



9-3-2010

The Grizzly, September 3, 2010

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The Grizzly

The student newspaper of Ursinus College

Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Friday, September 3, 2010

Vol 35, Iss 1

Students enjoy summer vacation abroad

By Michael Delaney
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Summer is a wonderful chance for college students to travel, be it to a friend's house or across the country on a road trip. For a handful of Ursinus students, though, this summer offered a chance to explore the world itself. From Europe to Asia to South America, almost no corner of the world went untouched by this school's intrepid globe trekkers.

In fact, this reporter can vouch for traveling the world, as I had a great time touring Japan with four fellow Ursinus classmates. Representing the Ninjutsu Club, we went to Japan to train with master instructors in our art. But we also set aside plenty of time to visit Tokyo and its outlying regions. We saw famous sites such as Tokyo Tower, the Imperial Palace, and the many temples, shrines, and giant statues in the historic town of Kamakura. The people of Japan were very nice, and just as eager to learn about us

as we were to learn about them. This was a trip that I cannot wait to repeat in the near future.

Doug Weinman, a Senior East Asian studies major, also traveled to Far East with Ursinus' annual five week Japan trip. The group visited many cities including Hiroshima, Kyoto, Sendai, and of course Tokyo. "Just being there in the biggest city in the world was kind of a rush," said Weinman. "I don't think I could ever live in Tokyo, but it's a nice vacation spot."

As part of their trip, the group participated in meditation, dabbled in martial arts, and visited countless shrines and temples. During certain parts of their journey they also lived with host families, giving them firsthand experience of Japanese home culture.

Alexandra Doll, a junior media and communications major, spent a month in Cuernavaca, Mexico with eight other Ursinus students for a language immersion program led by Professor



Michael Delaney, a senior, and Ursinus alumna Josh Krill, enjoy sushi in Japan. Photo courtesy of Michael Delaney.

Xochitl Shuru. They participated in Spanish classes at the Universidad International, but their experience abroad did not end there.

"I stayed with a host family," Doll explained, "and they spoke all Spanish. I took four semesters of Spanish, so I'm in the intermediate level, but when they talked it was still a cul-

ture shock."

Despite the challenges of adapting to a different culture, the students were still able to enjoy many awesome sites, including the Mayan city of Teotihuacan, home to the Pyramid of the Sun, and the Las Estacas River.

"Travel Abroad" is continued to News, page 2.

Campus Activities Board brings fresh ideas for Fall '10

By Katie Haldeman
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Foam parties, hypnotists, car racing, and carnivals... all these things sound like really exciting events and all of these events you, as students at Ursinus College, can participate in! Elizabeth Burns, the president of CAB, gives the side scoop as to what we can expect this year from their end.

Burns explained, "CAB is really trying to be on the ball this semester with our events."

For incoming freshmen, CAB stands for campus activities board.

"Essentially, we are one of the biggest groups on campus devoted to bringing events and entertainment to the UC student body," explains Burns. "We do everything involved in bringing

an event to campus, starting with the idea and following through with the organization, booking and running of the event...CAB allows the student body to have a say in what fun entertainment they want on campus, instead of leaving it up to the college to read our minds and hope the events are interesting."

The events kick of September 3rd (tonight) from 9 - 12 pm in front of BWC with a DJ for everyone's entertainment.

Also this weekend, there is a hypnotist coming at 8 pm in the Lenfest Theater. This hypnotist's specialty is to hypnotize people as if they were intoxicated. It teaches people how out of control others can become when out at parties."

"CAB" is continued to Features, page 5.

A freshman's take on the first-year orientation experience

By Giavonna Banner
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My first predictions about freshman orientation? I thought it was going to be a zoo. People running around with their arms full of clothes, supplies, electronics, etc. Parents out of control, nagging their kids to do this, remember that. Well, let me be the first to say that Ursinus' freshmen orientation did not disappoint.

Not only were there new hesitant students and ecstatic parents rushing around to unload their cars, but the entire football team was lugging suitcases, refrigerators, microwaves, etc. into the freshmen dorms. This was truly a pleasant surprise - who wouldn't want to watch a bunch of athletes haul their belongings up to their room for

them? I don't think I carried a single thing up to my new room.

As for unpacking and attempting to organize, well that took hours.

