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Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Professor Carlin Romano is a professor of philosophy and humanities and has been at Ursinus since 2010.

Professor Romano elected to National Book Critics Circle

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Ursinus College philosophy and humanities professor Carlin Romano is no stranger to books. Before taking a teaching position at Ursinus in 2010, Romano spent 25 years as a literary editor reviewing books for the Philadelphia Inquirer and currently holds the position of critic-at-large for the Chronicle of Higher Education. Most recently Romano has been elected to the board of the National Book Critics Circle.

Established in 1974, the National Book Critics Circle is an

American organization of professional book review editors and critics who strive to champion the critical aspects of the literature world. The organization seeks to encourage and improve the reviewing world and support its nearly 600 members. The National Book Critics Circle organizes panels and events in order to discuss issues surrounding book reviewing, and works to encourage young people to establish themselves in the book reviewing world.

"We are trying to encourage young people to get into the life of caring about books, writing

about books, maybe doing books themselves," said Romano.

The National Book Critics Circle also awards a series of American literary awards every year for the best books published in English. The National Book Critics Circle presents awards in categories such as autobiography, biography, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and criticism. The organization also gives out a Lifetime Achievement award and the "first book" John Leonard Award for pieces that are an author's first published works.

These awards are considered some of the most prestigious in the country, alongside prizes such as the Pulitzer Prize and The National Book Awards. Five works are nominated for each category by subcommittees and it is up to the 24-member board to select the winners.

The winners are then announced in March at the end of a two-day ceremony and reception in New York City in which the writers are invited to read their works.

As a longtime member, Romano has previously served on the board for the National Book Critics Circle. Romano has also been the board president. For the past few years Romano had taken a break from the organization. However, as a professional critic, Romano said he still enjoyed being involved in the literary criticism world, and so decided to run for the board.

"I still love that world and I'm still active as a critic, so I thought I'd give it a shot to go back...I had felt a little more isolated the last couple of years. I continued to publish a lot, but I wasn't seeing a lot of my literary friends as much. I felt I wasn't paying attention as much as when I was full-time Inquirer critic...and I do have a kind of voracious appetite for what's happening in the culture and what books are coming out," said Romano.

Romano is also happy to once again be serving an organization that helps to keep literary

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UC reveals plans for semester in Philly, new coffeeshop

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Next fall students will see a number of changes on campus as the college plans to build a coffee shop on campus as well as provide students the opportunity to study in Philadelphia for a semester.

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Debbie Nolan said that both of these changes will "help expand the Ursinus campus."

"We have a great resource in the city," said Nolan, "and we're under-using it." As for the coffee shop, Nolan said it will help the campus feel larger. "Everything is centralized here, but really the college has a lot of acreage," she explained.

The current plan is to renovate Hobson Hall and convert it into a coffee shop and a new admissions office and welcome center. The reasons for this are threefold. First, Nolan said the renovated Hall will connect the Main Street houses to the rest of the campus and give Main Street an "institutional life." This will create a greater sense of community between the Main Street houses and the rest of campus, according to the planners.

Second, it will expand the campus by giving students a reason to cross Main Street, which the college hopes will make Main Street safer for everyone. The thought is if more students are crossing, traffic will be more aware of them and drive slower.

The third reason for creating the new admission center is to help with recruitment. A coffee shop inside the admissions center can serve as a base for parents when prospective students are visiting.

Nolan is working with a com-

mittee made up of students and faculty members to create a plan for the shop. They are visiting coffee shops in Philadelphia to get a sense of how the facility might be constructed, what kind of coffee the shop should serve, and whether or not food will be offered. Nolan said the coffee shop should be largely student-run because it will create a space for students to organize events and build community. "The shop could host poetry slams and open mic nights," said Nolan. "It could be a great alternative for students on the weekends."

Some Ursinus students have expressed concern about the implications of turning Hobson, a current SPINT house, into a coffee shop and admissions center. Hobson currently serves as the community service house, which will be moving to 476 Main Street next fall.

"We have a great resource in the city, and we're under using it."

— Debbie Nolan
Dean of Students

Students are concerned about the effects of downsizing a popular SPINT house. Ed Malandro, the Senior Associate of Residence Life and coordinator for the SPINT program, said he believes this could be a positive change.

Malandro said, "Moving to a smaller house makes it easier to create a close community." Malandro also spoke with SPINT program coordinators to help make the decision to move the community service house to 476.

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criticism alive. According to Romano, in the past 10 or 20 years space given to book reviews in newspapers and magazines has shrunk considerably.

Romano said, "When I began at the Inquirer we had a book section on Sunday that ran thirteen book reviews just that day, and they were all fresh book reviews that we had assigned. It was sixteen pages. Now, on a regular Sunday, the Inquirer has only one page [on book reviews], sometimes four reviews...they've come from some other paper and only one of them will be a fresh review."

Romano said that it's important, when thousands of books are being published each year in the United States, that more attention be given to books and book criticism.

"[Criticism] keeps up the idea that in a healthy literary culture books are not just published and read, but they're thought about

and they're commented on. People are articulating their reactions, and that's also important for reputations to be created. If nobody is commenting on the books, then nobody knows what's good or what's bad...our commitment is trying to keep the culture operating so that the best stuff is recognized," said Romano.

This is an idea that Romano actively promotes at Ursinus.

"[Romano] is one of the most avid readers I've ever met," said Chris Hoops, a senior philosophy major. "There isn't a day that goes by where he doesn't advocate his students to be actively involved in the news and literary world."

