching the debate in a small room in Olin Hall, supporting their favorite candidates. A majority of these students had an idea of whom they wanted to vote for and why, but the students collectively held their breaths in fear as they watched the party they associated with crumble to the tune of greedy, childish, back-and-forth banter between the candidates.

One of these students, Patrick Corrigan, is a junior from Ramsey, New Jersey. Corrigan is a member of Ursinus' Young Americans for Liberty club, which meets weekly to discuss American topics of value to those who consider themselves Libertarians. "We just want Americans to have the rights they deserve. Every American should be able to pursue any path they wish to in life," said Corrigan.

Corrigan hasn't always identified as a Libertarian. In fact, he didn't even know the party existed until coming to Ursinus. After his freshman-year roommate made him aware of the Young Americans for Liberty club on campus, Corrigan decided to go see what the fuss was about. He never looked back.

"What caught my attention was how integrated their values were," said Corrigan. "Before experiencing the Libertarian point of view, I had always looked at politics as Democrat vs. Republican. Being a Libertarian, I feel like I don't have to pick a side, I am simply creating my own."

This summer, Corrigan plans on working at the banking company Merrill Lynch in Austin, Texas. He understands that politics is bigger than finance, and

tries not to let his love for the field dictate which way he leans politically.

"Financially, I'm a Republican, but then again most Libertarians feel the same way. That's part of the reason I became a Libertarian. I knew which party I supported when it came to my financial values and beliefs, but there were too many other ideals associated with the party that I couldn't bring myself to agree with," said Corrigan. "Discovering the Libertarian Party allowed me to integrate my financial values with, for example, my value of [being] pro-choice, which many view as a more liberal idea."

The Young Americans for Liberty club has grown on Ursinus' campus since Corrigan attended his first meeting as a freshman, and he takes every opportunity to express his connection to the club and recruit new members. His roommate this year, Timo Muro, who is also a 21-year-old junior, hadn't expressed interest in the club until Corrigan convinced him to attend a meeting a few weeks back.

"You can really tell how much [Corrigan] enjoys the club," says Muro. "Whatever they talked about at the meeting that night, he would come back to the room and start up the same debate with me. Just by listening to him rant, I could tell that in that club, they're actually talking about things that students care about in today's society. Things that students like Pat can really get behind, emotionally and whole-heartedly. I've been to one meeting thus far and I'll tell you, it's extremely tough to get a word in because all of these young Libertarians care so much about spreading the values of the party."

As far as the representation Libertarians currently have in American politics as a whole, Corrigan is optimistic.

"Not this year, but hopefully within the next four years we'll see a stronger push for Libertarian values," says Corrigan. "And maybe even a potential presidential candidate arises in 2020 that holds these same values."



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Patrick Corrigan (far left) with the Young Americans for Liberty, one of the political groups on campus that meets throughout the semester to discuss important issues surrounding social and political change.

## A summer spent at school

*Biology student plans his summer fellows project*

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Jon Livezey is a junior biology major at Ursinus College. While he has spent tireless hours completing assignments for the rigorous major, Livezey has taken his education further through Ursinus' research programs. Specifically, Livezey has conducted research for Dr. Ellen Dawley on limb regeneration using axolotl salamanders. This year marks the third consecutive year that Livezey has worked with Dr. Dawley for this research. At the end of this semester, Livezey will return to Ursinus to continue this research through the Ursinus summer fellows program.

An axolotl is an amphibian that has the ability to regrow its spinal cord. This phenomenon caught the attention of Dr. Dawley. Her research consists of transecting the spinal cord and then waiting for the axons around the tail to regrow. Then, a second transection is made later, and the axons are highlighted using nerve tracers. "This will allow us to see the actual axons with the goal of using a time-lapse view of the spinal cord. This will help us understand the process by which the axons or nerves regrow," said Livezey.

While the study may be directed towards amphibians, Livezey explains that this research could

lead to some very significant findings for humans. "The ultimate goal would be to apply this regeneration to paralysis in humans so if there is nerve damage, we could figure out a way to regrow the axons and nerves to give them mobility once again," said Livezey.

Like all science students at Ursinus, Livezey had to complete the basic science courses for his major requirements. It was in these fundamental classes where Livezey developed a relationship with Dr. Dawley.

