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1-28-2016

## The Grizzly, January 28, 2016

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### Recommended Citation

Thomas, Brian; Harley, Deana; Farrell, Jay; Low, Chi-e; Liu, Yuqing; Osborne, Valerie; Hojsak, Sarah; Babrich, Berett C.; Campbell, Sean; Cope, Johnny; and Gellman, Hunter, "The Grizzly, January 28, 2016" (2016). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper*. 691.  
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Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

A student crosses Main Street underneath one of the new neon crosswalk signs. The signs were put in over winter break after a student was struck and killed by a motorist in December.

## Student raises funds to prevent suicide

Deana Harley  
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Maria Miller, a senior at Ursinus, is raising money in an attempt to attend a suicide prevention walk in New York City this coming summer.

Miller says the discussion of suicide is one that doesn't happen enough, and one that is very important to her personally.

"As my close friends already know, in 2007 I attempted suicide and was unsuccessful," Miller wrote on her fundraising page.

Miller explains how she voluntarily placed herself into a psychiatric hospital for six days after her attempt. While there, Miller insisted on not using medication to get through the process, but

## Tragedy prompts Main Street changes

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Over winter break, Ursinus worked in conjunction with the borough of Collegeville and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to install a number of safety measures at the crosswalks. These changes were prompted by the death of sophomore Michelle Buck on Dec. 18, 2015. Buck was hit by a motorist on Main Street as she was crossing the road.

Many of the changes were designed to increase awareness among motorists that they are legally required to yield to pedestrians. There are now bright neon signs indicating the crosswalks to drivers in each direction, as well as an overhead sign with flashing lights.

The college has also stenciled messages to students at the crosswalks urging them to stop and

look both ways before crossing, and is providing reflective patches for students to put on their backpacks and clothing.

*"We're continuing to explore all measures [and] do whatever we can to make Main Street as safe as reasonably possible."*

— Robert Clothier  
Special Assistant to the President

"The goal here was to undertake immediate measures so that they were in place before students returned after winter break," said Robert Clothier, special assistant to the president, referring to the new signs. "And this is just the first step. It's complicated to a degree because Main Street is a state highway, so we have to work with and have been working with the

borough and PennDOT."

In addition to these changes, the college hopes to see significant physical improvements to Main Street by the beginning of the fall 2016 semester, according to Clothier. These include adding more lights, replacing the existing lights with brighter LED lights, and installing "bump outs," which are designed to narrow the road and force cars to slow down.

"We're continuing to explore all measures [and] do whatever we can to make Main Street as safe as reasonably possible," said Clothier. "We welcome everyone's thoughts about what can be done to make it safer."

Despite these measures, many of the upperclassman students living on Main Street still feel unsure about the changes.

"I think it's great, but I think there could be more," said Ben

Susser, a sophomore living in 476. "Not like, 'oh there could always be more,' but like I think maybe a speed bump or something would

See Main Street on pg. 3

See Fundraiser on pg. 2



Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera  
Messages like these to students are part of the new changes.

# Ursinus introduces open-access publishing system

*Lever Press, a network of 40 liberal arts colleges, seeks to make scholarship more easily accessible*

Jay Farrell  
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Ursinus recently announced that it has made a deal with the Lever Press to become a member of the organization. The Lever Press, which is comprised of 40 liberal arts colleges around the country, was formed to create an open-access publishing system.

Currently academic publishing is in a transitional period and initiatives like the Lever Press are working to save the business. The name is an homage to Archimedes' quote, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world." It will allow the schools involved to combine resources that allow them to not only create, but also share and save academic work.

The group is focused on making publishing academic work easier for liberal arts schools, since nearly all of the members of the Association of American University Presses are from large research universities. The idea started from a year-long conversation between the Oberlin Group, which are 80 libraries connected to some of the countries' top liberal arts schools.

When students or academics search for information for any type of research paper, most of the time they cannot expect to enter a topic into Google and find a reliable source. This is because only a few publishing companies have the rights to most academic journals printed every year.

This has created a monopoly over the academic publishing industry, which of course gives the few companies in control the ability to set incredibly high prices on these journals. With such high prices and library budgets being cut every year, most colleges and universities simply do not have the funds to buy these important academic journals.

"As part of a growing international effort toward open access publishing, our support of the Lever Press can be transformative to the ways in which researchers publish their work and others access it," said Ursinus Chief Information Officer Gene Spencer when asked how this deal would affect the average student.

Changing how information is accessed is key for students, but another important aspect will be how researchers can now get more work published. The group will provide opportunities for publication that didn't exist before.

With the funding for many libraries decreasing every year this also represents an issue for how they allocate the limited money they are given.

Now that companies can charge large amounts of money for journals, many libraries are spending money on the journals they can afford. This means that libraries can't spend as much money on books.

Also because of this the average copies per title published by university presses has dropped from 1,500 copies in 1970 to fewer than 200 copies in 2015,

according to Bryn Geffert, a librarian at Amherst College. The Amherst College Press and Michigan Publishing will work as partners with the group.

