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The Grizzly, August 28, 2008

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The Grizzly

Thursday, August 28, 2008

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

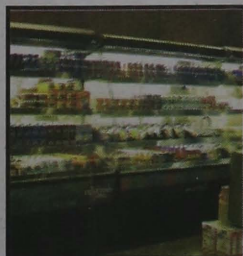


Welcome to UC, Class of 2012

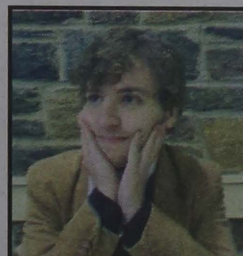
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Ursinus welcomes Class of 2012: the largest in history

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The buzz about the incoming freshman class has become a reality: on August 21, the 540 members of the Ursinus College Class of 2012 began moving in. Despite the outstanding fact that they are the largest class Ursinus has ever seen, their other characteristics continue on in the Ursinus traditions of high academic standards and involvement.

While the gender distribution of the class, 55% female and 45% male, is about average, the number of students who graduated in the top ten percent of their high school class has increased to 48%. While the numbers are impressive – especially with 206 National Honor Society Members and 13 class presidents – this class is remarkable for more than those statistics (while we're at it though: those 40 newspaper staff members better come check out a Grizzly meeting this semester!).

There has been some concern about preparing the campus to receive so many new students at once, but Admissions and Residence Life have worked together along with Campus Safety and other important organizations on campus to assure that there is space for all students. The Class of 2012 will be residing in Brodbeck-Wilkinson-Curtis, Beardwood-Paisley-

Stauffer, New Hall, and also Sprinkle. The size of this class had not been entirely expected in the admissions process, so some readjustments have been made over the summer in order to accommodate the new class in terms of residence and also CIE sections and scheduling.

Like most incoming college students, these freshmen have a lot on their minds. Helen Sieracki, an undeclared freshman from Annapolis, Maryland is hopeful that CIE will be "a good place to discuss not only great texts, but the philosophies behind them," and looks forward to the discussions that are sure to result from the coursework.

Emily Dugan, an incoming psychology major from New York City, feels that a lot of the fears generally associated with entering college are eased because of the inviting atmosphere that Ursinus offers. "I've met so many wonderful people so far who I can't wait to get to know even better."

According to Bob McCullough, Dean of Admissions here at Ursinus, the Admissions Office had intended to gradually increase the sizes of the incoming classes over a period of a few years. While the number of enrollments from top students was somewhat higher than had been expected for this semester, the administrators were pleased to see so many interested and interesting students matriculate.

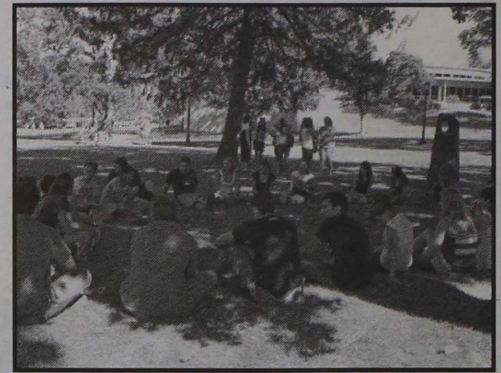


Photo by Kristin Daly-Barnes

Members of the Class of 2012 meet on the lawn in front of BWCs as part of their Orientation Week activities.

"In true Ursinus tradition, everyone did their part to pull together so that we could accept the class of 2012 and offer them the best experience that we can," said McCullough. "And that really says a lot about Ursinus' ability to draw in really great students."

To the class of 2012, on behalf of The Grizzly: welcome to Ursinus College.

Students embrace unique summer research opportunity

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Some students walk off campus in May into a relaxing summer of reading on the beach. Others are simply happy to have a break from classes, even if it means working a horrible minimum wage job, and many take on grueling internships in an attempt to get a few steps closer to a successful life after Ursinus. For a select few, however, summer meant spending their time on campus and working on special projects.

For the months of June and July, 70 Ursinus students participated in the Summer Fellowship Program. Summer Fellows is a wonderful opportunity to earn some money and, more importantly, gain experience through a unique undergraduate research

project and a creative or artistic endeavor for which they have faculty mentors.

Generally speaking, the Summer Fellows experience is looked on with pride and gratitude. "There are very few times (if any) in the average person's life when they can get paid to research what most interests them with an experienced academic in their field," says Karen Boedecker, a junior who analyzed ultra-orthodox Jewish women and their relationships to faith and feminism in contemporary literature.

Another participant, Jenny Kostishion, explained that Summer Fellows gave her an opportunity to do further research into her honors project on how the Nazi occupation of Vichy France affected the lives of Jewish children living there at the time. Kostishion felt the research allowed for a stronger, more credible paper.

"There is no way I would have been able to do the historical research on top of my other classes this coming semester," she said.

A third student recommends Summer Fellows "to anyone who is passionate about a particular topic or subject and has the dedication to put the effort in." Jacquelyn Gitzes, who studied the causes of the Bosnia ethnic cleansing, also claims that the program is a great start for anyone interested in an honors project.

With a \$2,400 stipend and a room on campus, what student wouldn't want the kind of life experience these women have described? Summer Fellows not only fills you with interesting bits of knowledge, but as Kostishion said, it is "great preparation for future internships or life after graduating from Ursinus."

Visit the Ursinus website for more details.

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member's review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

Professor Chris Aiken, Theater & Dance
Professor Mark Ellison, Chemistry
Professor Holly Gaines, Music
Professor Leah Joseph, Environmental Studies
Professor April Kontostathis, Mathematics and Computer Science
Professor Matthew Kozusko, English
Professor Shannon Mudd, Business & Economics
Professor Kelly Sorensen, Philosophy & Religion
Professor Cathy Young, Theater & Dance

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Dean Judith T. Levy, Office of the Dean by October 10, 2008.

