



2-25-2016

The Grizzly, February 25, 2016

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Recommended Citation

Thomas, Brian; Harley, Deana; DiCiurcio, William; Perkins, Leighnah L.; Gong, Tingyue; Osborne, Valerie; Arsenault, Tyler; Keane, Briana; Cope, Johnny; Gellman, Hunter; and Pinkerton, Bryce, "The Grizzly, February 25, 2016" (2016). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper*. 687.
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Students, faculty talk about changes to CIE

The most recent forum focuses on how to address the demands of SUN and add more diversity to the curriculum

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On Wednesday, Feb. 17, students and faculty gathered in Bomberger for an open forum to discuss diversity in the Ursinus curriculum, as well as other issues on campus pertaining to race and diversity. The forum was hosted by La'Shante Cox '16, president of SUN, and Ross Doughty, professor of history.

The meeting came on the heels of a December demonstration hosted by SUN, where students attempted to shed light on the lack of minority authors in the CIE curriculum. After the demonstration, the organizers met with members of the administration to discuss the backlash they received on social media sites such as Yik Yak. One of the main focuses of the talk was about the addition of a fourth CIE question.

The proposed fourth CIE question asks how race, gender, and personal identity shape society today. This proposed fourth CIE question has many implications, including a change of the CIE syllabus to include a more diverse range of authors.

"It went a lot better than I thought it would have gone," said Cox. She said she was happy to see such a large turnout and high level of engagement. "It was really interesting to see the faculty members and students working together to come to a common ground, or at least a majority conclusion with everything that's been going on with the fourth CIE question and the core curriculum."

The forum began with opening remarks by Cox and other members of the SUN executive board, outlining their goals for the dis-

cussion. Afterwards, Richard Wallace, professor of environmental studies, spoke about the original proposal for the fourth CIE question, in addition to other possible solutions to issues of race on campus. Then, professors Edward Onaci and April Kostathis gave a presentation on the progress of the new core curriculum, paying special attention to how issues of diversity can be incorporated. Then the floor was opened to all in attendance to speak.

The comments were varied, with some students and faculty voicing concern that the fourth question would actually discourage thinking about issues of race, gender, and class, while also distorting the goals of CIE.

"One student brought up whether or not we should implement a fourth question, just because he felt that there is one answer to that, and that's 'racism is not good,'" said Cox. "He felt that CIE was meant to be an open forum, something that we can just continue to talk about because there's just so many different perspectives."

Still other students responded to the meeting with lukewarm interest. One student, responding to an anonymous poll, said that he "didn't care about the texts they read or CIE," but "thought some students would like it." They continued that they "didn't care about the race of the author, it's about the meaning of the text."

"It's super important that students and faculty engage in just the kind of open, frank, and free discussion that we had," said Robert Dawley, professor of bi-

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Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

A candle-light service was held for Michelle Buck in Bomberger auditorium on Sunday, just over two months after the Ursinus sophomore was struck and killed while crossing Main Street.

Community celebrates life of Michelle Buck

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Friends, family, professors, and even strangers gathered in Bomberger auditorium on Sunday afternoon to honor the life of Michelle Buck.

Buck was a sophomore at Ursinus, double majoring in neuroscience and philosophy. On the night of Dec. 17, Buck was attempting to cross Main Street when she was fatally struck by an automobile. She suffered massive injuries and died on scene.

Two months later a memorial was planned for Buck, but was

delayed because of requests from the family. It was planned by the administration, Rev. Charles Rice, and the class of 2018.

"I think the biggest challenge was making sure we did the best job possible to honor her memory," Callie Terris, vice president of the class of 2018, said.

The memorial began with President Block Blomberg addressing the guests, speaking of Buck's impact on Ursinus, and how the community has come together since her passing.

Friends of Buck shared their thoughts and memories. Friends spoke of times on the Perkiomen

Trail with Buck and of visits to Wawa on Main Street. Professor Carlin Romano spoke of his experience having Buck as a student and read an excerpt of a paper she wrote for his class. Professor Kelly Sorenson also spoke of his experience having Buck as a student, and how she saved her true self for her closest friends.

Buck's grandfather, Alfred S. Buck, spoke, thanking everybody for coming and for remembering his granddaughter in such a loving way. Buck's father, Alfred E.

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Community comes together during norovirus outbreak

Highlighting the local businesses that volunteered their time last week

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Ursinus College experienced a nasty case of the norovirus two weeks ago causing more than 200 students severe illness. As a result, the dining halls, Upper and Lower Wismer, were closed for cleaning. The closing was a precautionary measure to ensure that the facilities were sanitized and in compliance with inspection criteria.

The college worked closely with the Montgomery County Health Department and was following its recommendations.

Since the dining options on campus were shut down and students could not access them, the college looked to the Collegeville community for help. Several businesses, such as Wawa, Wegman's, Redner's, and the Collegeville Italian Bakery, sent food to the campus to feed students.

Wawa offered Sizzilis and hash browns for breakfast and Shorti hoagies for lunch. Wegman's brought snacks and drinks, Redner's donated Gatorade and saltines for sick students, and the Collegeville Italian Bakery supplied 600 assorted hoagies for lunch.

Vince Terry, a junior, took full advantage of the food that was offered in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center that Thursday morning.

"It was extremely generous of the local businesses to reach out to us in a time of need. It just reinforced how tightly knit of a community this town is," said Terry.

The food was distributed by

various volunteers from the college and the community. They donated their time to organize and pass out the food to the students.