"I had Dr. Dawley for Bio 101 and thought that she was a great professor," said Livezey. "Her research sounded interesting, and I knew I wanted to get involved."

There are four different groups conducting research under Dr. Dawley. Livezey is in charge of one of those groups. Many students in the groups have been involved in this research for multiple semesters, and under the leadership of Dr. Dawley they will continue to work towards the common goal of understanding spinal cord regeneration. Jon is the only student in the groups who will be conducting research for summer fellows.

While this research is very important to Livezey academically, a recent opportunity to help the community presented itself to Dr. Dawley and Livezey in the form of a program called FUTURE,

which was created to increase interest in science for minority students. Through the program, Livezey will mentor a minority student who is interested in science. He will teach them how to conduct research and to the ins and outs of the researching process. "I agreed to do this program because it is nice to be a part of something bigger than just Ursinus. I am proud to be giving back to the community, and humbled at the same time to offer my advice to such interesting students," said Livezey.

Overall, Livezey said he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Ursinus, especially in the biology department. "All of the professors have an extraordinary amount of knowledge in their field. I think the entire department is very bright with a diverse array of expertise," said Livezey.

The experience and knowledge that Livezey has gained through Ursinus' research programs have complemented his career goals. Livezey is on the pre-med track and recently completed his MCAT exam. "The time I have spent learning the anatomy and physiology of the amphibians has benefitted me greatly in the medical field," said Livezey. "Also, the process of conducting research with a specific goal has helped develop a foundation for me that I hope to utilize in my future with medicine."

# Q and A with a junior being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

*Lauren Geiger receives an honor that's mainly reserved for seniors*

**Sarah Hojsak**  
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Lauren Geiger, an English major, is one of only two juniors to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year at Ursinus. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest academic honor society.

**Q: When did you first hear about Phi Beta Kappa and what made you want to pursue this honor?**

Geiger: I first heard about Phi Beta Kappa as a first-year student—it seemed like a great goal to keep in mind during my studies. To be honest, though, I think I've achieved my academic goals not by necessarily aiming for specific awards, but by trying my best to be aware that my college education is an amazing opportunity, so I should make the most of it by working hard. I started pouring myself into my work, it started to pay off, and then Phi Beta Kappa fell into place.

**Q: How did you work to achieve this accomplishment?**

Geiger: I think it's been a combination of being detail-oriented and going to school for my biggest strengths. I've always gotten overwhelmed when I look too far ahead, so I've learned to focus on what I need to accomplish in the present, and pour myself into the details until the task is finished. I'm most passionate about literature, writing, and languages, so that's what I do.

I think that a lot of students in the humanities get told again and again—by loved ones, by peers,

by well-meaning strangers in the grocery store—that what we study isn't "useful" or "marketable." Especially in my first year of college, I felt a lot of pressure because of this...but I just kept listening to myself and doing what I love. I don't think I would have been successful any other way.

**Q: How has Ursinus impacted you academically? Do you have any specific mentors who have inspired you?**

Geiger: I think that Ursinus and my classes in the humanities impacted me the most by encouraging me to actively listen to other peoples' thoughts, opinions, experiences, and perspectives.

When I first came to college, I was always in a rush to be the first to answer discussion questions in class, to always have my voice heard.

I gradually learned that the most important moments of learning and clarity come from sitting back and drinking in what the rest of the room thinks, and then reflecting earnestly on these perspectives, allowing them to challenge, reform, and inform my own.

Also, from my friends, from my work in the humanities, and from my work in the Center for Writing and Speaking, I've learned that open communication—especially asking questions such as "What can I do to help?"—is way more useful than simply reacting or acting on assumptions.

I've had so many mentors who inspire me. At Ursinus, I've be-

come friends and acquaintances with some of the most compassionate people I've ever met. They have touched my soul. Also, big shout-outs to the English, Creative Writing, and German departments for encouraging my love of writing and language. My other mentors are my family members. My parents, sister, grandparents, and aunts are my rock.

**Q: As one of the few juniors to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, how has your experience been unique?**

Geiger: To be honest, I don't think that my experience at Ursinus has been much different from any of my other peers who work hard and love what they're doing!