The Grizzly

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Summer 2008: some headlines you might have missed

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Welcome back, fellow Ursinus students! Feel like you've fallen out of touch with current events while you were busy with that exciting internship, vacation, or research on campus this past summer? Don't fret; the Grizzly has got you covered. Below you will find some of the major national and international events that you may have missed between June and August 2008.

June 3, 2008 Obama becomes the Democratic Presidential Nominee

Sorry Hillary supporters, on the last day of the 2008 primary season, Senator Barack Obama became the prospective Democratic Presidential Nominee. Obama won the support of the 2,118 delegates needed to be nominated at the Democratic National Convention in August.

Senator Obama's nomination marks a historical milestone, as he is the first African American candidate to head a major party ticket in a presidential nomination. Just four days later, Hillary Clinton backed out of the race and publicly began endorsing Obama for the presidency. (<http://www.infoplease.com/world/events/2008/jun.html>).

June 16, 2008 California Begins Performing Same-Sex Marriages

On May 16, 2008, the California Supreme Court overturned two state laws that had allowed only men and women to be married. A 4-3 decision of the court deemed

that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to same-sex couples, which allowed them to have many of the same benefits as marriage. Lesbian activist Phyllis Lyon, 84 and her partner, Del Martin, 87 were the first same-sex couple to be married after the ban on same-sex marriage was lifted. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/16/us/16marriage.html?partner=rssnyt>)

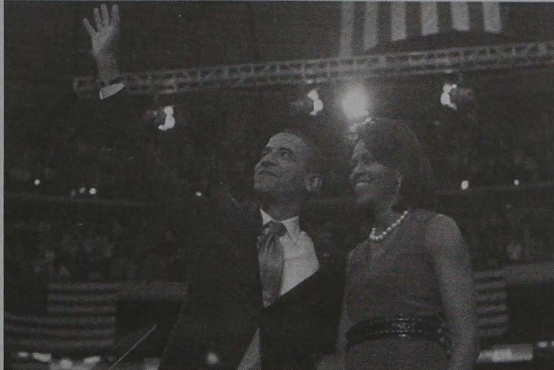


Photo of The Obama's courtesy of The New York Times.

July 8, 2008 Leaders of Richest Nations Agree to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In Rusutsu, Japan, the "group of eight," the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, and Russia set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2050.

This agreement is quite an accomplishment, considering this is the first time the Bush administration has publicly supported long term goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On Wednesday, July 9, 2008, leaders of developing countries met as well to discuss goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, they did not set any specific goals or support the group of eight's decision entirely. Some critics and climate experts are shaking their heads in disappointment, however, upset by the group of eight's failure to make more short-term goals. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/science/earth/09climate.html>).

July 29, 2008 Senator Ted Stevens Indicted on Seven Felony Counts

Alaskan Republican Senator Ted Stevens, 84, was indicted on seven felony counts of concealing over a quarter of a million dollars in house renovations and gifts from a powerful oil contractor that lobbied him for

government aid. According to prosecutors, the oil services contractor VECO, performed construction on Stevens' home, including remodeling to the first floor, adding a garage and wraparound deck, and repairs to the home's plumbing and electrical wiring. Additionally, Stevens allegedly accepted a gas grill, furniture, tools, and a new Land Rover from VECO. Some worry that Senator Stevens' felony counts might impair Republican prospects in the November Presidential election (http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5imj_wFFOOGWsLjY9pvVWN-FcG-ZgD9270A4G0).

August 8, 2008 Violence Breaks Out In Georgia

Fighting broke out between Russia and the Democratic Republic of Georgia, on August 8th, when Georgia launched a military strike on the province of South Ossetia, hoping to reclaim it after 16 years of partial independence. In response to the strike, Russia sent tanks into the province, claiming that Georgians had killed Russian peacekeepers.

When questioned about the decision to attack South Ossetia, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili alleges that Moscow took advantage of the situation to invade his country while the world was focused on the Olympics (http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-08-question-answer_N.htm).

August 17, 2008 Swimmer Michael Phelps Breaks Record with Eights Gold Medal

U.S. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, 23, won his eighth gold medal in Beijing, making him the highest achieving Olympian of all time with 14 gold medals. Phelps' performance in the 4x100m medley relay on August 17th put him above Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Former Olympic champion Mark Spitz has talked of Phelps as "the greatest racer who ever walked the planet. Try to keep yourselves under control, ladies (<http://www.usmagazine.com/news/michael-phelps-breaks-record-with-eighth-gold-medal>).

Academic insight into the lighter side of Ramadan

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Restraint, reflection, retreat. Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, bring these to mind. But there are other features of Ramadan and Islam as well, a religion of both "holy days" and holidays.

This year Ramadan 1429 AH (2008 CE) begins on Monday, September 1. Islam still follows a true lunar calendar, one that moves eleven days "backward" every year. Some years Ramadan is in the middle of summer; many years later it will be in winter.

Muslims give several reasons for the Ramadan fast – including feeling solidarity with the poor, spiritual discipline, and even a good way to diet (!) – but the basic reason is the same one behind all religious law: Because God says to do it. The Qur'an says, "O you who believe: Fasting is required of you as it was of those before you... Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed... I will answer the prayers of all who call upon Me" (2:183-186).

Fasting is not unique to Islam. In the early Christian church, fasting was abstaining from food for

the whole day on certain dates. Older Americans remember the days when Christians, especially Roman Catholics, fasted from meat on Fridays. I remember Friday was "Fish Stick Day" in my home. It should be added that observant Jews, in addition to Yom Kippur, fast for several other days each year (two days are from sunset to sunset; four are sunrise to sunset) as well as engage in voluntary fasts for atonement, mourning, or to express gratitude to God.