Supporting the literary world is something that Romano said he loves to do and he is pleased to have the opportunity to continue to play an active part through his service as a board member on the National Book Critics Circle.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Romano.

Changes continued from pg. 1

In addition to the new coffee shop and admissions center, the college is trying to expand the Ursinus bubble by providing students with the opportunity to study in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Experience is a program through Ursinus that will set students up with housing and provide them with the opportunity to study in Philadelphia. Currently, three Ursinus professors, Nzadi Keita, Domenick Scudera, and Roger Florka, are offering classes next semester as a part of the program. Dr. Keita will be teaching Memoir Writing in Philadelphia, a course she has taught twice before.

The course focuses on personal writing and expanding students' world views. In the past Keita has bussed students to Philadelphia for the class, which she said gave them a "sense of social justice work in Philly enlarged in intense, too-short bursts."

She said teaching the class in Philly will "encourage students to

expand their definitions of beauty, justice, equality, love, commitment, and community. It usually gives them a richer—as in more complex—view of their personal circumstances, their personal history."

"They usually begin figuring out ways to discuss their beliefs about others, which is, of course, a way of voicing what they feel about themselves," continued Keita. "Certainly, if they don't have a relationship to Philly, this course breaks the seal on that."

Students can also use the Philadelphia Experience to fill the college's Independent Learning Experience Requirement. Kelly Sorenson, one of the program's coordinators, said students can fill the requirement by "doing independent study, working in civic engagement, or by taking an internship." Sorenson said the program is very customizable.

It gives students an opportunity to take classes from Philadelphia universities, take Ursinus courses, or do independent study and internships.

Sorenson says the college also plans to have community events for the Philadelphia Experience students, such as visiting museums and seeing plays. He said, "Ursinus offers a lot on campus, but this is a good way to get things that aren't offered while maintaining a liberal arts experience."

Housing for the Philadelphia Experience students will be near Drexel University. The building has sets of four rooms with washers and dryers as well as a kitchenette.

Students who are interested in the Philadelphia Experience should check the college's website for more information. Sorenson also said that emails about the program will be sent to students shortly.

The program plans to enroll 16 students with priority being given to rising juniors and seniors, but all students are eligible to apply.



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Business students win competition in Philadelphia

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A team of Ursinus College students recently won a prominent business research competition. The team was comprised of Robert Glanville, Gabe Gordon, Ryan Pinter, and Gavin Reeves. The Ursinus Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Challenge team won the 2016 Philadelphia CFA Challenge on Feb. 17, which was hosted at the Philadelphia Union League.

The competition included 17 schools in the tri-state region. The schools were told to analyze and suggest a buy, hold, or sell recommendation on a publically traded company's stock. The company

that was assigned to Ursinus was Toll Brothers, an American luxury home builder.

The Ursinus team was chosen as one of four finalists to present its report. The team went up against two teams from Elizabethtown College and the University of Delaware, which was the defending champions.

The Ursinus team's faculty mentor was Dr. Eric Parnell, a business and economics professor who provided support for the students throughout the entire operation. Pinter, a senior team member, said he became interested in the competition because Parnell mentioned it in his corporate finance class and Pinter has a strong interest in finance.

Gordon, another team member, said he became interested in joining the team through a friend who represented Ursinus last year, in the competition.

"This was an amazing opportunity."

— Gabe Gordon
Team member

"He expressed how you learn a lot about how to evaluate a company and assess their stock, which has always been an interest of mine," said Gordon.

Gordon mentioned that after the team won the Philadelphia

region, it was invited to a dining room to have dinner and talk with their CFA Society members. "This was an amazing opportunity to peek into the life of analysts and CFA members, as well as a networking opportunity," said Gordon.

Pinter also commented on the networking opportunity the competition was. He explained that an employer from Vanguard was there and she handed the team her business card for a future contact.

The team is not finished presenting after winning the Philadelphia region. The next step is competing at the Americas Regional Finals in mid-April. The Ursinus team will face off against 50 teams from across the

United States and Latin America, in hopes of winning the national award.

The CFA Challenge is a global competition and students from across the globe are competing against each other. If the Ursinus team wins nationals, it will compete at the Global Finals later that week against teams from the Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and Africa regions. In total, there are 865 schools worldwide participating in the competition and competing for the global title.

The national and global finals are held in Chicago. The Ursinus CFA Challenge team is preparing for the Americas Regional Finals and it leave for Chicago on April 11.

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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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Relay for Life gets ready

The organization hosts a yearly event where teams of students walk to raise money for cancer

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Relay for Life, a student-run organization on campus, is preparing for its upcoming event on April 9. The event, which has a theme of "Light, Camera, Cure," is the culmination of a year's hard work for the organization. The group's main purpose is to rid the world of cancer through fundraising events for the American Cancer Society. Hundreds of other colleges and communities also participate all over the country.

According to its mission, Relay wants to see a world with "more birthdays," as it fights to end the disease that affects many people. It combines the strengths of family and friends to raise awareness and funds for the fight against cancer. The emphasis of Relay's fundraising is on teams who try to raise as much money as possible through a friendly competitive environment.

Relay has humble beginnings and was started in 1985 by one man, Dr. Gordy Klatt, who wanted to demonstrate what somebody with cancer has to endure, according to the organization's website. To show this Klatt ran around a track for 24 hours straight and raised more than \$27,000.