Missy Bryant, assistant dean of students, coordinated the donations from the local businesses in the area.

"We were very fortunate to have community partners step up to help last week," said Bryant.

Bryant stated that the college is going to continue its efforts to engage with the community, so that a strong relationship is maintained between the college and the Collegeville community. In addition, President Brock Blomberg is personally thanking the businesses that donated to Ursinus.

President Blomberg even posted a picture on his Instagram account shaking the hand of an employee of Marzella's Pizzeria. Blomberg's caption on his photo read, "Thanking our friends at Marzella's for their help this past week!!"

After the college closed the campus on Feb. 11, Upper and Lower Wismer were both thoroughly cleaned and were inspected by the Montgomery Department of Health.

Both dining halls are now open and running as usual, but self-serve options have been eliminated at both dining halls until further notice.



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Photo courtesy of Eden Abrams

(From left to right) Zev Bliss '18, Temi Olafunmiloye '18, and La'Shante Cox '16 address faculty and students who gathered in Bomberger for a common hour open forum. The goal of the forum was to discuss the issue of diversity within CIE, which prompted many faculty members and students to voice their opinions and ideas about the matter.

SUN continued from pg. 1

ology. Dawley, who attended and spoke at the forum, teaches CIE in addition to his work in the biology department.

"We're at a liberal arts institution that has a mission statement that is about helping to shape the intellect of characters in general, not simply make them experts in the discipline," Dawley said.

The goals of CIE were also brought up during the meeting. "The whole point of CIE is to ask students, to prod students, to examine their most fundamental be-

liefs, and that's not an easy thing to ask of anybody," said Dawley. "There's nothing more uncomfortable than forcing yourself to consider the possibility that something you deeply believe in is false. You're not truly free until the beliefs that you're ready to advocate are truly yours as opposed to having been imposed on you."

Going forward, Cox said that the faculty will continue to discuss possible changes to the curriculum, keeping in mind the comments made by students at this forum.

Any students interested in

learning more about SUN's proposed changes or getting involved in the next campus-wide forum on the topic can email sun@ursinus.edu or contact members of the executive board in person.

"If you have questions, just ask them and we'll be really open to answering them," said Cox.

Johny Myers contributed to the reporting of this article. He can be reached at jomyers@ursinus.edu.

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Buck, spoke of some of his last times with his daughter and how much the Ursinus community meant to Buck and to her family.

"This memorial brought the campus together because the tragedy had an effect on all students whether they had known Michelle

or not," Terris said. "The turnout of students showed that regardless of the relationship they may have had with her, they still came out to honor her memory and show support for the family."

Students who did not know Buck left the memorial with a deeper sense of the type of person Buck was.

"She had such a big impact on

every person she knew," Brittany Hawley '16 said. "Each person talked about how she affected their lives which was very telling of the kind of person she was."

"Making sure her memory remains a part of campus was one of our main goals," Terris said. "I believe the service on campus helped accomplish that."

THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 16

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

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The Grizzly meets every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in Ritter to assign stories. All are welcome.

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

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Learning more about housing

With the housing lottery approaching, it's useful to compare and contrast housing options on campus

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It's almost that time of year again: the housing lottery.

Students received their housing lottery numbers on Monday, Feb. 22. The lottery will be held on Tuesday, April 5, for the class of 2017, Tuesday, April 12, for the class of 2018, and Tuesday, April 19, for the class of 2019. With students having such options as 32 Main Street houses, SPINT housing, Reimert suites, and New and North to choose from, it's not surprising that the process of selecting where to live can be overwhelming, especially for first-year students.

Main Street houses around 500 upperclassmen on campus, and all are eligible to live there after their first year.

Stephanie Bohrod, a sophomore currently living in Shreiner Hall, was quick to confirm the warm atmosphere that comes with living in a Main Street house. "I actually like my house...it's really homey and quiet for the most part," she said.

In contrast, Alex Nigro, a sophomore living in Sprankle Hall, did not have the same praise for her house, stating the only nice part of living in a Main Street house was the location. "I have a shorter walk to the area around Olin and Bomberger, which is really nice. I also like the fact that I don't have

to cross Main Street...I like being closer than average to campus."

Both students cited a lack of kitchen resources and coed bathrooms as their main complaints with Main Street houses. "Well, we don't have a kitchen," said Nigro about Sprankle. Bohrod agreed, saying that one thing she would change about Shreiner is the kitchen. "The oven isn't great, and it would be nice for it to be better so I could make my own meals," she said.

Overall though, Bohrod said she was happy with her living situation. "I love where I live and would 100 percent live here next year," she said.

Nigro was not as happy with her house or the lottery system, saying that the lottery system is not the best way to choose housing. "I didn't really get much of a choice. I was on the list at the end where after they run out of rooms and you basically get the dregs of the house."

In contrast to Main Street houses are North Hall and New Hall. About 40 students live in each hall within the two buildings, and as the newest dorms on campus they are pretty popular. With their modernity and cleaner nature, the doubles, triples, and suites throughout the two halls are snatched up pretty quickly.

Sophomore Katrina O'Donnell, a resident of North, confirmed that North's modern amenities are

a great part of living there. "One pro is definitely the elevator," she said. Junior Matt Chipego, a resident of New, pointed out that along with the modern aspects of the buildings, the cleanliness is also a pull. Chipego lived in New last year and picked it again, saying, "Last year was my first year [at Ursinus] and I lived in New. I enjoyed it, the laundry rooms and the bathrooms are cleaner than other places on campus so I just picked it again."