Ramadan is a time to heal broken relationships and to renew one's faith. During the daylight hours, nothing is taken into the body. This means no eating, drinking (including water), smoking, or sex from sunrise to sunset. After sunset, however, people feast with family, friends, and neighbors. Marital relations resume with a passion. One also fasts from lies, gossip, and bad language so there is, ideally, an atmosphere of peace in the air. Fasting is not obligatory for children, the ill, the elderly, travelers, nor for women who are menstruating, pregnant or nursing. Adults are required to make up missed fast days. But for those with chronic illness, the compensation is to give two average daily meals (or the cash equivalent) to someone in need.

Special evening prayers fill the mosques, especially for *Laylat al-Qadr*, the 27th of Ramadan. Muslims believe their fate for the coming year is sealed that night, the night the Qur'an was "sent down" from the highest heaven.

In Ramadan, like between Thanksgiving and New Year's here, not much work gets done in Muslim societies. Universities adjust their class hours to clear the afternoon for napping. Before Ramadan begins, people clean and redecorate their homes. There are fireworks and the streets are festooned with lights. Children go door to door and collect sweets and coins in Ramadan "lamps." It is like having thirty days of Halloween.

At Ramadan's end, Muslims celebrate their biggest holiday, Eid al-Fitr (Holiday of Breaking the Fast). This year it will be October 1 - 3. It is marked by an Eid Prayer service at a mosque. The cultural expectation is that everyone must wear all brand-new apparel "from the skin out," so to speak. Muslims at this time give a fixed

"The Lighter Side of Ramadan" is continued on Features Page 5.

That dream internship just might be within your reach

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Imagine landing your dream job right out of college. Although it sounds near impossible, the right internship could make your dreams come true. Ursinus' own Career Services lends some internship tips for interested students.

"The people that have great internships are the people that plan ahead," said internship coordinator Jennifer Huber. She explained that most summer internship applications are due during the fall semester. "Keep tuned in with the deadlines and what's going on around you," said Huber.

It is not an easy task keeping track of a rigorous academic workload while meeting application deadlines, however, the reward is well worth it. Filling out that long application could be the last ingredient to achieving sweet internship success. It worked for me last fall when I filled out an application for the summer session at CBS 3.

After I finished the application process, I was happy to be accepted into my first internship program. I reported to

CBS 3 and The CW broadcast stations three days a week. I was accepted into their Creative Services department where I worked with graphic designers, producers, and editors. Each Friday I belonged to the Communications department where I wrote press releases and distributed news clippings around the station.

For the remainder of the week, I reported to The Philadelphia Public Record where I worked as a copy editor and junior reporter. After a summer of working in the communications field, I learned that it is important to pick a career path that truly makes you happy. Money certainly is not everything when it comes to picking the right job or internship.

Huber explained the true meaning of "pay" when it comes to internships. "Pay is not necessarily money. Pay could mean getting your foot in the door." She emphasized that compensation is not always equivalent to cash in the world of internships. Sometimes you have to work for free in order to get paid down the line. I learned this first-hand as I worked for free from the end of May to the end of August. It was not easy, but I realized that this summer could in fact be my gateway into the working communications field.

Career Services also mentioned "getting your foot in the door" at a place you could see yourself working in the future. It saves some time and heartache for college students trying to tap into the work world. It could also be the push you need to land the job of your dreams in a competitive field.

For the student pursuing an upcoming internship, remember to plan in advance and picture yourself working at your internship destination. Always remember to maintain excellent communication with your faculty advisor and your internship supervisor. That same supervisor will hopefully be signing off on your paycheck someday.

If you have any questions regarding internships, job opportunities or interview help, please feel free to contact Career Services at careerservices@ursinus.edu. In addition, watch future issues of the Grizzly for the weekly "Career Corner" column.

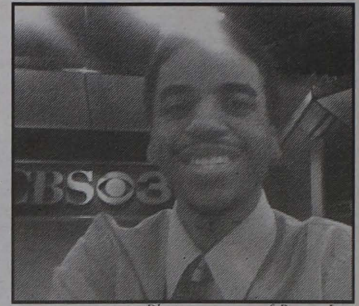


Photo courtesy of Roger Lee

"The people that have great internships are the people that plan ahead. Keep tuned in with the deadlines and what's going on around you."

Berman exhibitions: Watercolors and working women

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While the campus may not have been occupied by many students this summer, the Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College drew many visitors to its exhibits, and will continue to do so throughout the fall season.

From May 28-August 24, the Berman showed a Walter Inglis Anderson Retrospective Exhibition titled "Everything I See is New & Strange" in the Main Gallery. It was made possible by an American Masterpieces Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Epps Advertising.

"Everything I See is New & Strange" is an NEA Masterpieces touring show of about 70 pieces of art by Walter Anderson. This much-praised exhibit has just been removed from the Berman and will be moving along next to the Peninsula Fine Arts Center in Newport News, VA this winter.

Finishing off the summer in the Berman is a photography exhibit that's sure to get your mind off of the lack of air conditioning in the residence halls. Icescapes: Photographs of Antarctica by Richard Ellis is the account of one

retired Psychology Professor's photographic expedition to the Antarctic in 2002.

The exhibition includes 35 full color photographs of what Ellis described as "the most fulfilling adventure" of his life, recording "rapid changes of light, color, hue, intensity" of icebergs and other water and ice formations, as well as the wildlife of the region. This exhibit will run until August 29.

Even if you haven't had a chance to catch the current exhibits at the Berman, the Fall 2008 Exhibition Series is certain to be one that will draw in and fascinate visitors. "Women's Work?: Two Exhibitions Looking at Women's Bodies of/as Work" will provide much intellectual and artistic stimulation as well as serve as an addition to many curricula at the college.