Relay for Life has grown so rapidly in the last 30 years that it reportedly is now the largest not-for-profit activity in the world. Its website reports the total number of funds raised over the last 31 years to be nearly \$5 billion.

"I joined...mainly in honor of my grandmother, who passed away from breast cancer."

— Becky Smith
Ursinus Junior

As Relay grew, it expanded to college campuses and communities all over the country, including Ursinus.

"I was motivated to join my sophomore year after my grandfather passed away the summer between my freshman and sophomore years from cancer," said Kirsten Biehl '17, a member of the organization. "Watching someone who was so healthy suddenly not be able to get out of bed was one of the hardest things I've ever experienced, and I wanted to help prevent anyone else from ever having to witness that, too."

Another member of the organization, Becky Smith '17, had a similar story to what motivated

her to join.

"I joined Relay for Life mainly in honor of my grandmother, who passed away from breast cancer before I was born," said Smith. "I was raised by a mother who gave her ultimate effort to do what she could to combat breast cancer, and was inspired to do the same myself."

These are just a couple of stories from students who unfortunately know what it's like for a family member to be taken by cancer. Major strides are being taken in cancer research and it is because of organizations like Relay for Life that one day in the future there will be a cure to this terrible disease.

For Biehl and the rest of the Relay for Life staff, the event is the most rewarding part of the experience.

"Seeing so many students show up to support the American Cancer Society, so many students who are so passionate and who so appreciate what we do because all of their lives have been touched by cancer, that makes everything worth it," said Biehl.

Students who are interested in participating in the Relay for Life event are encouraged to sign up for the upcoming event on the organization's website.

International Perspective

Cultural differences in driving practices

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On August 15, 2015, I dreamily stood on United States soil, fantasizing about the upcoming school year. However, I found that China and the United States seem to be forever separated by a layer of stainless steel glass - the culture difference. I found the first difference is between driving and parking. I asked my father if he noticed the same differences and he replied "Chenyu, have you found the American way of driving and the Chinese way of driving is a bit different?" I looked at my father and nodded my head. Since then I began to observe and pay attention to the American style of driving.

Americans' driving has very distinctive features. In my experience, although they drive cars very fast, they don't choose to change lanes very frequently. In addition, I also found that American parking is very different from Chinese parking. In America, almost all of the vehicles park in the parking lot with the rear outwards; but in China it is the opposite. Last but not least, payment for parking in the U.S. also has some differences with China. For roadside parking in the United States, drivers pay a machine, but in China drivers pay a person.

To begin with, the first time I drove in the United States was in Los Angeles. I thought everyone would be in accordance with the driving limit at 70 mph, but all driving speeds were far in excess of 70 mph. When some vehicles passed me, it really surprised me and I broke out in a cold sweat. However, after I drove for a period of time, I found a very interesting thing in the rearview mirror. The car behind me didn't pass me after 20 minutes. This surprised me. Ten minutes later, they were still there. I found that Americans' driving really rarely changes. If they want to change lanes, they will pass at a very fast speed. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that I haven't noticed many highway rear-end collisions.

In the second place, I want

to talk about the American way of parking. Whenever I went out with my parents and we parked somewhere, I found that reverse parking in the United States is not used. One night, my parents and I drove up to Target. When I was ready to park with the front facing outwards, I found some American guys looking at me. After I successfully completed, they gave me a thumbs-up. At this moment I suddenly realized that the American way of parking is different from China.

Lastly, the greatest difference between China and America is parking on the side of the road. At the time I went to the Los Angeles seaside, I experienced how to use the machine to pay for parking. The machine only accepted 25 cents instead of paper money, and I could stay up to 30 minutes for every 25 cents. After payment, a countdown appears in the screen of the machine. However, I didn't know how to use it at the beginning. Fortunately there was a passer-by who came and helped me. In China, drivers pay people for parking. By the way, in my opinion, paying a machine is a great way to charge. In China there are additional charges, because the company will need to send a cashier wages, and parking will become expensive. Perhaps China should also learn and adopt the more effective way to pay for parking like in the United States.

For me, I am sure that between the United States and China there are a lot of other cultural differences. We could adopt something from America that could make China better. On the other hand, if Americans adopt something from China, that could make America better too.

Author Bio

Chenyu Yin is from Nanjing, China. He is a freshman at Ursinus College and his major is undecided. However, he is thinking about majoring in business and computer science. He is a member of SASA and the Japanese Club.



Photo Courtesy of Joseph Glodeck

This past weekend Lenfest hosted "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", a Tony-award winning musical. Mya Flood '18 played one of the spellers. See reviews of the performance on pg. 8.

THE GRIZZLY FEATURES

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Falling in love with Ursinus' unique history

The college archivist shares her enthusiasm about her job in Myrin

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In a small room on the second floor of the Myrin Library, an ornate antique clock strikes the hour. Here, in this quiet corner of the library, lie the extensive college archives overseen by archivist Carolyn Weigel. The clock, gifted to the college in the 1920s, is only the beginning of the extensive Ursinusiana Collection that contains archives dating from the college's founding.

The collection welcomes many visitors each week, and Weigel is always prepared to guide students, faculty, and alumni alike through the seemingly endless archives. In addition to helping those who visit the archives, Weigel is often busy answering questions remotely, as well as continuing to compile and organize archival information.

A typical day in the archives can be unpredictable. "Some days are quiet, some days are hectic. I never know when I walk in," said Weigel.