At last year's Phi Beta Kappa ceremony, Dr. [Melissa] Hardin gave a powerful speech about always remaining aware of one's privileges while celebrating honors. I think it's important to know that my various privileges as a white, middle-class woman have directly impacted my success.

For example, I struggled in secondary school but went to a well-funded suburban high school where I was given resources to pursue a college education. Knowing what it's like to fail and having the privilege to "start over" encouraged me to give my education my best effort. Again, though, while I've worked hard, I've also benefitted from larger structures in place.

Also, I have a huge cheering section back home, and I've always wanted to do well for them.

**Q: What are your plans for after Ursinus, and how will this experience help you in the future?**

Geiger: I have a lot of different plans for the future. I'm still not one-hundred percent sure which direction I'll take right after graduation, but right now the future feels wide open, and I'm excited to fly.

Graduate school in the humanities is my ultimate goal. I want to be Dr. Lauren Therese Geiger. At the same time, part of me wants to go home after college and spend a

few years living and working in Allentown, and the romantic in me loves the idea of venturing off after graduation to live and work in Philadelphia or New York City. I also plan to apply for fellowships and TA positions such as Fulbright that would enable me to travel to a German-speaking country or province. Right now, my plan is to apply for as much as possible—jobs, fellowships, graduate schools—and then see what options I have when the time comes, see what "fits" the best, and dive in.



Photo courtesy of Phoebe French

Lauren Geiger (left) and Dustin Brinker are the only Ursinus two juniors to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year. Phi Beta Kappa was founded in 1776, making it the oldest academic honor society in the U.S.

## Happening on Campus

| Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                       | Sunday   | Monday              | Tuesday     | Wednesday   |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Coloring and Candy Break on behalf of Active Minds Stress Less Week<br>Lower Wismer 7 p.m. | The "Bear" Necessities for Grads<br>Lower Wismer Lounge<br>10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Mayday<br>Gravel Lot<br>5 p.m. |  | Last day of classes | Reading Day | Final Exams |

# Rugby players are athletes too

## *Club sports need more support from the institution*

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Ursinus has many great sports teams. Whether you know this or not, Ursinus also has a men's rugby team and women's rugby team. At Ursinus is not an NCAA sport but instead a club sport, and because of this, the members of these teams cannot use school resources such as the trainers or physical health facilities. I don't believe that this is fair; the rugby teams should be able to take advantage of these resources like the other teams on this campus.

Rugby is a very taxing sport. I won't call it a contact sport; instead, it's a collision sport, like football. And rugby players don't even wear helmets or other protective pads on their body. Here at Ursinus, the rugby teams play competitively in both the fall and the spring. They even move in to

their rooms on campus a few days early during the fall for preseason practices. On these points alone, I don't understand why they would not be able to use school resources.

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*"It's unfortunate that we don't get those accommodations, but it also shows how dedicated we are and gives us the agency to be able to play a sport and work together as a club to get all these things done. And through the club I learned lessons about self-advocating that I wouldn't have learned on a D3 team."*

— Kelsey Knowles '16  
UCWR member

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Rugby players work hard just like our other student athletes.

I am going to focus on the women's rugby team, being a member myself, but both teams should be able to use school resources. This semester so far, the women's rugby team has played in two tournaments. The first tournament was hosted at Ursinus. There were five teams in attendance, and each team played four games. Ursinus swept the tournament, winning all four games. In the second tournament, Ursinus made it to the playoff rounds of the tournament, and went home with three wins and two losses. This weeked the Ursinus women's rugby team will play in the national championships.

The women will be heading down to North Carolina to play in an invitation only national tournament with 11 other teams. I tell you these things to show that this

team is not a joke. When most people hear "club sport," they think of a bunch of people messing around a few times a week. The women's team practices every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with conditioning sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights, and games on Saturday.

The schedule is exhausting and injuries are not rare. The team cannot even go to the trainer for the smallest things. "I went to get ice for my knee and asked to get taped," said women's rugby president Jessica Childs '18. "They said I wasn't allowed because we were a club sport."

"I tore my ACL playing last year and because I couldn't get physical therapy from the trainers, I had to travel 30 minutes away almost every day to get the care I needed," said Jenna Itri '17. "I'm still badgered with medical bills because none of it was cov-

ered by the secondary insurance that all NCAA athletes receive."