The con both students pointed out is the lack of social opportunities in New and North. Chipego pointed out the long walk to Reimert on the weekends as a drawback, while O'Donnell said that the sprawling layout of the building doesn't create much of a community. "Sometimes I don't like being in this corner of campus, I wish there was more community." Overall, the modern nature of the buildings might cut down on a neighborly feel, she added.

The housing information includes floor plans of all housing options. Students with questions can consult the housing packet sent out along with the lottery numbers.

Students can also reach out to Melissa Sanders Giess, assistant director of students and dean of residence life, at mgiess@ursinus.edu.

International Perspective *Differences within the classroom and without*

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I have studied at Ursinus College since August. During these days I have faced different kinds of challenges in my daily life, which come from study, social life and living in a new environment, since I am an international student from China.

The American teaching style is different than Chinese teaching style. In China teachers talk in the class while students listen; however, it is completely different in the U.S. Teachers and students in the class are like friends. Students share their own opinions to their professors and can even oppose professor's points. This is a new concept for me. In the beginning, I felt so uncomfortable with that, since I am not confident with my English fluency. After a few weeks, I decided to try speaking in class and the professor and classmates all listened carefully.

Every day I receive various knowledge from different classes. From them I have learned many new vocabulary words. Actually, when I learn these new words, I need to remember not only the English meaning but also the Chinese meaning. So much information is always confusing to me. In addition, the biggest challenge for international students is to present materials in class. Take myself, for example, in CIE class; sometimes I wanted to put my hand up. Unfortunately, I was worried that if I said something wrong, the professor and students might laugh at me if my pronunciation was wrong. In the first two weeks I said nothing in my classes and became a listener. I wanted to participate in class, but I was less courageous. I told myself, If I can speak in class, I will overcome my fear. Since I started speaking more in class, I find that native students listen more carefully when international students speak since they understand that there is a language barrier.

Second, participating in social life is another challenge for me. In China, a student's social life is so tedious; we do not have many interesting activities like parties. In America, students have many

activities they can do in their social life, such as seeing a movie, going to different parties, and joining different clubs. In China our social life is so monotonous. When we go from primary school to high school, suffering much stress, we barely have a chance to play with friends since we have to finish a large amount of homework. However, in America, I found a lot of interesting social activities. We can be a volunteer to help some family who needs care; we can join different clubs to improve ourselves; we can participate in different teams, such as baseball, hockey, swimming and so on. Since a lot of activities are unfamiliar to me, I only joined a couple of clubs. Fortunately, everyone was very welcoming and tried their best to help me.

Third, living in a new environment, and becoming acquainted with the various buildings on the campus, is vastly different compared to living in your native country. When I first arrived at Ursinus College, it gave me a totally different impression of life in America. The buildings on campuses in China always look the same. However, the buildings on this campus all have unique characteristics that set them apart from one another. Therefore, it is easier for me to find where my classrooms are here at Ursinus.

When students study abroad, we always meet a lot of challenges. The best way for us to overcome these obstacles is to try our best to fit in. If we can embrace our challenges, we will fit into a new environment.

Tingyue Gong is from Lanzhou Gansu, China. She is thinking of majoring in business. Tingyue is a member of SASA and the Chinese Club. She enjoys traditional Chinese dance and making handicrafts. She wants to share her Chinese culture.

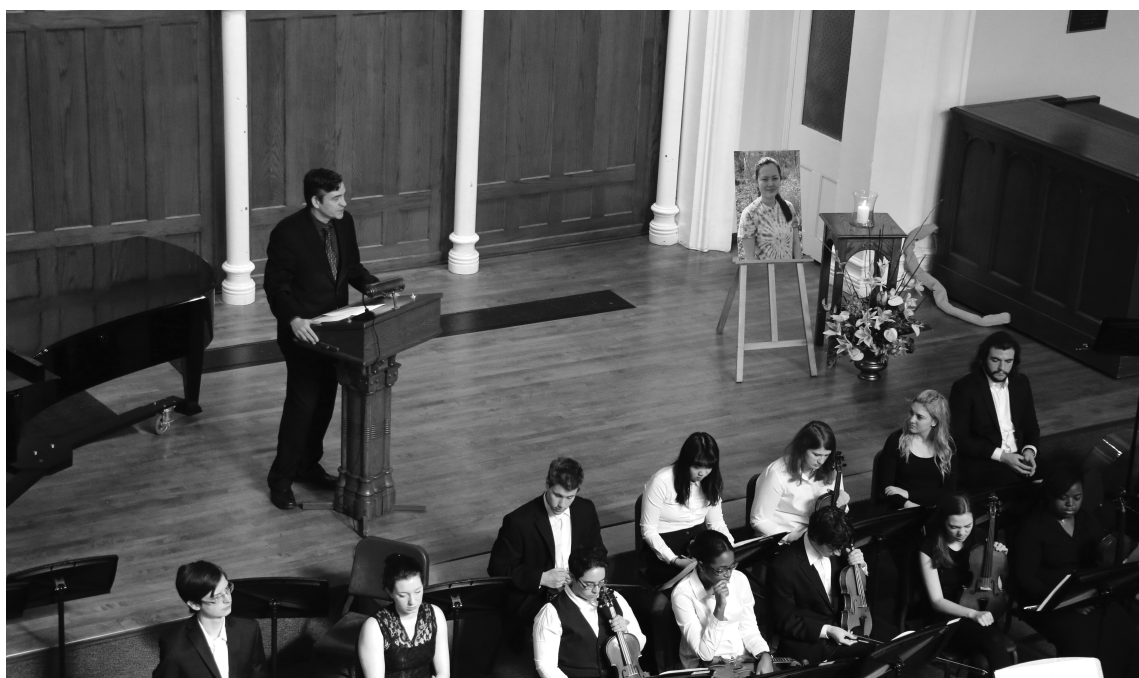


Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Kelly Sorenson, who had Michelle Buck as a student, spoke of Buck's determination in the classroom.