Weigel had always been interested in library science, so when a position opened in the Myrin in 1993, she found herself a perfect fit. Her interest grew, and she fell in love with the history of Ursinus. After about a year, Weigel started taking archival courses at Temple University and became a certified archivist.

"I can't see myself working anywhere else," Weigel said.

The collection is called Ursinusiana because it contains all college-related materials, including college and student publications such as newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines. The papers of past college presidents are also on file, as well as student work such as honors papers and Summer Fellows research. Photographs and a variety of memorabilia can also be found in the archives, all of which combined reflect a comprehensive history of the college.

One of the oldest items in the

collection is a program from Ursinus' first commencement ceremony in 1872.

Before the "Grizzly," the student newspaper was called the "Ursinus Weekly." The archives preserve a copy of each issue, dating back to 1902.

According to Weigel, "Issues from 1938 and 1939 get a lot of viewing because JD Salinger was writing a column for the paper at that time."

The student newspaper has always published stories of campus news and events, but a noticeable difference is that each issue used to contain many advertisements. In a newspaper from the 1930s, cigarette advertisements can be found, as well as reminders for students to "call their parents."

Before the "Good Morning Ursinus" emails of today, a daily gazette was published and posted throughout many of the buildings on campus to alert students of breaking news and events.

"You really get a feel for what the campus was like when those papers were printed," Weigel said.

According to Weigel, another notable time in campus history came during World War II. "We have memories, and thousands of photographs, from the war years, because many students had to leave," Weigel said.

Often, Weigel will compile archival items to form a special exhibit. Recently, issues of the "Ruby" yearbook were on display in the Myrin lobby for students and faculty to appreciate.

Additionally, Weigel is in the process of compiling photographs to be used in a book commemorating the 300th anniversary of the neighboring borough of Trappe. The book will contain a rich history of the region, including Ursinus, through the years. Photographs include many different stages of campus history, as well as past Collegeville landmarks, such as a train station that once stood at the current location of the Collegeville Diner.

Several hours a week, Weigel



Photo courtesy of Grace Steel

Archivist Carolyn Weigel (right) and her assistant Caroline Gambone '16 pose in front of the antique clock in the library that was given to the school in the 1920s. Weigel has been working at Ursinus College since 1993.

is joined in the archives by student assistant Caroline Gambone. Gambone, a senior and member of the Omega Chi sorority, recently compiled an exhibit on the history of Greek life at Ursinus. The exhibit is currently on display on the third floor of the library.

"As a sister of Omega Chi I have a particular interest in Greek life here at Ursinus, and always am excited to find pictures and information," Gambone said. "The archives have deepened my appreciation for my sorority."

To find historical pictures of every Greek organization, Gambone relied on old yearbooks.

"Paging through yearbooks is

probably my favorite part of setting up an exhibit. I love to see all the old memories and think about how Ursinus was back in the day," Gambone said.

According to Gambone, "Carolyn [Weigel] has such a thorough knowledge of everything in the Ursinusiana room, so she is always a huge help in knowing where to find items to add to an exhibit."

Recently, Weigel led CIE students through some basic archival research. Their task was to determine how student life at Ursinus has changed through the years.

"Everything was so much stricter then; there were many

more rules and regulations," Weigel said. "However, many of the CIE students concluded that students were actually much more mature back then."

"It was an exciting time," Weigel said of Ursinus' past. "The campus community was smaller, everyone knew each other." However, Weigel notes that Ursinus still maintains the strong sense of community it has had since the beginning, and the college wouldn't be the same without the rich history that has shaped it into what it is today.

Ping Pong club bounces back

The group returns to Ursinus after a four-year hiatus

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The Ursinus Ping Pong Club is in full swing this semester all thanks to president Anthony Vu and vice president Keon Jerry.

The duo decided that it was an appropriate time to bring back this historic club at Ursinus after a four-year hiatus.

Formerly known as the Ursinus College Table Tennis Association, the club had many years of success in the early 2000s.

According to Vu, "Ursinus had a few nationally-ranked players and even some national champions back then. Once these players left, the club kind of died off."

However, the club was active four years ago with class of 2014 graduate David Nolan as the former president.

"He [Nolan] passed on the torch to me when he graduated, but due to my busy schedule, I had to wait until this semester to fully bring it back," said Vu.

The Ursinus Ping Pong Club is going to be comprised of a competitive team that consists of seven players.

These players will be selected by Vu based on an Ursinus tournament as well as Vu's expert judgment that comes from his experience as a table tennis player. Vu has been playing table tennis competitively for over eight years now, having started during his freshman year at Prep Charter High School in Philadelphia, PA.

"My ping pong coach got me into [it], and I eventually became the president of the table tennis association at the school there," said Vu. With this experience, he hopes to select a roster that will

be competitive against the other schools on the schedule.

Currently, the team has two matches scheduled with Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania within the next couple of weeks.

If you are not a serious ping pong player, don't worry, because you can play, too.

The Ursinus ping pong club not only has a competitive team, but it also has a recreational team.

These team members will play against each other or in inter-Ursinus tournaments.

Last week was the club's first inter-Ursinus tournament with Ursinus' top-ranked men's tennis player Max Oberholtzler taking the crown.

"There was such a large turnout," said Oberholtzler. "Everyone who came to the tournament had so much fun and it was great to meet some other guys who are interested in ping pong."

Vu hopes to have many other inter-Ursinus tournaments throughout the rest of the semester.

The ping pong club meets every Friday from 5-7 p.m. in the lobby of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.