"I couldn't afford physical therapy for my knee so I just didn't get it," said captain Mia Serpico '17. "I want to be able to get taped or use the ice bath if it's really bothering me."

I understand that the team is not a part of the NCAA, but I do not think it is too much to ask to be able to get taped or use the ice bath. Student-athletes should not miss out on the care that they need because they cannot afford it. Ursinus should take care of all of their athletes.

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*Phoebe French is a senior who will graduate in May. She is majoring in Media and Communication Studies and Chinese and is also involved in women's rugby, Tau Sigma Gamma Sorority, and STAT.*

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# The red and old gold needs to go green

Leighnah Perkins  
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For those who weren't aware, Earth Day took place last Friday, April 22. For most people it was just another day on the way to the weekend, but for members of the UCEA (Ursinus College Environmental Action) it was a day of celebration.

Many of the members put together an Earth Day celebration entitled "Sustainable House" in Lower Wismer that included games, raffles, and other activities with information on leading a more sustainable life. Participants would walk from table to table with a house cutout and learn how to be sustainable in each room of a house.

The event was fun and educational for those who don't know much about how to create a more sustainable home, and explained small changes people can make, like using low-flow showerheads, and big changes like adding solar panels to a home. There were changes everyone could participate in.

Despite how interesting and entertaining the event was, there was a relatively low turnout of around 20 people for a three-hour event, according to UCEA treasurer Katrina O'Donnell. In light of our school's dedication to sustainability with our water-saving showerheads, toilets, and sinks around campus, the composting movement in Wismer, and the campus buildings that meet LEED Silver standards, among other great projects, one would think students and staff would be more active in caring about sustainability. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case.

We can all think of sustainability horror stories in which professors send out an assignment on Canvas only to print out the five-plus page packet for all 20 people in class. Or when people litter, which besides making our campus less beautiful is not good for the environment. Or even something as simple as the pounds of plastic water bottles we go through as a student body. None of these are inherently bad or shameful behaviors, but to-

gether they really begin to add up. All of these things end up directly affecting the Earth and we should go beyond having some sustainable measures in place; we need to be more caring as a community. While the administration can put in place as many sustainable measures and requirements as they want, nothing will change if no more than 20 people care about being a more sustainable campus.

So, what are some things people can do to help that only require small changes to their current lifestyle? First, recycle. This is relatively easy on our campus, as most garbage cans on campus are accompanied by a recycling bin. Ursinus accepts all sorts of plastics, papers, metals, and glass to recycle. Just find the right bin and you're all set.

Another great idea and easy change is using a reusable water bottle. If you're drinking about a gallon of water a day, that amounts to about eight of the average-sized plastic water bottles. Per person, that really adds up. There are reusable water bottles

of all prices available in the Dollar Store, Target, and other stores. If you don't like the idea of having to clean a reusable water bottle, you can also use the water fountains around campus that refill water bottles and use the same plastic water bottle all day. That could potentially save at least a few plastic water bottles. Many colleges have taken a step toward sustainability by using more paperless resources such as online textbooks. Having professors post assignments on Canvas is a great idea as is taking notes on your laptop instead of using multiple pages of notebook paper. It's a simple change that could even end up being more convenient for students and professors alike.

Allie Cook, vice president and social media chair of UCEA, adds that educating the entire campus on sustainability practices is key. She says, "There needs to be more programs or talks that are interdisciplinary with [Environmental studies]...so that way you get audiences across...majors and they can see that caring about the environment is important to all

majors...and just important for our future in general." O'Donnell agrees, saying, "There needs to be more incentive to get involved with caring for the environment. I think people think you have to be a tree hugger or something to care for the environment, [but] it's all about the little things and changing small things to learn and care about the environment." Both changing our habits and how we educate people are key to making the UC community more sustainable.

Overall, it's up to the Ursinus community to keep our environment as sustainable as possible. There is more we can do together to support clubs like UCEA or just make Ursinus a more environmentally friendly place.

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*Leighnah Perkins is a sophomore studying media and communications and creative writing. She writes for The Grizzly and for The Odyssey.*





Photo courtesy of Phoebe French

The women's rugby team will compete at the national championship on Saturday, April 30, in Charlotte, NC, at the Rugby Athletic Center.