Double Trouble

Two professors teach an English senior seminar on controversial books

Valerie Osborne
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For the third semester since 2010, an English senior seminar is being taught on banned books.

This upper-level class designed for English majors explores literature that has been challenged in the past.

Looking at novels such as “Madame Bovary,” “Lolita,” and “Huckleberry Finn,” students are asked to question why such literature was once considered transgressive and how modern-day taboos might one day seem obsolete.

The course is co-taught by Dr. Jon Volkmer and Diane Skorina, who have been involved since the course’s inception.

Volkmer, an Ursinus College English professor, first had the idea to teach the banned books course after teaching the controversial novel “Ulysses.”

Volkmer said he wanted to give students more exposure to historically outlawed literature.

“Ulysses’ was, of course, banned for years in the United States. So the question is raised, Why [was it] banned when it’s

practically unintelligible to most readers? [Which] raises the question, Why were other things banned too? I think it’s a provocative question and students like to talk about it,” Volkmer said.

When beginning to create the class, Volkmer enlisted the help of Ursinus librarian and director of information literacy and instructional technology, Diane Skorina.

The two collaborated on research for the course and together came up with a syllabus.

Volkmer then invited Skorina to teach the class with him in order to incorporate a wider perspective.

“I solicited Diane to teach the course with me six years ago because of the delicacy of the subject matter,” he said. “I thought it would be good to have both a male and female perspective in the classroom together.”

As a librarian, Skorina says the subject of banned books greatly interests her.

“Librarians generally as a rule care a lot about censorship and book banning,” she said. “Libraries are places that are supposed to provide access to information...



Photo courtesy of Blaise Laramée

Ursinus students and professors of the Banned Books capstone hold up the books, “Tropic of Cancer” by Henry Miller and “The Well of Loneliness” by Radclyffe Hall, they are currently discussing. Banned Books meets once a week for three hours to discuss a variety of books that have been banned in parts of the world.

without some kind of overarching ‘this is right’ or ‘this is wrong.’”

Although co-teaching is not a common occurrence at Ursinus, Volkmer and Skorina say they look to make this rare classroom dynamic work in ways that benefit students.

Senior English major Blaise Laramée said, “I was actually a little dubious about this class as a co-taught class when I first heard [about] it, but now that I’m in it my doubts are definitely gone. Prof. Skorina and Dr. Volkmer have a good chemistry in the room.”

Since the course examines the banned books through a literary and a historical perspective, Volkmer and Skorina are able to bring both of their strengths to the class.

Skorina said, “I [bring] in my knowledge of the history of book banning and he has the literary knowledge.”

The course also contains a heavy research aspect, the final exam being a research paper.

This element makes it practical to have someone like Skorina involved since her expertise as a librarian is in research techniques.

Volkmer and Skorina meet weekly to discuss how to structure the class and to brainstorm

discussion questions.

However, both agree in having flexibility in the classroom to allow students to lead.

Skorina said, “We both have the philosophy that this is the students’ class. Within the class if something starts [to go] a different way, we let the students lead us.”

The instructors also encourage the students to disagree with them. Volkmer and Skorina don’t always see eye to eye on every topic.

They said that they hope that their disagreements will encourage students not to be afraid to argue during discussions.

Volkmer said, “With this material everybody needs to make up his or her own mind and I like that I’m not the only voice of authority. I may know these books better than the students, but I want to give them the opportunity to form their own opinions. When Diane and I don’t always agree...that models for students’ good disagreement.”

Laramée said that the invitation for students to form their own opinions forces students to examine and question their preconceived biases.

He said, “Confronting the prejudices and censorships of

the past brings me face to face, sometimes, with my own preconceptions and modern prejudices. It’s easy for us as a class and society to denounce 1800s England as queer-phobic and sexist and racist, but how accepting are we today of non-normative romantic relationships, like polygamy and polyamory? Would I morally cringe if I saw a human and an artificial intelligence having a romantic relationship sometime in the future?”

The class isn’t just a way for students to explore their beliefs. In a sense, the class isn’t being taught by just Volkmer and Skorina, but by everyone involved. Even the professors have something to gain from class discussions, according to Skorina.

She said, “I love [teaching the course] for partially selfish reasons. I learn so much. Every time we’ve done this class I have learned so much about so many things, including about myself. It is such a pleasure for me to do and embark on the challenge. I think it’s [gotten] better and better each time I’ve done it.”



Photo courtesy of Blaise Laramée

Jon Volkmer (left) and Diane Skorina (right) work together to teach a weekly capstone course, “Banned Books.” Volkmer is an English professor and the head of the Creative Writing department, and Skorina is the director of information literacy and instructional technology for Ursinus College.



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The woman behind the screen

Jen Wolfe's job is to keep Ursinus' social media accounts interesting and up-to-date

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Ursinus has a large presence on social media. The school has a Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Vimeo, and Instagram page.