The competitive team will run through drills and prepare for their upcoming matches, while anyone else is welcome to come and play just for fun.

While the team is looking forward to putting Ursinus on the map again for ping pong, there are a few things that Vu intends for the future of the program. First, he wants to sign the team up for some regional tournaments to get some new competition for the players.

"These tournaments are very competitive, and a great way for our players to test their skills that they develop in practice," he said.

Next, Vu wants to make sure that next year the team is registered in the national league that divides club ping pong teams into conferences spread out across the country.

While this is something that Vu understands won't happen until next year, he wants to create a foundation where the Ursinus Ping Pong Club can be as successful as the team was in the past. Vu believes that this is an opportunity to leave his mark on Ursinus.

"Since I'm a senior, I really want to be able to pass on the torch again," he said. "I want to give it to someone else who wants to play table tennis for the rest of their Ursinus career."

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Using the present to prepare for the future

Professor holds career-prep workshops

Maddie Mathay
mamathay@ursinus.edu

"Nerd Camp" sessions have been taking place this semester and last.

Students may have seen the signs for sessions around the Kaleidoscope or received an email about them.

But what is "Nerd Camp?" The sessions are run by visiting theater professor Meghan Brodie, but the topics discussed at these sessions are not just targeted toward theater majors.

Discussions can be about graduate school applications, email etiquette, interview tips, acting, and general résumé and post-graduation tips.

"I hope these practical topics are useful to all of my students, regardless of their majors," Brodie states.

Brodie decided to start this initiative because she was thinking of ways to complete the fourth-hour requirement in her theater 100 class, and thought of how she holds a workshop course at the University of Southern Maine, where she also teaches.

"Both Nerd Camp and my workshop course are intended to provide theater students with some of the skills and resources they may need to make a success of their undergraduate careers as well as their pursuits after graduation," Brodie said.

Senior Madeline Troutman, who is a double major in politics and dance, has attended Nerd Camp sessions this semester.

"I'm going to these sessions to help me explore my future op-

tions of combining both my majors of dance and politics," Troutman says.

When thinking of topics, Brodie said, "I try to remember what I wished I knew when I was an undergraduate, and I ask students what they wish someone would teach them that most people assume they already know. I think I am going to add a 'balancing-your-checkbook' session."

Junior Rob Rein attended Nerd Camp sessions fall semester when they first began.

"I attended these sessions for my theater 100 class. They actually helped me get a better understanding of what I might want to do in the future with my major. As a politics major, I thought these sessions were going to be targeted mostly towards theater and dance majors, but I was wrong," he said.

"Brodie had sessions on how to build a résumé, how to act during interviews, and what to do in the post-grad life. These sessions were very helpful and [we] had an open conversation on what any student could do in their future," Rein said.

Nerd Camp sessions typically last 30-45 minutes and are in the Kaleidoscope lobby.

All future Nerd Camp session topics and dates are sent out in the Ursinus News emails and are also posted in multiple places throughout the Kaleidoscope.

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Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p><i>Film Screening and Talk with Filmmakers Spencer Gillis and Ludovic Littee Pfahler Hall, Musser Auditorium 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Escape Velocity Dance Company presents: "The Wild Side" Blackbox Theater 7 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p><i>Spring Break</i></p>

New barbie figures are antiprogressive

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Barbie dolls have been the focus of many feminist diatribes against ideal body types and misrepresentation of the female self. This child's toy has been said to be an unrealistic expectation for young girls, and encourages eating disorders and other unhealthy lifestyles. Galia Slayen, in an article for Huffington Post, scaled the standard Barbie's measurements to that of an actual woman, and found that she would be "5'9" tall, have a 39" bust, an 18" waist, 33" hips and a size 3 shoe." And due to these proportions, she would have to walk on all fours. Seems more like a horror movie than the ideal body type.

Recently, Mattel, the creator

of the original Barbie, decided to release a new line of the doll, featuring varied body types and skin tones. The official Mattel website states that "girls everywhere now have infinitely more ways to play out their stories and spark their imaginations through Barbie. Along with more overall diversity, we proudly add three new body types to our line... #TheDollEvolves"

At first glance this seems like an amazing step forward. I grew up playing with Barbies, like many little girls (and boys!), and longed for more varied dolls to live in the dream house. Along with this goes the social representation of girls who may not meet the status quo, who don't look like Barbie. However, some believe that this change is too little,

too late. There are claims that this is a stunt to sell more dolls, or that even the dolls that exist now are not varied or represented enough. Even more people are calling for a reimagining of the Ken doll, Barbie's male counterpart.

In a discussion with a friend, I came to see the inherent capitalistic selfishness that comes with creating new Barbie body types. As much as we want to believe that corporations are doing things for the betterment of society, it is often the case that they do it for the betterment of their bottom line. With new Barbies and new body types come new sizes of clothing. Instead of all Barbie clothes fitting all dolls, consumers will now have to purchase clothing for each individual doll.

Personally, I believe represen-

tation is a key element in this development. It is a major step forward in the portrayal of women of all skin tones and body types. At long last, little girls will be able to look at the doll inside the box and see themselves. Not only is this for the curvy little girls, or the little girls who aren't different shades of white, but it's a big step forward for those other girls who do look like the original Barbie as well. These young girls will see their friends represented, they will become more familiar with difference, and perhaps begin to overcome the xenophobia bred into us at a young age. This, in time, will ideally lead to less bullying of differences, more acceptance of others, and more self-

Though I agree this is but a

small drop in the bucket of representation, a gallon is made of a million drops. Without one corporation beginning the journey, whether for selfish or benevolent reasons, we cannot reach its end, the end being equal representation of all people in media.