**Rugby continued from pg. 8**

underdogs, but that did not stop them. The women battled their way to a fourth-place finish out of 15 teams total, which originally would not qualify them for a national playoff berth.

According to Allison, the referee, Mount St. Mary's head coach and head representative of the EPRU, Scott Stratton, offered the Bears a bid to nationals. "He saw we worked our butts off. He said to us he wants the best team to be represented [at nationals]." The only two teams to advance to Charlotte from the championships were Mount St. Mary's and Ursinus.

The competition in nationals will be tough, according to Allison. She believes they will be facing very skillful opponents, but the Bears are not worried. "Every team is beatable. It just comes down to the attitude that we bring to each game. We're going to represent Ursinus and we're going to do just fine."

Serpico is convinced this milestone will be able to put Ursinus

rugby on the map. "I can see us getting more great [players], more great girls in the future," Serpico said. "If we continue to do well in sevens, we could see nationals every year."

The results of nationals are still yet to be determined, but the women of Ursinus rugby have already made history and will go down as the first women's rugby team in school history to break the national barrier.

With a core group of strong players, the women could be returning to Collegeville with some hardware after the tournament. You can catch all the updates on the rugby squad on the club's Facebook page.

Follow us on  
Twitter!  
[@ursinusgrizzly](https://twitter.com/ursinusgrizzly)



Photo courtesy of Phoebe French

This will be the first time in Ursinus rugby club history that the team will be making a trip to nationals. The club was founded in 1998 and plays in the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union.

## Scores as of Monday, April 25

| M Lacrosse (11-2)   | W Lacrosse (7-7)   | Baseball (16-19)  | Softball (14-18)   | M(11-6)&W(9-7) Tennis  | M&W Golf   | M&W Track & Field   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>April 23 @ Muhlenberg</b><br/>UC: 9, Muhlenberg: 5</p> <p>Goals (UC): Conor Fitzgerald, Lou Harrison, Mike Durst, Sam Isola, Steve Mussoline (3), Ian Desenberg, Peter DeSimone</p> | <p><b>April 23 @ McDaniel</b><br/>UC: 11, McDaniel: 5</p> <p>Goals (UC): Franny Liberatoscioli (5), Courtney Cortese (2), Devin Brakel (3), Abby Goldstein</p> | <p><b>April 24 vs. Washington College</b><br/>Game 1: UC: 6, Washington College: 7<br/>Austin Kurey: 3-for-5, 2 2B, 2 RBI</p> <p>Game 2: UC: 3, Washington College: 6<br/>Austin Feuerman: 1-for-3, 2 RBI</p> | <p><b>April 24 vs. Rutgers-Camden</b><br/>Game 1: UC: 7, Rutgers-Camden: 1<br/>Zoe Heinke (W, 5-6): 7.0 IP, 1 ER, 4 H, 6 K</p> <p>Game 2: UC: 0, Rutgers-Camden: 7<br/>Alexa DelMonte: 2-for-3, 2 1B</p> | <p><b>M: April 23 vs. McDaniel</b><br/>UC: 9, McDaniel: 0</p> <p><b>W: April 23 vs. Franklin &amp; Marshall Women:</b><br/>UC: 3, Franklin &amp; Marshall: 6</p> | <p><b>M: April 22-24 @ Centennial Conference Championship, Bridges GC</b><br/>Seventh place</p> <p><b>W: April 23-24 @ Centennial Conference Championship, Foxchase GC</b><br/>Third place</p> | <p><b>April 23 vs. Ursinus College Invitational</b></p> <p>Highlights: Krista Snyder won the triple jump. For the men, Andrew Mackin won the 1500-meter run, Adam Meyers claimed first in the shot put and discus and Tom Donnelly won the javelin.</p> |

# Ruck and roll

*Women's rugby makes history, earning first trip to national championship*

**Hunter Gellman**  
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For the first time in school history, the Ursinus women's rugby team will be competing on the national stage on Saturday, April 30, in Charlotte, NC, at the Rugby Athletic Center.

The women have been wreaking havoc on the pitch since 1998, when the Ursinus rugby club was formally founded. Like their male counterparts, the women belong to the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union, or EPRU, and play in the tier-two small college division.