Many fields have suffered because the scholarship that is essential for mastering the field simply is not available at every college and university. For example, the two biggest fields that are suffering today are the study of slavery and American studies, according to Geffert.

As university presses falter, they are replaced by more expensive commercial presses. Geffert said in a presentation on the issue that "We should be concerned because many, not all, but many commercial presses simply stink."

He goes on to explain that this is because the editing process for university presses is much more stringent than those of commercial publishing.

The Lever Press initiative represents a very important step for colleges and universities fighting for open-access publishing.

Students and researchers will simultaneously benefit as more information will be available to be published and researched. Ursinus students should check the library's website to learn more about the Lever Press and how the college is involved.



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Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran

Maria Miller is raising money in order to attend the Out of the Darkness Walk in NYC this summer to benefit suicide prevention acts.

## Fundraiser continued from pg. 1

rather wanted to do it on her own.

"I refused the medication because I was confident I could work through the problems I was having with the strength of my own mind," she wrote on the site.

Now, four months before her college graduation, Miller is asking for help to raise money to be able to walk in the Out of the Darkness Walk in New York City, where survivors of suicide all walk together for 16-18 miles to bring awareness to the hidden issue.

Miller stresses the importance of actually discussing suicide rather than ignoring the taboo topic, saying that sharing personal stories is a way for survivors to network with each other and get through it.

"A lot of my friends know my struggle with mental health," Miller said. "And I've been fine for years, but I still have that as

my past, and they feel comfortable talking to me about it, so I think that's really important."

Money raised for the walk benefits suicide prevention techniques but also benefits suicide survivors, meaning family members and loved ones who were left behind after a person died from suicide.

*"I refused medication because I was confident I could work through the problems I was having with the strength of my own mind."*

— Maria Miller  
Ursinus senior

To donate to Miller's fund, visit [theovernight.donordrive.com](http://theovernight.donordrive.com) and search for "Maria Miller."

## THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 12

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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All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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

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# Ursinus welcomes alumni as Entrepreneur in Residence

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In an effort to promote entrepreneurship in the classroom, the U-Imagine Center brought back Maureen Cumpstone '79 as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence, and to teach the first ever entrepreneurship class this spring semester.

With the U-Imagine Center reaching its third year, it was only a matter of time before the college decided to hire someone full-time to expand the budding entrepreneurial spirit on campus, be it in the classroom or outside in the real world. The U-Imagine Center also brings onto campus the U-Imagine headquarters, which can be found next to Marzella's Pizza.

Before deciding to work full-time as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Ursinus, Cumpstone's background included 15 years in start-ups in both for-profit and non-profit organizations. She obtained her MBA from LaSalle University in 2010.

Cumpstone chose to come back to Ursinus because of the opportunities it opened up. Having had her hands dirty with entrepreneurship for a significant portion of her life, Cumpstone is ready to bring some of that entrepreneurial spirit back to her alma

mater.

"I grew up in a family business and can remember at an early age scouting out businesses with my dad," said Cumpstone. "I always had a passion to run my own business was fortunate enough to be able to act on that passion and do something that I loved to do for a significant portion of my life."

As the new Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Cumpstone will be assisting with the annual BEAR Innovation competition, providing support and guidance for all participants who are interested and opening opportunities for students to get a taste of what it means to be entrepreneurial, in addition to teaching Entrepreneurship as a class. The U-Imagine Center has proudly hosted the annual BEAR Innovation competition the past two years and is expecting a greater turnout with the new additions to the U-Imagine family. With Cumpstone and the new U-Imagine Center headquarters, students now have the opportunity to receive proper consultation about business ideas and even business planning.

While entrepreneurship among alumni has gotten a lot of popularity, it has yet to be integrated more into the present Ursinus culture. "I had been looking for an opportunity to mentor and guide

passionate young people that have an interest in entrepreneurship," said Cumpstone, "It feels great to be back, so comfortable. It is such a beautiful campus and a great community."

Cumpstone was also a mentor in the 2015 BEAR Innovation competition.

When talking about how she became interested in entrepreneurship, she said "Each of the experiences that I gained provided the skills and expertise needed to be an entrepreneur." Selected from a competitive pool of applicants, Cumpstone stood out as a candidate because of her connection to the college and her love for challenges. Cumpstone is a swimmer, and has been doing ocean and open bay swims within the last several years, showing that her energy and spirit stops at nothing.

With regards to the U-Imagine Center, plans to provide programs and support to students, faculty and alumni who have entrepreneurial interests are currently at the development stage. "My hope for the Center is that it is a collaborative workspace that sparks creativity and new ideas and that it becomes a hub for entrepreneurial development," Cumpstone said.

## Main Street continued from pg. 1

be good. Right at the crosswalk right in front of the school itself because everyone uses that crosswalk."

According to Olivia Keithley, senior resident advisor to Main Street, the RAs have always discussed how to increase awareness among the hundreds of students living on Main Street.