Not only do these accounts showcase news stories about the College, but they give Ursinus its own voice and personality.

However, many students may wonder what department is in charge of social media, and if there is a mastermind behind these accounts.

There is, in fact, a mystery woman behind the accounts, and her name is Jen Wolfe.

Wolfe is with the college communications department located on the third floor of Myrin Library. She is in charge of the social media accounts and deciding which news stories and updates to post.

Wolfe came to Ursinus four years ago after working as a writer and editor at TV Guide. She was in charge of editing TV listings for kids shows and HBO shows.

"When 'The Sopranos' first aired, my editor handed me the tape and gave me my assignment. At first, I thought it was a singing show until I finally watched the trailer and realized what it was," said Wolfe jokingly.

After a couple of years at the magazine, Wolfe said that she had gotten too far away from her creative side, so she decided to shift her focus and take a position at Ursinus.

Since then, Wolfe has revamped Ursinus' social media accounts on all platforms by in-

creasing the number of followers, posting interesting content, and doing a lot of what she calls "listening," or seeing what other people are posting online.

"We use social media primarily as a way to engage with our audience. But we also use it as a way to listen," said Wolfe.

One way that Wolfe does this is by going on the popular social media platform called Yik Yak.

"During the illness, I learned on Yik Yak that students weren't getting the Ursinus emails, so we used social media to send the message to students to check their emails. This eventually prompted the IT department to fix the issue with the emails going into the bulk folder," said Wolfe.

While Ursinus social media has a large presence when posting news stories, there are a number of components that Wolfe takes into account when posting certain updates on each platform.

"I find that each platform has its own personality. Something I might share on LinkedIn might not work well on Instagram," said Wolfe.

Wolfe did point out that there are a few things that always seem to be popular regardless of the social media platform.

"The things that seem to resonate on all the platforms are humor, beautiful photos of campus, especially if it involves snow, and big news on campus," said Wolfe.

According to Ursinus social media statistics, more than half of the top 10 posts on Instagram were pictures of campus.

On top of this, four out of the 10 were photos that weren't even taken by the communications de-

partment.

"Four of the top 10 posts aren't even photos that I took," said Wolfe. "One was from a local pilot that I found using the Ursinus hashtag."

On average, Wolfe likes to post updates at least once a day, and in some cases she will post more.

Her typical day consists mostly of social media research, deciding which news to post or what updates she thinks the followers will resonate with.

In addition to handling the social media accounts, Wolfe also writes, edits, and proofreads stories for the website and magazine, as well as materials for the admissions and advancement offices.

She also works with the college communications department on photography and videos.

As Wolfe and Ursinus social media continue to interact with the Ursinus community, there are a some things that Wolfe has implemented to involve students even more with Ursinus social media.

Currently, she has introduced the Instagram "takeover" where a student will gain access to the Instagram account and take pictures during their day.

"Student takeovers are a unique way to provide a look at what life is like on campus," said Wolfe.

In addition to this, Wolfe looks forward to introducing a new aspect to the Instagram account called "100 days of clubs" where a club or organization will be spotlighted each day for 100 days.

Unbeknownst to many students, Wolfe actually launched an



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Jen Wolfe has been a part of the Ursinus community for the past four years and currently manages the school's social media accounts. Prior to her position at Ursinus, Wolfe received a B.A. at The College of New Jersey and was a writer for TV Guide.

Ursinus Snapchat account during Brock Blomberg's inauguration.

This is a platform that Wolfe wants to grow as a place where she can interact with students on an instant basis.

The college communications department is also in the process of building a team of social media ambassadors to meet and generate ideas.

"We would love to get students involved in this," said Wolfe. "We want to know what some things are that they want to see on our social media accounts and maybe what things they don't like."

Wolfe can be contacted at Jwolfe1@ursinus.edu.


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Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays, 6 p.m.
Ritter 141

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Lecture: "Audubon's Last Great Adventure," Berman Museum 7 p.m.	Lunch Chat: What is SPINT?, Wismer Center—Gold Alcove 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Richard King Memorial Service, Bomberger Auditorium 2 p.m.	The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Lenfest Theater 2 p.m.		The Diversity Monologues, Bomberger Auditorium 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.	2016 Job, Internship and Networking Fair 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Advice on studying abroad

How to prepare for the good, the bad, and the ugly

Briana Keane
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It's the night before you're leaving to go abroad. Feelings of anxiety and excitement dance around in your mind. Am I making the right choice? What if I don't make friends? Don't doubt yourself for a second because you are making one of the most independent decisions of your life and, most importantly, one of the most exciting decisions.

Your suitcase is packed and sitting in your hallway. You're spending one last time with your friends and family before you get to see them again in four months. It's normal to feel like you're possibly making the wrong decision.

When first hearing about study abroad opportunities in September of my sophomore year, I attended the information session and knew it was something I had to do, but choosing which country was the biggest decision. The application deadline quickly crept up in February, and the next thing I knew sophomore year was over and I was leaving for Australia in July.

Going abroad may sound like an opportunity you could never turn away from. However, there is a lot of preparation that goes into applying and actually getting ready to leave. As much as I recommend going abroad for a semester, sometimes it may not be exactly how you picture it. Remember that photos on social media of people's experiences are just a snapshot of their time abroad and what they choose to post. As much as studying abroad is about experiencing new things and meeting people, traveling can get tough. What people don't post about is the exhausting moments in the airport, missing a flight, planning trips, feeling homesick, staying in touch with family and friends, and, of course, overcoming the language barrier in certain countries.