"Working Women: Quilts from the Collection of Judy Roche" will hang in the Main Gallery from September 14-December 7, while the Upper Gallery will house Tamar Stone and Christine LoFaso's exhibit "Women's Bodies of/as Work". These exhibitions will use the products of women's work as a way to understand the domestic sphere, as well as to rethink the perception of women's bodies in the past and present. The Quilt Collection will include various nineteenth-century quilts that will serve as both concrete visual representations of the lives of women in the period as



Photo by Kristin Daly-Barnes

An inside look at *Icescapes*, a photographic exhibit by Richard Ellis which was housed in the Front Gallery of the Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College from June 27- August 29.

well as a metaphorical look into their stories.

According to the Berman Museum of Art Exhibition descriptions, the works in both exhibitions "focus on the intersections of fabric, fabrication, and the body...as a way of reforming our perceptions of them".

These exhibits, as well as the museum in general, are open for students to browse during regular hours.

Any questions regarding exhibitions or the museum in general can be directed to Susan Shifrin at sshifrin@ursinus.edu.

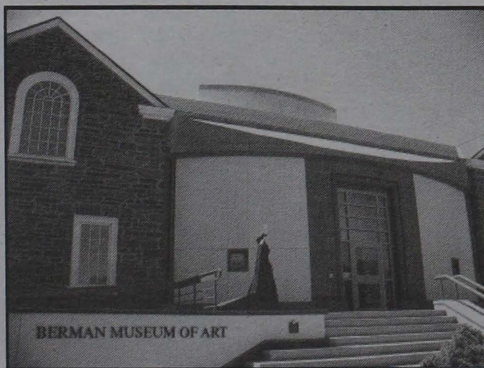


photo by Kristin Daly-Barnes

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New dining options at Ursinus a matter of convenience

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To help usher in the fall at Ursinus, dining services is proud to present *Smart Market*. The new convenience store is open for business 7 days a week from 11am to 11pm.

Smart Market is a new addition to the Dining Services offerings here on campus. New and popular foods are filling the refrigerators of the newly designed convenient store located in the lower level of Wismer adjacent to Zack's.

This store is home to just about anything imaginable including cereals, soups, Ramen noodles, frozen pizza, microwavable items, lunch meat, chips, ice cream, and even charcoal. This is all in an initiative to give students an on campus alternative to shopping elsewhere.

"There is a large population of students without cars," said Dining Services General Manager Ron Wood. In an effort to offer students additional services during their campus stay, dining services and administration decided to meet the need for a new store.

The new store provides easy access to items sold in popular stores like Wawa. The prices are comparable and the payment options include cash, flex and dining dollars.

Grab & Go items previously available in Zack's have been relocated to the Jazzman's Grab & Go. Suggestions for those items are welcomed.

Smart Market came into being through the help of Facility Services and the architecture firm that designed Zack's restaurant. The layout of the store and product offerings came from Ron Wood and Marianne DiEgidio.

They worked to fill the new store with staple items not previously available on campus.

Marianne DiEgidio explained that "the new store is a convenient way for everyone to do their grocery shopping without leaving the campus."

Another reason to stay on campus is the new dining option known as *Sandella's*. With the record breaking class of 2012 on the scene, Zack's needed a new dining option to serve more students. *Sandella's* exists in some of Ursinus' sister schools in the district, like Cabrini College, Delaware Valley College and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. They have had success with their popular quesadillas and wraps.



Photo by Kristin Daly-Barnes

Smart Market employee Debbie Borden poses behind the counter of the newest addition in dining options to Ursinus.

Dining services is hoping that the same success will carry over to Ursinus this fall. With an all new menu of flatbread sandwiches & wraps, quesadillas, salads & hot rice bowls

offered at every meal, *Sandella's* is on its way to college success.

"This is an additional service to the students," said Ron Wood. The food items and convenience store products were all derived from student suggestions.

Last spring, over 400 students took part in an online survey that served as a blueprint for this fall's sales items. The dining services staff is

open to new suggestions from students on sales items for *Smart Market*, as well as general Dining Services-related suggestions and/or comments. These can be submitted at <http://foods-services.ursinus.edu/contact.html>.

UC Theater and Dance departments have lined up a full season for review

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Its lights, camera, action this fall for Ursinus Theater and Dance. With a host of new theater productions, dance concerts, and the upcoming fringe festival, this semester will be one to remember.

Things kicked off earlier this week with the open auditions for two new productions. Theater Professors Beverly Redman and Domenick Scudera held joint auditions for their upcoming productions. Each show has a unique plot and character list that will surely challenge the Ursinus actors.

Professor Redman is directing David Mamet's *Sexual Perversion* in Chicago. In the play, Mamet explores what it means to be a male. He examines relationships from a male domineering perspective. This exploration involves a bit of humor to help dilute the brutal misogyny that takes place in the play. *Sexual Perversion* is a little over an hour and takes place in one act. "It features two male and female characters that never leave the stage," said Professor Redman. She added that it is important to look at Mamet's exploration of the male while viewing the play. "Mamet is an important contemporary playwright in the United States," smiled Professor Redman.

After selecting the cast, rehearsals will begin in the near future and conclude with performances on October 1-4 in the Kaleidoscope Black Box.

Also coming to the Black Box is Elmer Rice's 1923 classic *The Adding Machine*. Professor Scudera is directing the impressionistic play that will have audiences questioning the meaning of life. The play has an interesting style and is open to interpretation. "There is room for lots of interpre-

tation on the idea of human reliance on technology," added Professor Scudera. He feels that although the play takes place in the 1920s, the play's design and themes are very applicable to today. There is a large cast and several roles available for men and women. Professor Scudera concluded, "You don't know where this play is going!" The unpredictable caper hits the stage November 12-15.