"We always talk about what we are going to tell our residents, what our approach is going to be," said Keithley. "And the approach that I take, and that I think a lot of other RAs take is that unfortunately we can't control the road...So what I always tell people is that I make sure cars are completely stopped before I enter."

Pennsylvania state law requires that drivers yield to pedestrians regardless of whether or not they're in a crosswalk or on the same side of the road, but many students report that this is often not the case.

"The signs help a little bit, but I've still seen a lot of people going crazy fast and not stopping," said Susser.

"Honestly, I think the 'stop' painted on the sidewalk really doesn't do anything because it's usually the cars that aren't stopping for people and not the people running into the road without looking," said Solana Warner, a sophomore living in Zwingli.

In addition to the cars not yielding, many students have witnessed cars driving at speeds far above the speed limit.

"You know, it's tough because people just fly down this road,

they just go so fast...you just watch the cars fly and you wonder what can be done to stop them," said Keithley. "And you watch students cross in the middle of the street not in the crosswalks, and you watch people run across the street, and you watch people when it's snowy and icy do that. So there's so many different angles to it."

"Cars are supposed to yield to pedestrians, so I don't want to convey the message that students have to do something to protect themselves," said Clothier. "I just would caution safety for students because...I'm not sure if cars always realize they have to yield. And even though students may have the right of way, it's better to be safe. Look both ways...do what you can, even though it's on the car not to hit the student."

# International Perspective

## Differences in friendships across cultures

Yuqing Liu  
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During the first week at Ursinus, I was shocked by how students gather. I always saw a group of friends walking together, having meals together, and going to the gym together. The way friends gather in China is completely different from here. That is, in China, friends tend to meet in small groups, always just two people or no more than four.

I found the differences between two different friendship styles so interesting that I determined to find out how it was different. Based on my experience at Ursinus for a few months, I think while Chinese like to encourage their friends all the time and don't tend to talk about anything "private" such as family and work, Americans always speak straightforwardly to friends and share most parts of their life from family, work, etc. I will show two different experiences to explain to you how I drew this conclusion.

The first story was an interesting misunderstanding between me and one of my friends. A few weeks ago, I ate dinner with a friend and then I mentioned that I would have a look in on Reimert to have fun. He told me to be safe. I just wanted to make fun of myself and tell him not to worry, so I said: "Don't worry, I look very safe!" And he said: "Yes, I think so." I was extremely shocked at that moment, thinking: "How can a boy say a girl is ugly in that way!?!?" In China, "I look safe" is a way of saying I'm so ugly that no one is interested in me! So that day I went back to my dorm from Wismer early. Later, I told him about this unhappy experience. He told me in an American's view, this sentence means "I'll be safe," so he wanted to support me! Actually in China, when a girl says that to a friend, she wants them to encourage her like: "Oh no, you're pretty, so take care!" But we finally ironed out the interesting misunderstanding.

Another experience is about

one of my close friends in China. We have been friends for five years. Every vacation we traveled together and we studied together, played computer games together, and went to the gym together every day in high school. But until now, the only thing that I know about his family is that his parents were born in DongBei, a province in China. He believes all family things are private, so when we talked as friends, we barely referred to anything personal. Yet when I talk with my friends at Ursinus, they share all parts of their life with me. They don't mind mentioning family or study or work, they just talk about all the things they want to share with friends and they don't have so many "private" things. For me, talking to friends here is more casual and free because I don't need to worry about mentioning any personal points.

When I first stepped into Ursinus, some Chinese friends on campus said to me that it is so hard to make American friends, and since there are cultural differences between us, it's difficult to communicate with them. What's more, American students are more independent than Chinese students, so sometimes they may not accompany us everywhere. But to me, I think the cultural differences are just an interesting part of making friends here. When I absorb the differences, I can broaden my horizon at the same time. In my point of view, we Chinese students really need to open our hearts to accept and experience a different friendship style. It's a pity to miss chances to make friends with so many friendly people and to enjoy different feelings about different cultures.

*Yuqing Liu '19 is from Beijing, China. She is a member of SASA and loves to cook Chinese food on weekends. Yuqing is studying chemistry and math, and hopes to major in math in the future.*

## ‘Rare bird’ exhibit migrates to Berman

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The idea began with a highway sign. Charles Stainback, director of the Berman Museum, had moved from Florida to Pennsylvania only a few years ago. On drives back to Florida, Stainback would pass an exit for Audubon, PA. Named for the early 19th-century ornithologist, naturalist, and painter John James Audubon, Stainback often wondered what connection the town had to the artist.

Stainback said, “I found out that [Audubon’s] first home in America was four miles away.” This close proximity prompted Stainback to take an interest in the artist, and this interest developed into a new exhibition at the Berman called “Rare Bird: John James Audubon and Contemporary Art.”

“I just got interested in Audubon and his work and trying to think of a way to show his work, but not just show his work. [I wanted to] do something a little innovative,” he said.

Stainback decided that the exhibit would highlight not only Audubon’s work but would also serve to introduce the prospective audience to contemporary art.