Traveling can wipe you out and it requires a lot of prepara-

tion, but don't let that scare you. Preparing to go abroad is one of the most daunting tasks of the process because there's a laundry list of things to do before taking off. Getting your visa and passport, which can be expensive, are the most important documents to take care of right away.

Aside from staying on top of the important documents, booking your flight, making copies of your license, passport, and visa, and filling prescriptions for the next few months are essential, too. It's always good to start packing early, but it's easy to leave that to the last minute.

Landing in a new country can be a complete shock to some people. At least it was for me. The moment I landed at the airport in Sydney and arrived at my living area, I thought, "What the hell am I doing? Why did I just fly 10,000 miles away from home in the middle of the summer?"

I didn't know anybody on the whole continent. I think this was the best part because I got to completely have my own experience without any influence from people I knew.

What people don't post about is the exhausting moments in the airport, missing a flight, planning trips, feeling homesick, staying in touch with family and friends, and of course overcoming the language barrier in certain countries.

As scary it was to take the 21-hour flight to Oz alone, I tried to take all of this anxiety and turn it into a feeling of adventure and excitement. I was given the opportunity to live in another country for four months and experience life outside of the 10 mile radius of Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

When you consider going

abroad, your first thought might be "I'm going to miss out on the action at Ursinus." But have no fear, potential world traveler, because you will not miss out. You might miss one Halloween or St. Patrick's Day, which are some of the best times at Ursinus. However, is it worth it to not go abroad and wander the streets of Rome or eat pad thai in Phuket? You would be crazy not to go. Most students are given the opportunity to study abroad, but according to US News & World Report, less than 1 in 10 Americans actually go. I know at Ursinus not many students go each semester, maybe about 15 to 20, if that.

Don't let the fear of missing out keep you from going abroad. Of course, the feeling of homesickness will definitely come at some point during your time abroad. Jessica Parrillo, director of counseling and wellness at Ursinus College, says her most important advice for students is to anticipate feeling homesick before going abroad.

You can prepare to feel homesick by bringing a trinket from home, such as a blanket or a picture of family and friends, to comfort you when you are feeling homesick. However, Parrillo strongly encourages students to immerse in the culture by meeting friends and partaking in different activities in the country to adapt to the new environment. Don't let that get you discouraged because going abroad was the best decision I have made up until this point in my life. Studying abroad is a special time in a student's life.

If anything, I would say the "ugliest" part of studying abroad is the reverse culture shock you feel after coming home. You've been away from your family and friends for at least four months and experienced something only you will truly understand. You're going to feel different when you come back. When I came back this time last year, I felt very out of place and trapped. I was given



Photo courtesy of Briana Keane

Keane on her first SCUBA excursion to the Great Barrier Reef during her semester abroad in Australia in the fall of 2014.

a taste of life outside of Collegeville and I was not ready to be back on campus.

I am so grateful that I was able to go abroad and meet new people and see amazing places, and I even got to meet up with my brother and travel with him.

However, I couldn't even explain what I felt when I came home. Adjusting back to Ursinus was challenging, but it always gets better. A year later, I feel so much better and am enjoying my last semester at Ursinus to the fullest. There are fewer than 100 days left of my time at Ursinus and it's a bittersweet feeling.

Of course, I love Ursinus because of the opportunities I have been given, the people I have met, and the classes I have taken. However, I am ready to see what's next. Although I don't know what my next step is, that's how I want

it to be. Life is full of many surprises, and who knows what I'll be doing next year. I might be working at a desk job at a marketing agency or I may be teaching English in Thailand. Life is what you make of it, and it's up to you to truly live it. And on that note, I'm going to leave you with my favorite quote by Oscar Wilde: "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."

Briana Keane is graduating from Ursinus this May with a degree in media and communications. She is the social media editor for the Grizzly and a nominee for homecoming queen in 2015. She also likes to practice mindfulness.



Photo courtesy of Jess Porada

Jess Porada '16 is third in the Centennial Conference in scoring at 15.0 points per game.

Basketball continued from pg. 8

mates their freshman year. "It was actually kind of crazy. We both went in as random [roommates] and somehow we ended up in a quad together," Polimeni said. "We obviously knew each other before [college] and when I got the email I was like, 'Well, I guess we're roommates.' It was definitely a cool experience for me and her."

Both girls played a large amount of minutes throughout their careers, starting their freshman season, and both have transcended to the upper echelon in Ursinus basketball history.

When planning each game, Polimeni and Porada play big parts. According to junior forward Libby Lannon, it is a team effort in each game that makes the Bears successful. "We have a lot of people on the team that can score, but we look to Jess and Alyssa a lot of times when a play breaks down, we want the ball in their hands," Lannon said. "You know you can always count on them and they are going to show up and play every game."

Polimeni attributes the Bears' recent success to the family-like atmosphere that has developed at Ursinus. She and Porada both agreed their achievements this year are due to their new head coach, Margaret White.

Taking over the helm for the 2015-16 season, White said she was fortunate to be part of a team that already had such a tight bond. "Our team was open arms to everything we were doing that was different from the past—tremendous attitudes, tremendous efforts," White said. "Adding to that, we have a lot of pure basketball talent." These are just some of the many reasons why Ursinus has been so successful this year.

White had nothing but great things to say about the dynamic duo of Porada and Polimeni. "They epitomize being totally selfless," White said. "When we had our celebration when [Polimeni] scored [the 1,000th point], Alyssa and I spoke and decided not to stop the game, not to make it about one person. They are a real representation of our team. They are great people and better teammates."