The Adding Machine will take place just one week before *The Ursinus College Dance Company (UCDC)* premieres in the Lenfest Theater. This semester's production features the work of Dance Professor Chris Aiken and two new guest artists. Colleen Thomas, the wife of contemporary choreographer Bill Young, is a modern dance icon. She is on the A-List of sought after choreographers in New York City. Thomas has worked with the Bill T. Jones Dance Company and BeBe Miller. She is making her way to Ursinus College the week of Sept. 13 to set a dance work at Ursinus.

Joining Thomas is the internationally known ballerina Sally Rousse. She is a ballet dancer and choreographer with numerous credits to her name. Her works have been supported by numerous foundations including Harvard's American Repertory Theater, Omaha Ballet, Nickelodeon, and the Jerome Foundation. Rousse is coming to Ursinus the week of Sept. 28 to set her work on Ursinus dancers.

With all the theater and dance coming to Ursinus this fall, the campus will continue to thrive with artistic excitement. For more information on show dates, tickets, and shows, contact the Ursinus Theater and Dance Department box office at 610-409-3795.

"The Lighter Side of Ramadan", continued from News Page 3.

...percentage of their wealth and property in charity. They visit the older members of their families and neighbors. Children receive gifts of cash and most people exchange presents with family and friends, so toward the end of the month people go into a shopping frenzy like before Christmas for Christians.

It sounds funny, but Islamic law even contributes to how the holiday is celebrated. The rule is: Have fun! In several American cities, the Muslims will rent out a major amusement park for the first day of Eid. Here in Philadelphia, Muslims have reserved Penn's Landing for Islamic hip-hop concerts, BBQ, and games. In Islamic history, Eid was a problem for the old Sufi ascetics. It was forbidden for them to preach hellfire, to fast, to exude body odor, or to wear shabby clothes. And they had to put on a happy face whenever they ran into another person!

The Muslim greetings for Ramadan are simple. You don't wish that it pass quickly or that it be easy. You say *Ramadan Mubarak!* (Have a blessed Ramadan) and the response is *Ramadan Kareem!* (You, too). If you have a Muslim friend it would be kind for you not to flaunt your cappuccinos and burgers in front of them during the day. The Muslim Students Association (MSA) will have events to celebrate Ramadan during September. Campus-wide emails about Ramadan dinners will be sent out soon.

Dr. Barbara von Schlegell is the Wright Lecturer in Middle East Studies. She teaches Arabic, Gender and Women's Studies and Islamic Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

Obamanomics for the United States? No thank you.

CHRISTOPHER SCHAEFFER

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Yes, it is true, Mr. Obama has dazzled America in recent months. The young Senator's obvious intelligence and refreshingly adept public speaking skills have reminded many of the charm of J.F.K. — a beacon for change in a disaffected America. The man claims to stand for progress, promising America that he can right the wrongs of the Bush administration and pull the economy out of the gutter. But has anyone actually looked into how he plans to accomplish this? As the election draws ever closer, it is becoming increasingly clear how little Obama actually knows about being President of the United States — especially when it comes to domestic economic policy.

The Obama tax plan would probably be something of a good running joke among most economists if there wasn't such a frighteningly real threat of it being implemented. Let me break it down for you: if he gets his way, Obama will essentially raise income taxes across the board for almost all of the upper-middle and upper class. The top marginal tax rate on earnings (35%) will increase to 39.6%. Additionally, Obama will do away with itemized deductions for higher earners and uncap the Social Security tax (which currently cuts off at the first \$102,000 of earnings). Further punishing high earners, he will jack up capital gains taxes significantly. This would also hurt virtually all businesses (especially small ones — the bread and butter of our economy) by hampering investment. Thus, the ripple effects would be felt by all non-government employees (especially the lower

classes) as businesses contract and jobs are cut. Stanford economist Michael J. Boskin's data demonstrates the impact of the changes. Currently the highest earners in California (which has a very high state income tax) pay about 44.6% of their income to the government. Under an Obama administration (which includes an uncapped Social Security tax as high as 12.4%), that number would jump to a staggering 62.3% — among the highest rates in the civilized world. This would allow hard-working Americans to keep just 37 cents of every dollar they earn. That's a 32% drop in take home pay.

Now, many of you are saying to yourselves, "So what? I'm not rich, and I don't plan on being rich any time soon." Well, friends, it doesn't take a Stanford economist to realize that the richest people in this country create the vast majority of the businesses, wealth, and jobs that the rest of the population depends upon. "Taxing the rich" is a popular political stance these days, perhaps because it satisfies some irrational human desire to hurt those that are more successful than ourselves. In reality, taxation of the rich hurts every sector of society. Honestly, as students of a prestigious higher education institution, why shouldn't we celebrate those who have chased the American dream? Many of us have aspirations to gain professional degrees, or start busi-

nesses, or become executives — all hoping to make lots and lots of money. And despite what any Robin Hood politician says, there's not a damn thing wrong with that. The U.S. doesn't maintain one of the highest standards of living and the most powerful economy in the world by taxing the life out of every successful citizen. This nation is built on success, not income redistribution.

Despite Mr. Obama's all-star education at Columbia, he still seems to have almost no sure grasp of basic economic principles — as his policies violate them left and right.

"It is becoming increasingly clear how little Obama actually knows about being President of the United States—especially when it comes to domestic economic policy."

Pillaging the earnings of the most productive members of the economy is a recipe for disaster, not a strategy to save the economy. What America needs is for the wealthiest members of society to have incentive to step up, invest, and grow American businesses. The best way to support this is by lowering taxes and other barriers to the free market. Such a plan benefits every American, not just the upper earners, as jobs and wealth are created everywhere.