The “Rare Bird” exhibit, which opened Jan. 21, features the work of Audubon as well as nine contemporary artists.

“I thought the contrast between a really significant early 19th century artist with artists that are from the early 21st century would [cause] a sort of great rubbing against each other and [would create] a nice dialogue,” Stainback said. These artists include Brandon Ballengée, Walton Ford, Harri Kallio, Nina Katchadourian, Kate MccGwire, James Prosek, Duke Riley, Susannah Saylor and Edward Morris.

The exhibit features a number of different mediums, such as photography, watercolor, drawing, sculpture, film, and even a mural commissioned specifically for the event.

All the art is connected by a common theme: birds.

Although Audubon’s art was not limited exclusively to birds, he is perhaps best known for his book “The Birds of America,” a collection of bird illustrations.

Audubon’s depiction of birds was chosen as the exhibit’s focus.

“I think we all have a fascination with birds. When the visitors see all the different ways in which birds are interpreted and represented in the exhibition, I think it will be an enjoyable, enlightening experience for them,” Stainback said.

He explored art fairs, galleries, and colleague recommendations in order to find the nine contemporary artists featured in the exhibit.

Although there are many artists that focus on bird imagery, only a few fit the aesthetic Stainback had in mind.

“It’s detective work tracking down people,” he said. “You see there’s a certain texture [in the exhibit], there’s some funny pieces, there’s some serious pieces...there are pieces that look like Audubon, there are pieces that don’t look like anything else, it’s a wonderful mix.”

Stainback hopes that including other artists in the exhibit will help to reduce apprehension people often have towards contemporary art.

The exhibit features text panels to better explain more abstract pieces to viewers.

“You say contemporary art and people will typically say they don’t understand it. Once you sort of break the code and understand what the artist is doing then it isn’t so foreign,” he said.

The “Rare Bird” exhibit will also mark the start of a new program for Berman: Berman Conversations.

Each contemporary artist featured in the exhibit has been paired with an Ursinus College professor and both will be invited to the Berman: Berman Conversations.

The artists and professors are not paired based on either’s knowledge of the other’s interests

See **Rare Bird** on pg. 5



Photo courtesy of Ben Allwein

The first destination for Ursinus students who journeyed to Costa Rica was the Palo Verde Biological Station. During their stay at Palo Verde, students explored three different areas: the river, the marsh, and the dry forest. Above, students are seen looking across the marsh at many different bird species.

## Coasting through Costa Rica

*Biology students conducted research outside the classroom over break*

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There is one Ursinus biology class that does not take place in a traditional classroom or lab.

Over winter break, students from the class Biology of the Neotropics escaped the cold and spent 20 days conducting research in Costa Rica.

Hosted by the Organization for Tropical Studies, which provides opportunities for student researchers, the course allowed students to pursue research projects throughout the Costa Rican environment.

Students traveled to five research stations throughout Costa Rica, which offered a wide array of tropical habitats for students to experience.

Dr. Robert Dawley, professor of biology, led 20 students through Costa Rica this year.

While Dr. Dawley can usually be found teaching Biology 101 and CIE 100 to first-year students and co-directing the Center for Science and the Common Good (CSCG), he says he especially enjoys leading students in the Neo-

tropics course through Costa Rica every other year.

Also leading the course was Professor of Biology Dr. Ellen Dawley.

Throughout the fall 2015 semester, students in the course were responsible for learning textbook material in preparation for the trip over winter break.

They took weekly quizzes to ensure that they were ready for real fieldwork.

Students were divided into six research groups, and each group was assigned a specific organism to research, including birds, bats, spiders, ants, lizards, and butterflies.

Now that the students are back at Ursinus, they are each writing an extensive paper on their specific area of research.

“Costa Rica was amazing not only because we were able to study the limitless biodiversity, but also because it gave us a chance to put into practice the techniques and mindset we absorbed during our classroom learning,” said sophomore Ben Allwein.

The students traveled to five

different locations throughout Costa Rica, each of which contained a biological research station where they conducted their work.

The first four days were spent in Palo Verde, an area of extensive wetlands in northwestern Costa Rica.

The students then traveled to Las Cruces, a wet forest, Las Alturas, a rustic forest, and Osa, a Pacific rainforest bordered by tropical beaches.

The final destination was La Selva, a Caribbean rainforest and the research headquarters of the Organization for Tropical Studies.

Senior biology major Liz Cooley was on the “bat team.”

She explained that the students on her team would “catch the bats in mist nets, take the measurements we needed, and then set them free.”

Additionally, the students studied field guides compiled by the Dawleys and took quizzes and practicals on the material they were studying.

They also did data analysis and gave presentations on their

See **Costa Rica** on pg. 5



Photo courtesy of Ben Allwein

Nearing the end of their trip, Ursinus students arrive at Las Alturas Biological Station, a satellite biological field station that is situated 1,500 meters above sea level. The station is equipped to accommodate 27 visitors at a time and is adjacent to the main forest of the Amistad Biosphere Reserve. The students are seen exploring the area around the Las Alturas research facility.