The women are led by junior captain Mia Serpico and sophomore Rachel Allison, who have spearheaded their record breaking season. The women competed in both semesters but have found more success in the spring.

During the fall season the women play a distinct style of rugby that differs from the spring. Fall rugby is known as fifteens rugby. This entails 15 players on the field at one time and the game is divided into two 40-minute halves. During the spring a more streamlined version of rugby is played, known as sevens.

Sevens rugby is now officially an Olympic sport and is played all over the world. Sevens rugby entails having seven players on the field at any given time and the duration of the game is shortened to seven-minute halves with a two-minute halftime. There is also a cap of 12 members on the roster for this form of rugby. The

Ursinus women have found substantial success while competing in sevens.

This season the EPRU had set up specific sevens tournaments the women gladly decided to compete in. The league proposed two tournament days with a final championship at its conclusion. The women had their first tournament canceled due to bad weather conditions but regrouped for the second.

*"Every team is beatable. It just comes down to the attitude that we bring to each game. We're going to represent Ursinus and we're going to do just fine."*

— Rachel Allison  
Sophomore captain

Not having been able to compete in several months, the women were raring to show off their newly improved skills that they had been working on over the winter months. The women came out and dominated the competition during their only tournament of the spring before the championships. During the tournament the ruggers competed against the likes of Susquehanna, Juniata, Albright, and Neumann. In the end the women came out victorious, which gave them a good position for the championship tournament.

Going into the tournament the women were considered to be the

See **Rugby** on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images

Rebecca Chiger '19 became the first Ursinus women's golfer in program history to earn All-Centennial Conference recognition. Chiger finished fifth overall in a field of 29 golfers by posting a two-day total of 175.

# Women's golf completes record-breaking season

**Jonny Cope**  
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The Ursinus College women's golf team capped off a historic season with a third place finish at this past weekend's Centennial Conference championships. The Bears finished with a two-day team total of 732, the lowest score ever shot by an Ursinus team at the championship event.

The women's championship was hosted by Franklin & Marshall College at Foxchase Golf Club, a par 72 located in Stevens, PA. Freshman Rebecca Chiger was near the top of the leaderboard all weekend long, firing off a two-day total of 175, which was good for fifth best in the conference. "Overall, I'm proud of

how the team played all season," Chiger said.

Fellow freshman standouts Emily McGarrigle and Matison Leand had solid outings as well, placing tenth and eleventh, respectively. The Bears also saw contributions from sophomore Sarah Thompson and senior Rebecca Honor, who closed out her Ursinus career with a final round 94. "I left it all out there and tried my hardest," Honor said. "I'm proud of all I have accomplished in my past four years."

The Bears have plenty to be proud of as they smashed just about every single school record. Starting off with a historic fall campaign, the Bears carried that momentum right through the winter and onto the course this


spring.

For the first time ever, the team took home three different tournament crowns in a single season. "The season as a whole was very successful as we broke multiple school records," Chiger said. "I think that score definitely tells everyone that Ursinus is here to play."

The future is indeed bright for the Bears as they return all but one member of a top five group that was made up of four freshman players. The Bears will lose Honor, who was team captain for the past three seasons and a key member of the team. "She was a core part of this team and will

See **Golf** on pg. 7

## Upcoming Games

| Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   | Sat. Cont.   | Sunday  | Monday                                  | Tuesday |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---------|
| <b>M&amp;W Track and Field @ Penn Relays, The University of Pennsylvania</b> | <b>Baseball vs. Swarthmore, 3:30 p.m.</b><br><br><b>M&amp;W Track and Field @ Penn Relays, The University of Pennsylvania</b> | <b>Baseball @ McDaniel, 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.</b><br><br><b>Softball @ Swarthmore, 1 and 3 p.m.</b><br><br><b>W Lacrosse vs. Muhlenberg, 12 p.m.</b><br><br><b>M Lacrosse vs. McDaniel, 3 p.m.</b> | <b>W Tennis @ McDaniel, 1 p.m.</b><br><br><b>M Tennis @ Muhlenberg, 1 p.m.</b><br><br><b>M&amp;W Track and Field @ Lions Invitational, The College of New Jersey</b> |  | <b>Baseball @ Gwynedd Mercy, 4 p.m.</b> |         |