Polimeni and Porada saw their decorated careers come to an unfortunate end Monday night as Gettysburg handed Ursinus a 60-54 loss, ending the Bears' season. Porada became only the second player in program history to record at least 1,300 points and 800 rebounds. Polimeni ended her career second all-time in program history in assists with 356. Porada and Polimeni finished fourth and fifth, respectively, on the school's all time points list.

Men's lacrosse looks to ride dominant defense to another record-breaking year

Jonny Cope
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Coming off of last season's record year, the Ursinus College men's lacrosse team has high expectations for the 2016 season. Along with head coach Jamie Steele and assistant coach David Page, the Bears will be led by captains Brian Neff (goalie), Logan Panaccione (attack), and Patrick O'Donoghue (defense).

This year Ursinus will look to improve upon last season's 14-4 record, which included a tight 11-10 loss to Gettysburg in the Centennial Conference tournament final, an NCAA Tournament win, and another heartbreaking, double overtime loss to the Bullets in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"Last season we had a very successful season, but we are putting this in the past," Neff said. "The only thing this means to us is a standard we must meet again and surpass." This year's team has plenty of talent, and if it all comes together the Bears will again have the potential to make lots of noise in the postseason.

The 2016 edition of the Ursinus men's lacrosse team will have a bit of a different look, as the program looks to fill the void left behind by the talented senior class that went out with a bang last season. To that end, the Bears will look no further than their Lacrosse Magazine Division III Preseason All-American goalie, Neff.

Neff, who is coming off of one of the best seasons in school history, will look to improve upon his stellar numbers from last season, which included a goals against average of 6.41, a solid .637 save percentage, and a sea-

son total of 202 saves. Neff will anchor a defensive backline that will need to be at its best if the team is to repeat their successes from last season's record breaking year. "For defense it isn't one key player," Neff said. "I would just say that the group needs to come together and all step up."

On the offensive half of the field, the Bears will look to replace the scoring machine that was the dynamic duo of Jake Weber and Mark Stratton. In order to do this, the team will look toward senior attacks Panaccione and Steve Mussoline, who were both among the team leaders in goals scored a year ago.

"We will be a very dominant defensive team," Panaccione said. "Our offense will be on the younger side with a lot of freshmen and sophomores looking to fill some of the roles we lost due to graduation last year." The Bears will indeed look toward some of their young cubs for production.

One player to keep an eye on will be sophomore Gerard Brown, who is coming off an impressive freshman campaign. Last season, Brown saw time in all 18 games and racked up 27 total points, tallying 10 goals and a generous 17 assists. Brown is already on his way to surpassing that total, as he recorded three goals and five assists for eight points in the Bears' first game against Albright on Saturday. Brown's eight points were the most in a game since 2007. This season, tough team defense and just enough offense will be the winning formula for Ursinus. The Bears certainly lived up to that as they beat Albright 14-6 in the season opener.

The high expectations for the Bears are not just coming from

inside the program. Along with many players receiving high individual praise, the team is seeing plenty of attention from around the conference and the nation. The annual Centennial Conference preseason coaches' poll ranks the Bears second in the conference with 58 points and 2 first place votes.

This places them second only to defending conference champion Gettysburg. Nationally, Ursinus is ranked in three different Division III national polls. The Bears are ranked 13th in all of Division III by Lacrosse Magazine, Face-Off Yearbook, and the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine Preseason Poll. The Bears and the number six ranked Gettysburg Bullets are currently the only teams in the Centennial Conference to be ranked.

The Bears host Mary Washington on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m. in the second game of their season and begin conference play on March 3, when they host Swarthmore. The highly anticipated battle between Gettysburg and Ursinus is scheduled for April 16. The battle will take place on the campus of Gettysburg College.

The Ursinus men's lacrosse team has the potential and ability to win the Centennial Conference championship. In order to do this they will rely on their star goalie Neff and the rest of their defensive backline. Although the team will try to win with defense, the Bears do return plenty of firepower on offense and will be able to score with any team out there. Once again, it appears to be a two-horse race between the Bullets and the Bears for the Centennial Conference crown. It's going to be a potentially historic season for Ursinus men's lacrosse.

Scores as of Monday, Feb. 22

M Basketball (11-14)	W Basketball (11-13)	M Lacrosse (1-0)	M&W Track & Field	Gymnastics	M Swimming (6-4)	W Swimming (11-0)
Feb. 20 vs. Muhlenberg UC: 72, Muhlenberg: 81 Matt Williams: 17 pts., 4 reb., 2 ast., 1 blk.	Feb. 17 @ Bryn Mawr UC: 62, BM: 48 Rachel Guy: 9 pts., 1 reb., 1 ast.	Feb. 20 vs. Albright UC: 14, Albright: 6 Goals (UC): Gerard Brown (3), Mike Durst, Logan Panaccione (3), Sam Isola, James Fairchild, Rob Dewey, Patrick O'Donoghue, Tucker Noel (3)	Feb. 20 @ Keogh Invitational, Haverford College Highlights: Junior Erin Farrell won the 60-meter dash on the women's side, while freshman Sam Pope placed first in the 400 on the men's side	Feb. 20 @ Rutgers Rutgers: 195.075 Penn: 192.400 Temple: 191.625 UC: 188.200	Feb. 19-21 @ Centennial Conference Championships, Gettysburg College Highlights: Finished sixth overall. William Benn captured a silver medal in the 200-yard backstroke and Chris Hoops got a bronze in the 200-yard butterfly.	Feb. 19-21 @ Centennial Conference Championships, Gettysburg College Highlights: Finished first overall. Peyton Lyons was named the Most Outstanding Performer and Most Outstanding Rookie.
Feb. 22 @ Gettysburg UC: 69, Gettysburg: 91 Malik Draper: 19 pts.	Feb. 20 vs. Muhlenberg UC: 52, Muhlenberg: 78 Elana Roadcloud: 10 pts., 13 reb., 4 blk.					