**Costa Rica** continued from pg. 4

findings.

The students also made time to explore their surroundings.

“When we weren’t conducting research, we went on scenic hikes, and we went to the beach in Osa,” said Cooley.

“I absolutely loved the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture of science, nature conservation, and also of the Spanish language and Central American culture,” Allwein said.

In addition to conducting research, Allwein served as a student photographer during the trip. His photos are currently featured on the Costa Rica page of the Ursinus website.

According to Cooley, “This course definitely is fast-paced and

keeps you moving, but it is one of my favorite courses I have taken at Ursinus. The Dawleys are also fantastic professors that have

“I absolutely loved the opportunity to immerse myself in a culture of science, nature conservation.”

— Ben Allwein  
Ursinus Sophomore

mastered teaching this course.”

Allwein added, “I feel like a better student because fieldwork forces you to become more independent and diligent about your own science... Both the science and the perspective I gained from this trip will not soon be forgotten, I think, by any of us.”

**Rare Bird** continued from pg. 4

and their conversations will not be limited to the art featured.

Stainback’s main goal for Berman Conversations is to get faculty and artists engaged in a dialogue.

“It’s not the artist necessarily talking about his or her work. It’s

really about the professor and the artist in conversation, and all I’m asking them to do is just to talk,” he said. “However the conversation goes and wherever the conversation goes that’s fine.”

Artists and professors will be invited to speak throughout the duration of the exhibit, which will last until April 3.

## Word on the Street

*What did you do during the blizzard?*

“I made waffles with my residents, marathon watched Gilmore Girls and FINALLY cleaned my room, because let’s be real I couldn’t go anywhere else.” — Olivia Keithley, 2016

“I stayed inside until I went on a very ill-advised Wawa run Sunday night” — Solana Warner, 2018

“I stayed in bed and read for fun and called my best friend.” — Thanh Phan, 2017

### WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays,  
6 p.m.  
Ritter 141



Photo courtesy of Ben Allwein

Dr. Robert Dawley aids his students in removing a blue-crowned motmot from one of their research nets. While in Costa Rica, Ursinus students were able to research, identify, and photograph dozens of different bird species. Similar to the blue-crowned motmot, many species are brightly colored and have distinct markings.

## Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Lecture - The Power of Public Murals Berman 4 p.m.	Last Day to Add Classes			Early American History Candidate Talk Berman Museum, room 016 4:30 p.m.	UC Ambassador Information Session Bear’s Den 7 p.m.	Pinterest Night Lower Wismer 6 p.m.

# Everyone's an activist on Facebook

Valerie Osborne  
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Last November 13, ISIS launched a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris, which, according to the BBC, resulted in the deaths of 130 people and injured hundreds more. On November 14 Facebook launched an app that allowed Facebook users the opportunity to overlay their profile pictures with a filter of the French flag. Immediately my Facebook feed began to fill up with the French flag.

Facebook notified me of my friends changing profile pictures and under each picture directed the caption, "Change your profile picture to support France and the people of Paris," towards me. However, I chose not to change my profile picture to the tricolored filter. It wasn't that I didn't support Paris; what happened in Paris was a tragedy. I have been to Paris and have several French friends.

I mourned for the people of France, but something about the filters felt wrong. Friday night my newsfeed was filled with news articles. By Saturday night the

news articles had been replaced by profile pictures and hashtags. Suddenly, the Paris attacks felt less like a disaster and more like a trend.

My skepticism towards the Facebook filters grew when I learned that, according to NPR, on November 12, Beirut, Lebanon, was attacked in a double suicide bombing by members of ISIS resulting in the deaths of at least 43 people and the injuries of more than 200 others. Also on November 13 the New York Times reported that Baghdad, Iraq, was also attacked by ISIS in a bombing that killed 26 and left many wounded. Yet, there was no option to change your profile picture to the flag of Lebanon or Iraq. Why are we encouraged to show solidarity for one nation but not others? What was it about the attack on Paris that made it more trend-worthy than the attacks on Lebanon and Baghdad?

Paris is a city that's familiar to us. Beirut and Baghdad are easier to ignore because they feel so distant. ISIS has been terrorizing the Middle East for the past several years; according to the New York

Times, "since the emergence of Islamic State extremists, attacks in Baghdad have taken place almost daily." But as long as that terror stays far away we'd rather our newsfeeds be filled with cat videos and BuzzFeed articles. Terrorism in the West is a tragedy. Terrorism in the Middle East is just news. It's not wrong to grieve for Paris or feel more connected to France, but when we actively choose to mourn one tragedy while ignoring another we're sending the message that the deaths of those distant from us are a lesser tragedy, and ultimately that their lives are less important.

I was also skeptical of the filters because I question their usefulness and the usefulness of Facebook activism in general. We all see those articles our friends post in support of certain causes, or those threads of comment arguments discussing hot issues. Yet, what do these things really do? What did it help for someone to make their profile picture different colors? Changing a profile picture didn't stop the bombings, capture the terrorists, or help to

heal the injured. Sharing an article won't feed a starving child or reverse an unfair trial decision.