While Barack Obama may claim to stand for change, his economic policy represents nothing new. Sadly, liberal politicians have been pushing this tax and spend ideology for years. Don't be fooled — this kind of big government does nothing but hurt the middle class, and that is the last direction this country should be headed.

Who are you kidding? You know you love ABBA

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I think it's been hammered well-enough into our generations' collective assumptions that music is, let's face it, often a statement of style and character. I'm not going to be blowing any minds, I don't think, when I suppose that you'd treat somebody strutting their stuff in a Skynyrd t-shirt a little differently than you would a cute girl with a Dan Deacon pin on her purse. And I mean, let's face it, it's hard work. But we all come to genuinely love the cults we attach ourselves to.

It's never just a pose. I guess what I'm meandering at is pretty simple, really; we like what we like, hate what we hate, for any number of reasons, conscious and otherwise, and that says a lot about who we are.

Which brings me to what I really want to—what I really need to say. Ok, check it out: if you don't like ABBA, you're kidding yourself. The kid in the Opeh hoodie at Starbucks, every single skinny Au Revoir Simoné fan in Athens, Dwayne Michael Carter Jr. himself—if they aren't

down with "Waterloo," they need to take a long hard look in the mirror and set their houses in order.

Alright, am I saying ABBA is, well, *cool*? Hell no. I'm pretty confident when I say that at no point in the past 36 has anything about ABBA been cool to anyone except chubby mall-moms in Tweety Bird sweat-shirts. Between the A-Teens and Mamma Mia, ABBA has not made any great strides in making the world a cooler place. Nor am I necessarily saying they're interesting. What I am saying is that when "Dancing Queen" comes on, sure, you roll your eyes, but there's a part of you deep down that is, undeniably, shooting morse-code missives from whatever nerve center to your brain shouting nothing more or less than "Hell yes, *Dancing Queen!*"

It's a mysterious component of pop greatness that acts oblivious to, almost in defiance of, all notions of coolness. The inextinguishable appeal of ABBA is there in Elton John's ridiculous sun-glasses, in the sad-sack antics of Billy Joel. It's the x factor that made They Might Be Giants famous for Tiny Toons videos and Dunkin' Donuts commercials, and at the same time allows them to hang out with Frank Black pretty much constantly.

What's really remarkable about all this to me is that this is an impulse which is actually pretty divorced from irony. This isn't buying a \$25 Menudo t-shirt from Urban Outfitters to show the world how detached you are. You can't fake digging "Hooked on a Feeling". This isn't

indulging in terrible music as a sort of feint, its listening to music that is good against all odds.

Looking at the cold hard facts of ABBA, it seems basically impossible that they would produce anything worth listening to. The four perky super-Aryan faces that beam out from their album covers look like they've never smiled a sincere smile in their lives. They were a direct byproduct of Melodifestivalen, which, as far as Wikipedia can help me, seems to be essentially Nordic Idol. Every note they produced was 100% manufactured, commercial, focus-group ready and polished with the steely spit of record-company bucks. The fact that the end result is not just good but, some of the most flawless pure pop in the last 40 years, is truly miraculous. This isn't a case of a product being a better product than it needs to be. This is like having a Saab that magically runs on gumdrops and daydreams. It is completely unexplainable, and that's what makes it great.

It's the long-shots that allow popular music to transcend the boundaries of record labels and fickle public tastes. Nobody will ever really know what Robert Johnson learned under Ike Zimmerman or the devil that turned him from an over-eager amateur into the south's wasted poet. There's no hard reason why Elvis' hillbilly cat routine took hold where so many other acts bridging the gap between white and black music flopped. Logic can't explain why Daniel Johnston is more than a novelty, why his weird, half-formed songs feel like letters from goggle-eyed childhood. And nobody—*nobody*—can not like ABBA.



Photo courtesy of ning.com

The Dark Knight: Why so disappointing, Nolan?

I hear the word “blasphemy” quite a bit these days, but I’ve never really been quite sure what it meant. For some people, blasphemy means to denounce the name of a god or gods in one’s homeland. Others see it as tarnishing works of literature or belief systems that have existed for thousands of years. This summer, however, I learned firsthand what is truly blasphemous in today’s popular culture: loathing *The Dark Knight*.

It’s not that I wanted to hate it. Actually, it’s quite the opposite—I had been waiting for this film to be released for a year and a half. I could quote, word for word, every single *Dark Knight* movie trailer and television commercial.

My bedroom wall was adorned with Batman memorabilia; my computer desktop a haven for pictures of the Joker. I even ordered Domino’s Pizza one night because they were offering a special Gotham City pizza that had more pepperoni covering the cheese than any human being should ever have to eat. So, in a word, I was excited. No, that doesn’t really cut it—I was more than excited. I was mapping my entire life around this one film, and nothing was going to get in my way of seeing it as soon as it hit theatres. The perfect storm of Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, and Christopher Nolan was set to be the event of a lifetime—our generation’s *Star Wars*. All this hype was just about to make my head explode...until the film was actually released.

Let me begin by saying the film was 45 minutes too long—they could have completely discarded the ending and I would have been totally satisfied. There was no need for the anti-climactic final montage, and I found myself drifting in and out of consciousness as soon as Two-Face climbed out of his hospital bed and decided to seek revenge on people he had no business pursuing in the first place. There were also some bigger plot points that could have been left on the cutting room floor. Did we really need to

see Batman take a trip to Hong Kong? Unless the Chinese travel bureau kicked in a few million dollars to bring Chris Nolan and staff to promote the country, those dull 15 minutes were not necessary. What about the ridiculous cell phone/sonar concept? As soon as that plot point was introduced, I found myself wondering when Keanu Reeves and the rest of the *Matrix* gang were going to show up to save the day. For a script that supposedly took almost two years to write, Chris and Jonathan Nolan should be ashamed.