I also agree with people that Ken should be the next to get a make-over. Not all men fit that body ideal, and male eating disorders are often overlooked or seen as a side of weakness. Feminism and equal representation is about making the world better and more representative for everyone, regardless of gender, and the Mattel corporation, with the help of Barbie, is taking the beginning steps to a better society.

UC second-ever musical wows audience

"A whole lot was asked of the cast, and it delivered"

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"Joy never comes for free," but last week the Ursinus College Theater Department brought me 95 minutes worth of joy for only \$2. I'd say that's a fine deal.

At "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," directed by Meghan Brodie, a visiting assistant professor of theater, I was treated to songs about pre-pubescent erections, ad-libbed riffing on Donald Trump, and vomit-based running gags. Hey, what more could you expect from a show focused on middle schoolers dorky enough to compete in a spelling bee?

An exuberant, colorful set dazzled before the show even began, and throughout the production Holly Hubbs and her crew of musicians made this musical magical. The costumes further helped to flesh out both the setting and the characters in authentic, non-contrived ways.

The gender-bending, high energy ensemble cast displayed its rich, smooth voices, and each and every one of the cast members certainly deserved their standing ovations. Special shout-outs simply must be given, however, to spectacular singer Rachel Rhindress, making an exceptional Ursinus College theatrical debut as the perky yet sympathetic host Rona Lisa Paretti.

Indira Joell, another newcomer

to the Ursinus stage, deserves mention in her remarkable commitment to a lisp that remained consistent and understandable throughout the whole show. Her portrayal of Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre

Commitment, chemistry and character development stood out as the defining qualities of this show."

exhibited a true commitment to representing a fleshed out person, balancing quirkiness with believability in order to create a character, not a caricature.

Yet another star was born on the Lenfest stage on the night I went—our own Dean Debbie Nolan, who correctly spelled the word "Mexican." ("Contrary to popular belief, Mexican is not a language," ad-libbed Arthur Robinson's character.) These ad-libbed, live interactions worked so well because actors like Robinson committed themselves to their character—in this case, the rule-bound, on-edge, Vice Principal Douglas Panch. (Think a male version of Amy Squirrel from "Bad Teacher," one rug-pull away from a complete mental breakdown).

Indeed, commitment, chemistry and character development stood out as the defining qualities

of this show. The aforementioned ad-libbed aspects of the show added a high-risk, make or break element, and this cast pulled it off flawlessly, with topical political commentary and millennial absurdist humor.

And as a stereotypical gay man whose natural habitat is the theater and who listens to showtunes on a daily basis, I can't think of any songs that disappointed. In fact, I can't pick a favorite and will instead highlight two. "Pandemonium" gives us the perfectly reprisable, high-strung ensemble tune. It artfully displays the chaotic injustices of a spelling bee and extends and transcends them into a song about how unfair, annoying, and unfathomable the human experience can be (think "The Book of Job," but fun and accessible).

And if you don't at least tear up during "The I Love You Song" then your heart must be made of s-t-o-n-e, stone. While it may sound like a title for Barney the dinosaur's magnum opus, it moves your heart as much as you might expect any Italian operetta to do.

A whole lot was asked of the cast, and it delivered. Musical theater at Ursinus College may just be getting off the ground, but I can attest that "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" helped to give the program a very, very, very nice beginning.

"A blast to go see"

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Hands down, my favorite part of the "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" was each actor's comedic performance. The show had a loosely define premise, and then used that premise to showcase all its actors and the characters they play. Each actor was casted perfectly for his or her role to maximize funniness. For example, Indira Joell played a very convincing little girl with large ambitions, who plans to be president in 2040 but right now is dealing with a speech impediment. Mya Flood was very funny as Leaf Coneybear, a seemingly dumb young lady who gets through most of the bee via some sort of hypnosis that not even she's aware of. Charlotte Torres, who played the sort-of-protagonist Olive Ostrovsky, also filled her role well as an awkward bookworm whose childhood was spent reading the dictionary. Notably, Rae Hodenfield was given some lines that would have been easy to mis-time or mess up (she plays Jesus at one point), but she was consistently funny on stage. As you can probably gather from these characters' descriptions, the writing of the musical doesn't take itself too seriously, and this only makes everything that happens that much funnier.

There were several other strong aspects of the musical that I enjoyed.

More than once, a scene would flow from a non-musical part to a musical number, and this would be accomplished with well-done timing between the actors and the instrument ensemble. This is something that can only be done through practice, and it helped the flow of the production. Once the musical did go into the actual musical numbers, each actor did a great job switching from acting to singing, and the choreography during the numbers was very coordinated as well.

I was also impressed with how dynamic the set was. Throughout the show's running time, little things around the stage got repurposed multiple times in a couple of different ways, such as the letters hanging around the stage doubling as lighting for some of the later numbers, or the bleachers being moved around to create space for dancing. This helped the musical feel like it was taking place someplace other than the Lenfest Theater.

Personally, I think if you're a student here at Ursinus, any theater production is a blast to go see, simply because you get to watch people you see around campus act like completely different people. Unfortunately, by the time you're reading this review, there will no longer be any shows running, but I will certainly be attending the next Ursinus theater production, and I hope this review has convinced you to do the same.