Advocating for a cause through likes and comments allows us to feel like we're doing something important in a way that is easy and safe. It gives the illusion that we're doing our part. We post these articles that not only make us feel better about ourselves by making us feel that we're doing something, but that also act as a way to show off our beliefs to other people and garner their approval. This is troublesome because it focuses more attention on the activist than on the cause.

That's not to say that Facebook activism is completely bad or ineffective. Sharing articles and creating conversation is a great way to spread awareness; it can be very beneficial as a tool to spread information and garner support. Yet, even that has its flaws. In his article "Political activities on the Internet: Slacktivism or political participation by other means?" Academy of Finland postdoctoral researcher H.S. Christensen states that social media "merely provides a tool for

the already active; it does not help mobilize previously passive citizens." Sharing an article doesn't help to build support if the only people that read what you share are people that already share your opinions and already take action.

Christensen goes on to explain that social media activism is only effective if it furthers political interest to act, but "obtaining information does not necessarily increase the likelihood of participation outside the Web." If the people reading your shared articles don't take any action, it's not really effective. This addresses my biggest problem with Facebook activism: I worry that for many people Facebook activism acts as a substitute for real activism. They'll settle for reading articles and liking pages without ever really doing anything. Facebook activism becomes a threat to the progress of a cause if everyone decides that sharing an article is enough and no real action occurs.

*Valerie Osborne, class of '18, is an English major and involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Lantern.*

## Letter from an alumnus: Guns

Sean Campbell  
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Twenty years ago I wrote an opinion piece for The Grizzly that asked: "Are guns necessary?" You may ask, "Who does this alum, who I have never heard of nor will ever meet, think he is to write us twenty years later about a topic that can be so polarizing?"

I am an alumnus who sat where you sit now, in Wismer eating lunch while reading The Grizzly (most likely), and who read about the violence that had just occurred in Australia, and wondered why do we do this to ourselves? Why do we need all these guns?

I grew up in a household that had guns, dusty though they were, in my father's closet. I have gone hunting and served in the infantry of our military. I could share my complex views of guns with all of you.

I could point to the endless amount of research that shows wide availability of guns enables

violence. I could point out the low levels of crime and violence that Japan, Germany, and England have with their restrictive gun laws. I could point out how Australia reduced gun violence 200 percent when they passed restrictive gun laws after the Umpqua shooting.

I could point out the counter arguments we hear, such as "guns are allowed by the Constitution," that we need to be able to protect ourselves (from a deer?), that "guns don't kill people, people kill people." (I am pretty sure guns are the tool that kill people just as my computer is allowing me to type this article.) But none of this is material.

When I wrote my article, my father responded by writing to The Grizzly and made the point that guns are here and it's not as simple as saying we shouldn't have them. I had one professor share with me "to keep up the good fight," and another quite directly tell me, "you know your father is right." I gained little to no traction and the

issue was forgotten.

What is material? The benefit of a liberal arts education, and what Ursinus tries to teach us, is to question everything—do not take the status quo or what you hear others say is "fact" at face value. Ursinus gives us the tools we need to think for ourselves and to take action.

It took me some time to reflect and to understand what my father and the professors were saying. Asking a rhetorical question is easy; making a change in the world is hard and requires effort. So the question that I am asking now, and I wish I had asked this question of myself 20 years ago but now pose to you as you prepare to graduate and shape our world and our future, is not "Are guns necessary?" but rather "What are we going to do about them?"

*Campbell graduated in '97 with degrees in politics and history. He was a member of the XPΨ fraternity and currently works in the financial industry.*

## Film Review: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" rates 7/10

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Note, this review contains spoilers. "Luke Skywalker has vanished," reads the opening line of the title crawl from the new Star Wars film "The Force Awakens." Of all the complaints people have about "The Force Awakens" (TFA), the one I've heard and read most is something along the lines of "it does nothing new" or "it copies 'Star Wars: A New Hope' way too much." "The Force Awakens" is one of the most well-made, straightforward action movies I have ever seen, which the movie's openness about Luke's disappearance reflects right from the very start. It goes without saying that fans of the series were going to be impossible to please entirely, so J.J. Abrams and his crew went for the

next best thing: pleasing filmgoers at large.

Star Wars is arguably the most popular franchise of all time. With this kind of brand recognition and rabid fan base, those making the newest film were nothing but smart in making an extremely calculated blockbuster film. Unfortunately, even the best calculated blockbusters come with inherent flaws, as I'm sure the TFA filmmakers are being made painfully aware of by countless bloggers and Twitter users. However, if this initial film is anything to judge by, the newly rebooted franchise is in competent hands, and I am excited for more Star Wars films that hopefully take greater risks.

For full review visit  
[www.ursinusgrizzly.com/  
category/news/opinion](http://www.ursinusgrizzly.com/category/news/opinion)





Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Amanda Palladino '18 finished fourth in the bars with a score of 9.325 in the Bears' last meet against Brockport.