One of my biggest problems with *The Dark Knight* was the city of Gotham itself—what the hell happened between *Batman Begins* and this latest movie? Did someone in Gotham City invite over an architect from Chicago and ask, “Now, how do we get our city to look exactly like yours?” In *Begins*, Gotham was truly a character unto itself. The city gave the movie a certain darkness and edge that *Knight* clearly lacked. In this movie, there were some camera shots that caused moviegoers sitting around me to shout out, “Hey! I’ve been there!” Can you remember the last time you said or heard something like that during a classic film? Gotham was so blatantly the city of Chicago that I wouldn’t have been surprised if Batman had battled Steve Bartman in front of a crowd of screaming Cubs fans.

I can honestly say that the acting wasn’t too bad. Christian Bale was solid as Bruce Wayne, but the character lacked that inner-turmoil and inner-struggle that fans had been promised since the script was first being written. Aaron Eckhart, in my opinion, gave the best performance of the film as Harvey Dent. He mastered the battling personalities of courageousness and madness perfectly, and he provided some of the film’s best moments. Unfortunately for him, however, Harvey Dent was only in the first half of the film. As soon as he became Two-Face, it was like he forgot everything he had done previously and just decided to act like the typical villain. I can just imagine the rehearsal for those scenes now: “Ok, well, I have to become Two-Face in this scene...maybe I’ll just talk in a deeper voice! Yeah, that’ll work!” His Two-Face reminded me more of a disgruntled uncle at Thanksgiving dinner than a villain in the world of Batman. Finally, Heath Ledger’s turn as the Joker captivated the world and made everyone a fan of the deceased

actor. In my opinion, Heath Ledger took Jack Nicholson’s Joker and made him...a little bit creepier. That’s it. People that rave about Ledger’s performance and cry about his untimely passing only do so because they couldn’t appreciate his work while he was still alive. Most of the fanboys that scream at me for labeling Ledger’s performance “average” are the same guys that laughed at me when I said *Brokeback Mountain* was an exercise in terrific acting and Ledger was the best part of the film. I wasn’t really impressed with anything he did in *Knight*—maybe he’ll get nominated for an Academy Award, but he certainly won’t win. And if he does, I’ll forever call the Oscars a fixed popularity contest.

Honestly, I don’t care if you hate me for this article. Or my opinion about Heath Ledger’s performance. Hold it against me all year long, or until the next Batman film is released. Buy a Batman action figure or a piece of Joker memorabilia just to spite me. And please make sure that as soon as the Oscar buzz for Heath Ledger and the film begin to heat up, tell me I was so totally wrong about this movie. But do me a favor while you moan and complain—watch *The Dark Knight* one more time. And while you’re watching, read my article and tell me if what I’m saying doesn’t make perfect sense. Because I yearn for the days when movies weren’t so hyped and built up like the second coming of gods. If *The Dark Knight* really is a movie god, you can label me blasphemous. This is one deity I don’t mind pissing off.

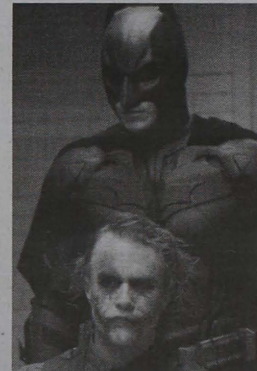


Photo courtesy of reelmovienews

Zach just couldn’t get over the fact that Chris Nolan wouldn’t include Mr. Freeze in the film. Maybe next year, Arnold! Send all comments to zashamberg@ursinus.edu.

The best of summer 2008: Movies, music and sports

Whenever I listen to Bob Marley’s “Waiting in Vain”, I’m transported to summer 2003, a time where I had all of high school ahead of me and a buzz cut that made people ask, “So, when do you start your tour of duty?” Today, I’m a junior in college with a full head of hair, but I can still look back on that summer and smile whenever I hear Marley’s hypnotic voice. Those special songs, movies, and events allow us to instantly recall a time in our lives, whether good, bad, or in-between. When we all think back to this summer five years from now, what exactly will we remember? Here is my list for the best of summer 2008:

Wall-E

Try selling this concept to one of the richest and most powerful movie studios in the world: a robot gets left behind on earth to clean up discarded trash and eventually ventures into space to find his one true robot love. Don’t forget the part about the whole film being a social commentary on our wasteful society. And make sure to mention that the first 45 minutes contain virtually no dialogue. Finally, put the cherry on top: this is a children’s movie. *Wall-E* may have been a hard sell, but the suits over at Pixar struck gold once again with this high-concept animation love story. Can anyone say Best Picture nomination?

Chris Brown “Forever”

He may not be Michael Jackson, but nineteen year old Chris Brown is the next big thing in pop music. The guy has already had a string of top-ten hits, he shows up at every major awards show to showcase his dancing ability, and he even held his own during a guest spot on *The O.C.* two years ago. “Forever” is the kind of song that will catapult him to superstar status: not only is the beat engineered to get people moving, Brown finally feels comfortable with his voice and the messages he’s sending to those across the dance floor. Lyrics like “I’m a take you there, so don’t be scared/I’m right here, baby” show a more mature, confident Chris Brown. He’s Michael Jackson 2.0, and though he might not be around “forever”, he will always have the official song of summer 2008.

Beijing Olympics

This really was the summer of Michael Phelps. The guy won eight gold medals in the face of adversity and overnight became the most celebrated athlete of the year. Oh, and I forgot to mention the best part: he’s a swimmer. Never before has someone become so famous in the world of sports without throwing, kicking, or shooting a ball. The U.S. basketball team also proved that America is still the birthplace of the sport—Kobe, LeBron, and company defeated teams like Spain and Germany with relative ease. Redeem Team? Let’s say they more than cashed in on the opportunity.