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and he is listening to chill music, that's just his personality." Secondly, he differentiates himself with his athletic ability. Blickle said, "His ability to execute on meet-day situations is [extraordinary]...executing under pressure is what it is all about and he does that to a 'T'."

This season, for the first time since before his junior season of high school, Pope is competing in relays. Pope competes on the 4x200 and 4x400-meter relay teams for the Bears. Relays are a team-oriented event by nature, yet most of the events Pope competes in are individual. "I love [team events]...It has helped me put my focus on the team and not so much on myself," Pope said. "At the end of the day, no matter what level you're on, you're a part of one team."

Pope was named Centennial Conference Field Athlete of the Week two times, for the weeks of February 8 and 15. This is an ac-

complishment in itself, but Pope is very modest when describing his achievements. He claims he would rather get through the season without people congratulating him on his accomplishments.

Off the track, Pope is active in the Ursinus community. The freshman has already been in two productions in the fall semester at Ursinus. He is also a part of the Bearitones, an all-male acapella group. During the Bearitones' fall concert, Pope received a solo in a collaboration with the all-female acapella group the B'Naturals.

Keeping true to the liberal arts education, Pope is in the process of creating his own major. He wants to create a major in which he works in a setting with biomedical ethics.

Pope was dominant at the Centennial Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships this past weekend, particularly in the triple jump. He took gold in the event with a jump of 45-10.75, which was nearly three feet better than the second-place finisher.

He also captured bronze in the 400-meter dash and was a part of the silver-medal winning 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams. Pope rounded out his weekend by placing fourth in the long jump and ninth in the high jump.

The men finished third overall, placing behind Haverford and Johns Hopkins. The third-place finish was the best finish for the men in five years. Senior Drew Mackin took home the other gold medal for the Bears in the 800-meter dash, just missing out on the school record by 0.15 seconds.

Sophomore Jequan Mitchell won bronze in the 60-meter dash and broke the school record that stood since 2009, while also getting bronze in the 200-meter dash.

Pope is already a force within the conference and he still has three more seasons to compete. Pope is getting better day by day and definitely has the potential to break a few more records over the course of his career.



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images
The baseball team finished with an 18-15 overall record in 2015 (7-11 CC), its best record since 2009.

Baseball continued from pg. 8

"an impactful player would get injured and sometimes miss a week or two, which resulted in missing over 10 games."

Next up for the Bears is spring training down in Kissimmee, Florida. The trip will consist of 10 games in a week of play, against opponents from various areas of the country.

After their spring break trip, the Bears will come back to Collegeville and play a number of non-conference games against NYU, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, TCNJ, and DeSales University.

On Saturday, April 2, Ursinus kicks off its conference play with a home doubleheader against Gettysburg.

The team is looking to build upon the last year and keep moving forward by winning more games. Pisik said that the Bears have to match the championship-quality team they are off the field,

on the field. This offseason, the Bears have hosted a plethora of games from young players from the surrounding community. The players and coaches worked hands-on with ball players of all ages and taught them the drills and philosophy the team has.

"Being a senior on the baseball team feels bittersweet, because you know the time with your friends is numbered," Pisik said. "However, it also makes me feel grateful because every day becomes irreplaceable and an opportunity to teach the younger players all I know in order to keep the program ascending long after I graduate. It also makes me feel lucky that I am still able to play the game I love after all this time and through the injuries."

The Bears' next game is Sunday, March 6, in Florida. They come home to face the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford for their home opener on Saturday, March 19.



Photo courtesy of Eden Abrams

Sam Pope '19 won gold in the triple jump at the Centennial Conference Indoor Championships over the weekend. Pope was the first Bear to win the event since Chris Rountree in 2013.

Scores as of Monday, Feb. 29

Wrestling (14-3)	Gymnastics	W Track & Field	M Track & Field	W Lacrosse (2-0)	M Lacrosse (2-0)	Baseball (0-2)
Feb. 27-28 @ NCAA East Regional, Washington & Lee University	Feb. 27 vs. Springfield	Feb. 27-28 @ Centennial Conference Championships, Ursinus College	Feb. 27-28 @ Centennial Conference Championships, Ursinus College	Feb. 27 @ Albright	Feb. 27 vs. Mary Washington	Feb. 27 @ Widener
UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 16, Albright: 13	UC: 9, MW: 5	Game 1: UC: 1, Widener: 2 Chris Jablonski: 2-for-3, 2 1B
Goals (UC): Courtney Cortese (6), Kaci McNeave (4), Taylor DeBernardi (2), Devin Brakel (2), Amy Kohout (2)	Goals (UC): Connor Fitzgerald (2), Lou Harrison (2), Logan Panaccione, Sam Isola, Matt Cioeta, Peter DeSimone (2)	Goals (UC): Courtney Cortese (6), Kaci McNeave (4), Taylor DeBernardi (2), Devin Brakel (2), Amy Kohout (2)	Goals (UC): Courtney Cortese (6), Kaci McNeave (4), Taylor DeBernardi (2), Devin Brakel (2), Amy Kohout (2)	Goals (UC): Courtney Cortese (6), Kaci McNeave (4), Taylor DeBernardi (2), Devin Brakel (2), Amy Kohout (2)	Goals (UC): Connor Fitzgerald (2), Lou Harrison (2), Logan Panaccione, Sam Isola, Matt Cioeta, Peter DeSimone (2)	Game 2: UC: 2, Widener: 7 Travis Kozak: 1-for-3, 1 RBI
UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 189.750, Springfield: 185.525	UC: 16, Albright: 13	UC: 9, MW: 5	Game 1: UC: 1, Widener: 2 Chris Jablonski: 2-for-3, 2 1B
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Freshman phenom

Sam Pope already making an impact for the men's track and field team

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Sam Pope, a first-year triple-jumper and sprinter hailing from Philadelphia, has already made a name for himself at Ursinus. The self-proclaimed "pretty chill guy" is making waves in the Centennial Conference and within Division III as a freshman.