**Gymnastics** continued from pg. 8

son. They are usually competing every weekend for almost two straight months.

This can put incredible strains on the body mentally and physically. "It's all about confidence and believing in yourself, knowing you've worked hard for this," Chavis said. She is confident these are the motivating factors that keep the team moving forward on its quest for victory.

Going into this season, the NCAA and NCGA have implemented new rules for 2016. According to head coach Jeff Schepers, the rules can put some teams at a disadvantage. In gymnastics, each event is based on a 10-point scale, in which 9.5 points are guaranteed for having a set list of stunts incorporated into the routine. The final half point can be gained when the difficulty of the stunts becomes greater than what is expected of the routine.

The disadvantage comes in

when an athlete cannot complete the required stunts in her routine. She is docked a certain number of points per stunt that she cannot complete, and the maximum score she can receive is 10 minus the point value deduction.

Suppose team one has athletes with all 10 point values to begin with and team two has all athletes with 9.8 values. Team two is at a .2 point disadvantage before the meet even starts. This rule, according to Schepers, is going to make things more challenging for the Bears, but he believes they have the ability to overcome the adversity and succeed in competition.

The women have already competed twice this season, but the results were not favorable; they dropped both competitions by slim margins. Schepers is not too concerned about the losses. "Though the in-season meets are important for where you start in the regional meet, the regional

meet is the most important," Schepers said. "It is the qualifier for nationals. You could be first in the country all year long, then not have a great day, that is [what it comes down to]."

Both athletes and coaches alike have very high expectations for this season. "Our goal is to make it to nationals," Schepers said. "We have a lot to live up to. I expect them to do the best gymnastics [the team] can do."

This year the NCGA national gymnastics championship will be held at SUNY-Brockport in Brockport, NY. Here the Bears will have the opportunity to show off their skills and to become national champions as a team.

The season should be fruitful for the Bears, with a host of talent ranging from freshmen to seniors. The Bears are looking to assert their dominance on the national platform. Their next meet will be at West Chester University on Friday, Jan. 29.

**Track** continued from pg. 8

need great contributions from some of their top talent, especially in a conference that includes some of the best teams in the nation.

This year's team has high hopes, and as mentioned previously wants to place among the top at the indoor conference championship meet later this season. "We want to place higher as a team at the conference championship and qualify as many individuals for the conference championship," Blickle said.

Gasser echoed her coach, stating that the team "hopes to place in the top three in the conference." With the level of talent that the team has on the track and in the field, the Bears certainly have the ability to achieve their goals, and the early foundation for this success is being built with hard work at practice and some solid results in the early season meets.

Last Friday night, as the blizzard was bearing down on Collegeville, the Bears were competing in their second indoor track and field meet of the season. Early season track and field meets can be a bit of a wild card as the athletes are just getting back into the groove, but the Bears still saw plenty of good performances at the annual Collegeville Classic. In a meet that included Division

1 talent, and some of the top athletes in the area, the Bears had a respectable seventh-place finish.

Some of the standout performances came from Prijs, who placed fourth in the 200-meter dash, and ninth in the 400-meter dash. Prijs was first among finishers from the Centennial Conference in the 200. Cooley placed second in the pole vault, clearing a height of 9-05.75. Gasser and sophomore Jenna Kelly both placed seventh in their events, running the 400- and the 800-meter dashes, respectively. Kelly, Engel, Gasser, and Gabrielle Manto teamed up to win the distance medley relay.

"Through two meets I am very proud of the team," Gasser said. "Personally I have been doing well, but there is plenty of room for improvement." Coach Blickle seemed happy with his team's performance, saying, "Overall I think we are in a good place to build off of."

The team's hard work is paying off, and the results are visible on the track and in the field. The Bears have the potential to be one of the top teams in the conference and the next couple of weeks will be big for the program. The Bears return to action Saturday, Jan. 30, when they travel to George Mason to compete in the Patriot Games Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Grace Steel

Brittany Gasser '19 (above) teamed up with Riley Engel '19, Gabrielle Manto '19, and Jenna Kelly '18 to place first in the distance medley relay in the Collegeville Classic last weekend.