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Sports

UC versus the Centennial Conference

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Each year the coaches of each sport vote on who they think will be the top schools in the Centennial Conference. From bottom to top, here is an overview of what the fall season might look like for Ursinus Athletics.

Women's volleyball was voted tenth in the poll. Johns Hopkins took the top spot, followed by Gettysburg and Haverford. Led by Coach Diana McNamee, the team is looking to get stronger and fight harder.

Coming in ninth place, the men's soccer team is looking to turn some heads. With such a big interest in the sport, they can only hope the coach made the right choices for the team. As far as those top spots, Johns Hopkins came in first, Dickinson in second, and Muhlenberg in third.

Only losing two seniors, but gaining about ten freshmen, the men's cross-country team came in eighth place in the poll. The rest of the conference might be surprised to see this team make its way up the ladder this year, but many think it could happen. Haverford came in

first with seven first place votes, followed by Dickinson in second, and Johns Hopkins in third.

In sixth place comes the women's cross-country team. Dickinson grabbed first place, Johns Hopkins in second, and Haverford in third. The women's cross-country team only lost one runner to graduation last year and hopes are high to surprise the rest of the conference.

The football team keeps getting stronger, voted third in the pre-season poll. Last year's record of 7-3 and 5-3 in Centennial play is giving them good odds for the 2008 season. Muhlenberg came out on top followed by Dickinson. Behind Ursinus in fourth place was Johns Hopkins.

This year the women's soccer team was voted third in the conference. Last year they finished the season 11-5-4 and 7-1-2 in Conference play. Johns Hopkins hit first place followed by Swarthmore. Gettysburg came in right after Ursinus in fourth place.

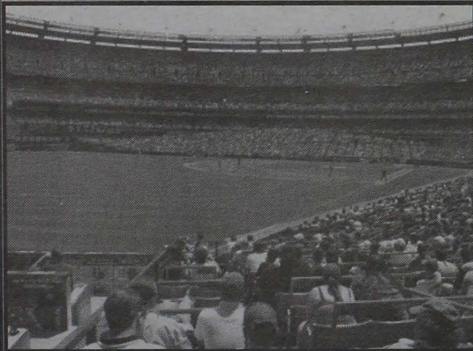
Voted fourth by the 2008 STX/National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III pre-season poll, field hockey could possibly make another mark in the record books this season. Last year they finished their season 18-3. Clearly coming out on top in the Conference in years past, it will be another great year for field hockey.



Photo courtesy of ursinus.edu

Now senior Shea Wisler runs past opponent in 2007 season.

Sheaing farewell



The doors close on Shea Stadium on September 28, 2008 after the Mets final regular season game. The stadium grounds will be the parking lot for the new stadium located right next door.

"Originally to be called Flushing Meadows Park, the stadium was renamed in honor of William A. Shea, thus getting its name Shea Stadium. In April 2006, the Mets unveiled plans for a new ballpark, Citi Field, that is being constructed in the parking lot beyond centerfield. The 2008 season will mark the Mets 45th and final year at Shea Stadium."

Photo and information courtesy of ballparksofbaseball.com

Bearly reminders Upcoming dates for fall sports events that you will not want to miss

Women's Volleyball
8/30 vs Immaculata and Chestnut Hill
12pm and 2:30pm

Men's Soccer
8/29 at Wilkes, 4pm
8/30 at Misericordia 2pm
9/3 at Lebanon Valley 4pm

Women's Soccer
8/29 at Manhattanville, 7pm

Field Hockey
9/4 vs Swarthmore, 7pm

Football
9/6 at Alfred, 1pm

Men's Cross Country
8/30 at Delaware Valley Invite, 11am
Women's Cross Country
8/30 at Delaware Valley Invite, 10am

UCXC hits the ground running

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Cross country season is back, and the Ursinus men's and women's teams are looking better than they ever have before. Head Coach Chris Bayless is beginning his fifth year with the Ursinus squads, and Chris DeLeon (UC '07) is returning for his second year as the teams' assistant coach.

In fall 2003 when DeLeon was a freshman, both teams were comprised of a total of 18 runners. Since then, however, the teams have grown tremendously, with 26 members on the women's side and 22 on the men's side for the 2008 season. This dramatic difference is due to the relentless recruiting of Coach Bayless, who brought in 16 freshmen cross country runners this year.

The teams' rigorous training over the summer has paid off, with the top 7 women averaging approximately 21:00 and the top 7 men averaging about 18:00 in the 5k. The

"The women's team aspires to reach the Academic All-American standing for the second consecutive year."

teams are aiming for their best finishes in the history of UCXC in the conference and in the region. Bayless predicts that women will be in the top three in

the Centennial Conference and the top seven at NCAA Regionals in mid-November, and he estimates that the men could be top six in the conference and top 20 in the region. "We will surprise a lot of teams this year," he said. He is also excited about the potential of senior Christa Johnson, co-captain of the women's team alongside senior Natalie Rosenberg, who he feels will lead the women's teams to high standings in both the conference and the region.

The teams' goals are to stay healthy, improve as a team week by week, and for every runner to set personal records out on the cross country course. Academics are also valued highly by the team, as the women's team aspires to reach the Academic All-American standing for the second consecutive year.

UCXC kicks off their season on Saturday at the Delaware Valley Invitational, and the teams host the Ursinus Invitational on Sept. 6 with the men racing at 10 a.m. and the women at 11 a.m.

Interested in writing for the Sports Section in *The Grizzly*? Send an email to Sports Editor Katie Callahan at kacallahan@ursinus.edu.