As a child, Pope always loved to run. He loved to go fast. His favorite activity was racing his brother, which "was the best thing in the world," according to Pope. As he has gotten older, his motivations for running have changed and he proclaims they are forever changing. This in itself gives Pope the motivation to strive for greatness.

Pope ran for Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, PA, throughout his high school years and was wildly successful. During the Independent School State Championships, Pope ran a time of 49 seconds in the 400-meter dash, clinching first place at the meet. He also holds the triple jump record for the Independent School State Championships. Pope also holds records for the 400 and the triple jump at Episcopal Academy.

When being recruited, Pope did have some Division I looks, but decided to bring his talents to Collegeville. He said that academics come first. "Being an athlete is not my life," Pope said. "I like the competitive nature here...I have thought of an athletic career, but it wasn't my

main goal...I very much want [sports] to be part of my life, though. Coming here I didn't have to make a compromise...it is the best of both worlds."

Transitioning to college, Pope missed a good chunk of time at the beginning of his first season due to a hamstring injury. He was not deterred, though. He continued with his training program and began to compete again. Not only was he competing at a high level, but he was breaking records. He and three other teammates hold the record for the 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:20.91.

Pope is also in range of the triple jump record. He has been measured at 46-2.75 this winter, putting him on the top of the list of jumpers in the conference. The Ursinus record is held by Travis Young, whose record jump is 47-5.25. He still has one opportunity to tie or break this record at nationals this winter.

Currently Pope is the best on the Bears' squad in several events, including the 400-meter dash, the high jump, long jump, and triple jump. The good news for the Bears, according to head coach Carl Blickle, is that Pope is still only learning the high and long jumps.

Blickle said that Pope differentiates himself from the rest of the team in a couple of ways, starting with his personality. "He is the type of guy who is low-key," Blickle said. "Other guys are listening to pump-up music,

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Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images

Chris Jablonski '16 was a first-team All-Centennial Conference selection last season and led the conference with eight home runs. Jablonski also led the Bears with 25 RBI.

Baseball ready to slug away

Bears look for strong start to season as they embark on a 10-game spring break road trip in Florida

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The Ursinus College men's baseball team opened its season this past weekend with a double-header against Widener University. The Bears lost both games of the twinbill, falling 2-1 in game one and 7-2 in game two.

The Bears are coming off an 18-15 (7-11 CC) season. The Bears look to improve on their overall and conference records in the 2016 season, with hopes of making the Centennial Conference playoffs.

Ursinus was picked to finish fifth in the Centennial Conference preseason poll, which was announced on February 23. The Bears received 51 points from a

vote that was conducted by the league's head coaches. Ursinus is behind Johns Hopkins, Franklin & Marshall, McDaniel, and Gettysburg in the poll.

The Bears are returning three All-Centennial Conference performers this year, including senior first baseman Chris Jablonski, senior pitcher Sean Pisik, and junior outfielder Timo Muro. Ursinus also returns a majority of its lineup from a year ago. The Bears look to improve their play with another year of experience under their belt.

The Bears are coached by Stan Exeter, who is entering his fourth year at Ursinus. The team has greatly improved since Exeter's first year, but has yet to make the playoffs under his leadership.

Exeter described the team having "micro-goals" this season, which will help it achieve its ultimate goal of playing in May in the Centennial Conference playoffs. One of the "micro-goals" is going above .500 in every week of conference play the Bears have this season. Jablonski and Pisik both defined the team's main goal for the year was to "play in May" and win a conference championship as well.

It will not be an easy road for the Bears this season because of the tough Centennial Conference. Jablonski said that the biggest challenge for this season is going to be staying healthy. He stated that in the past couple of years,

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Upcoming Games

Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Softball vs. Ohio Northern @ Clermont, Fla., 9 a.m.	M Lacrosse @ Frostburg St., 1 p.m.	Softball vs. Thiel @ Clermont, Fla., 5 p.m.	Baseball vs. Saint Joseph's (Maine) @ Auburndale, Fla., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m.	Baseball vs. Northland @ Auburndale, Fla., 9:30 a.m., 12 p.m.	Softball vs. Wesleyan (Conn.) @ Clermont, Fla., 1 p.m.
	Softball vs. Elizabethtown @ Clermont, Fla., 11 a.m.	W Lacrosse vs. Washington & Jefferson, 1 p.m.	Softball vs. Austin @ Clermont, Fla., 7 p.m.		Softball vs. Gordon @ Clermont, Fla., 9 a.m.	Softball vs. Sage @ Clermont, Fla., 3 p.m.
	M&W Track and Field @ Last Chance Meet		Baseball vs. Wentworth @ Auburndale, Fla., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.	Gymnastics @ NCGA East, SUNY Cortland	Softball vs. Emmanuel (Mass.) @ Clermont, Fla., 11 a.m.	M Lacrosse @ Montclair St., 4 p.m.