Porada and Polimeni partner together to join 1,000-point club

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Every coach in America goes into each game with a game plan. In their offices sits a whiteboard with a jumbled mess of scribbles and numbers that seems to mean nothing to others but makes sense to them. In that mess, you will always find a number or two that is circled. These circles represent who your team needs to shut down. When game planning against the Ursinus women's basketball team, numbers 34 and 15 are always circled in red.

Senior captains Jess Porada, number 34, and Alyssa Polimeni, number 15, represent Ursinus in their own unique class. Prior to 2015-16 only 12 Ursinus women had eclipsed the 1,000-point career scoring total. Amazingly, only at one other point in history did two 1,000-point scorers graduate in the same year. This season all that changed as the Bears had two more women—Porada and Polimeni—who were seniors and 1,000-point scorers.

From a young age, Polimeni and Porada were complementing each other on the basketball court. Polimeni, a point guard, and Porada, a center, had played AAU youth basketball together in the sixth grade. Polimeni and Porada then continued this relationship on the court seven years later, and after their four years of college basketball, both players enjoyed their 1,000th point to-

gether. "It is pretty cool to have our history and accomplish something like this together," Polimeni said.

Porada broke the 1,000-point barrier during the 2014-15 season as a junior, scoring the fabled 1,000th point against conference foe Haverford College. Polimeni recorded her 1,000th point on Feb. 8 against Washington College in her final season.

Coming in as freshmen, both girls showed great promise. Polimeni was a 1,000-point scorer at Governor Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights, N.J. Porada played about half an hour down the highway at Morris Catholic High School in Morristown, N.J. At Morris Catholic, Porada showed a great deal of talent, which then translated to becoming a superstar at Ursinus.

Porada only completed the feat at Ursinus, making it that much more impressive. Porada has great pride in the fact that both she and Polimeni were the two athletes to make the mark. "Alyssa helped me so much to get my 1,000 points by always getting me the ball," Porada said. "It was great to know all our hard work for so long has basically paid off and we accomplished something great together, and have made a mark on the basketball program at Ursinus."

As fate would have it, both athletes ended up being room-

See **Basketball** on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of David Sinclair

With its third championship in team history, the women's swim team tied Franklin & Marshall for second all-time in Centennial Conference history, behind only Gettysburg.

Women's swimming three-peats

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The Ursinus College women's swim team has done it again. For the third straight year, the Bears brought home the Centennial Conference championship this past weekend.

The Bears dominated from the start, setting multiple conference records and racking up gold medal after gold medal. Freshman Peyton Lyons played a large part in the victory as she won three individual gold medals and was a part of three gold medal winning relays. Lyons was named the Most Outstanding Performer and Most Outstanding Rookie, becoming the first swimmer in school history to win both awards.

"This weekend was amazing for Ursinus swimming," Lyons said. "Records were broken left and right, people were getting per-

sonal bests, but more importantly we came together as a team and that was the key to our success."

The Bears finished nearly 200 points ahead of the second-place finisher, Gettysburg, and tallied the third-most points in Centennial Conference championship history.

The women collected a total of 22 medals, with 13 gold, five silver, and four bronze. The Bears opened the championships on Friday by breaking three conference records. The first came in the 200-yard free relay, with sophomore Sydney Gundersen, freshman Clara Baker, senior Micaela Lyons and senior Corinne Capodanno teaming up to break the record. The next record came from Peyton Lyons in the 200-yard individual medley. The final record came from the team of Peyton Lyons, sophomore Olivia Tierney, Baker, and Capodanno in

the 400-yard medley relay.

The records didn't stop there, though, as the Bears broke three more on the second day of the event. The 200-yard medley relay team of Peyton Lyons, Tierney, Baker, and Micaela Lyons broke the conference and championship record by finishing a hundredth of a second in front of Gettysburg's team. Baker broke the next record in the 100-yard butterfly, and Margaret Leitz, Capodanno, Gundersen, and Peyton Lyons broke the conference and championship record in the 800-yard freestyle relay.

Baker's conference record in the 100 butterfly was enough to send her to the NCAA Division III Championships in Greensboro, N.C., on Wednesday, March 16. Baker set the record in the preliminaries by posting a time of 55.54, and brought home the gold with a 55.75 in the finals.

Upcoming Games

Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Baseball vs. Widener @ Maplezone Sports Institute, 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.	M&W Track and Field @ Centennial Conference Championship, Ursinus College	Wrestling @ NCAA East Regional, Washington & Lee University			W Lacrosse vs. Rowan, 4 p.m.
	Gymnastics vs. Springfield, 1 p.m.	M Lacrosse vs. Mary Washington, 2 p.m.	M&W Track and Field @ Centennial Conference Championship, Ursinus College			
	Wrestling @ NCAA East Regional, Washington & Lee University	W Lacrosse @ Albright, 12 p.m.				