**Scores as of Monday, Jan. 25**

M Basketball (7-9)	W Basketball (7-9)	Wrestling (9-3)	M&W Track & Field	Gymnastics (0-2)	M Swimming (9-3)	W Swimming (11-0)
<b>Jan. 16 @ Johns Hopkins</b> UC: 54, JH: 76 Remi Janicot: 14 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist	<b>Jan. 16 @ Johns Hopkins</b> UC: 50, JH: 64 Jess Porada: 14 points, 10 rebounds, 1 block	<b>Jan. 17 vs. Centenary and Scranton @ University of Scranton</b> UC: 34, Scranton: 6 UC: 39, Centenary: 13	<b>Jan. 22 Collegeville Classic</b> Highlights: Senior Erich Keyser finished third in the 60-meter hurdles, while fellow senior Liz Cooley placed second in the pole vault.	<b>Jan. 16 @ Brockport</b> UC: 185.075, Brockport: 186.650 Highlights: Lauren Chavis placed first in the bars, Alexandra Puryear placed first in the balance beam, and Monique Brooks and Tina Steffenhagen shared the vault title.	<b>Jan. 16 @ Albright</b> UC: 117, Albright: 88 Highlights: Junior Marcus Wagner finished first in the 500-yard freestyle and 1,650-yard freestyle, and was later named Centennial Conference Men's Swimmer of the Week.	<b>Jan. 16 @ Albright</b> UC: 162, Swarthmore: 95 Highlights: Freshman Peyton Lyons won the 200-yard individual medley and contributed to the first-place finish in the 400-yard medley relay.
<b>Jan. 20 vs. Haverford</b> UC: 83, Haverford: 76 Malik Draper: 19 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals.	<b>Jan. 20 @ Haverford</b> UC: 50, Haverford: 52 Caroline Shimrock: 13 points, 8 rebounds.					

# Women's indoor track and field ready to run

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As the season begins to kick into high gear, the Ursinus College women's track team is making huge strides as it hopes to be one of the top teams in the conference. The team returns many of its top contributors and has added several talented freshman athletes who are ready to make an impact.

The Bears are led by second-year head coach Carl Blickle and his assistants, Maggie Brill (sprints and hurdles), Miles Burrell (throwing events), Matt Kade (jumps), and Crystal Burnick (distance). Blickle had high praise for his group of assistants, saying, "I'm excited about our assistants. They do a great job preparing our athletes to compete at a high level." The team will also look toward captains Krista Snyder, Liz Cooley, Alicia Baker, and Kristen Prijs for leadership.

Across the board, the Bears' roster is filled with talent. The senior captain, Snyder, is the defending outdoor conference champion in the heptathlon, and come conference time she has the ability to score points in many events for the Bears. Snyder was awarded first-team all-conference in the heptathlon and second-team all-conference after last year's outdoor season.

For the sprinting events, the

team will be led by Prijs, who, according to coach Blickle, is one of the top 200 and 400 meter athletes in the conference. Prijs was named to the all-conference honorable mention team in the 400-meter dash. Ursinus also returns two-sport athlete (soccer and track) Erin Farrell, who is the defending conference champion and was named first team all-conference in the 200-meter dash at the conclusion of last year's outdoor season.

In the longer races, the Bears will look for contributions from the freshman duo of Brittany Gasser, who runs in the 400- and 800-meter dashes, and Riley Engel, who competes in distance events. "Personally, I want to set some personal records and be a top contributor on the team," Gasser said. These two talented runners have the ability to help push the team to the top of the conference.

The Bears are strong on and off the track, and they hope to be vaulted to the top of the standings thanks to Cooley, who is one of the top pole vaulters in the Centennial Conference. In the jumping events, the team returns Kimmie Snow in the high jump and has high hopes for freshman Caroline Buckley in the jumping events. In order to be a top team in the conference, the Bears will

See **Track** on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Ursinus' Lindsay Rush '19 practices on the bars. The Bears' last meet against Ithaca, scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 24, was cancelled due to the snow storm.

# Vaulting into action

*Gymnastics looks for another strong season after second place finish at last year's national competition*

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The women of the Ursinus gymnastics team are back once again this season in hopes of dominating the competition scene. The 2015 campaign was a tremendous one for the Bears. It included a second-place finish on the national stage and seven All-Americans along with two national qualifiers. The Bears are looking to capitalize on the momentum generated at the end of last season to propel them back into the national ranks.

Ursinus is returning six All-Americans, including senior captain Tina Steffenhagen, junior captain Jill Casarella, and junior Vanessa Scalora, along with both national qualifiers. This will give the Bears experience that can help them succeed as a team as well as on the individual level. This experience will be needed as the ladies are competing against several Division I teams, including Temple, Towson and Rutgers.

The Bears did take a sizable hit from graduation, losing six starters on the squad, all of whom regularly contributed to their high

point values. "Their hearts and spirits will never be replaced, but their scores can be," said junior captain Lauren Chavis. She attests that the class of 2018 is bringing a wealth of experience and talent to the table.

Gymnastics is unique because it has a very short competition season. The Bears only compete from January until March, but they train year round. Unlike most teams that have longer seasons, they do not have a break to rest and regroup during the sea-

See **Gymnastics** on pg. 7

## Upcoming Games

Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Gymnastics @ West Chester University, 6 p.m.	M Basketball vs. Dickinson, 1 p.m.	M&W Track and Field @ Patriot Games Invitational, George Mason University			W Basketball @ Swarthmore, 6 p.m.	M Basketball @ Swarthmore, 8 p.m.
	M&W Swimming vs. Washington College, 1 p.m.					
	Wrestling vs. Muhlenberg/McDaniel/USMA/Washington and Lee @ Muhlenberg					