For awhile it looked like a tornado had hit room 214. Eventually the mess was tamed, my parents reluctantly said their last words and left, and me, a freshman, was finally on my own. Time for the orientation activities to begin.

I did not really know what to expect when it came to the orientation activities - were we going to talk about ourselves, have long group conversations, play games, or what?

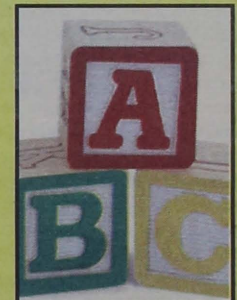
My question was answered when my hall's RAs had us play trust and

"Freshman" is continued to Features, page 4.

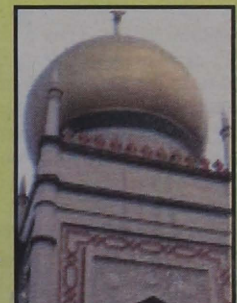
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International News with Lisa: Oil spill, Racism, Mosques and Mines

By Lisa Jobe
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natural gas from escaping the oil well and entering the rig, where it exploded, killing 11 workers. The damaged well leaked 4 million barrels' worth of crude oil into the sea before it could be capped.

Obama's administration and BP came to an agreement in which BP will pay \$20 billion to cover damages. The disaster ultimately sank the \$365 million rig, and closed thousands of square miles of the gulf to fishing, worrying many whose livelihood depends on the Gulf. (Bloomberg News, via www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/)

Findings on the Gulf Oil Spill August 30, 2010

According to BP's internal investigation, some of the blame for the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster can be pinned on BP managers who misinterpreted pressure data indicating a blowout could occur.

According to an anonymous source, the managers interpreted the test results to mean that the rig was in good shape, and that they could begin replacing denser drilling fluid in the well with seawater. However, the seawater was too light to prevent

Former USDA Official on Racism in America August 25, 2010

Shirley Sherrod, former Department of Agriculture employee who was forced to resign last month over allegations of racism, told CNN that she hopes to continue to work on issues of race in America.

Sherrod was forced to resign from her position as director of agricultural development in Georgia when conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart posted an excerpt from a speech Sherrod made.

In the excerpt, Sherrod seemed to be saying that she had not helped a white farmer to the fullest extent of her ability, seemingly in retaliation for her father's murder by a white farmer. However, it was later found that Sherrod had given the speech before she was employed by the USDA, and the full speech showed that Sherrod was telling the story to illustrate the need to move beyond race. Furthermore, the white farmer mentioned in the speech came forward and credited Sherrod for saving his farm.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack apologized to Sherrod and offered her a new position in the USDA, which she refused.

Sherrod continues to insist that the White House was behind Vilsack's decision to ask for her resignation; Vilsack claims he acted alone in that regard. (CNN.com)

Obama Weighs In on Ground Zero Mosque Controversy August 31, 2010

This past weekend, President Obama clarified remarks defending the right of Muslims to build a community center and

mosque near Ground Zero, insisting that he is not commenting on "the wisdom" of the proposed project, but rather on the American principle of freedom of religion.

"In this country we treat everybody equally and in accordance with the law, regardless of race, regardless of religion. I was not commenting and I will not comment on the wisdom of making the decision to put a mosque there. I was commenting very specifically on the right people have that dates back to our founding. That's what our country is about," President Obama clarified further.

Sharif el-Gamal, the developer in charge of the proposed community center and mosque, says he had not predicted the uproar over the project. The proposed site is two blocks from where the Twin Towers stood. The New York municipal council approved construction of the center at the proposed location in May, setting off an intense national debate. Many political figures have weighed in on the controversy, which may become a platform in key mid-term elections. (CNN.com and AFP, hosted on Google)

Chilean Miners May Have to

Wait till December for Rescue August 31, 2010

Drilling has begun in a complicated and delicate plan to rescue 33 Chilean miners trapped in a mine 2,200 feet below ground. The men were trapped August 5 by a cave-in. The miners may not be rescued until December; in the meantime, supplies are being sent down to them via a small hole. A miniature home theater system is even being sent down to occupy the miners during their long wait, and teams of psychologists stand by to assess the group's mental health.

The men have been in good spirits since establishing contact with the outside world on Sunday, but psychologists worry that will not last long, and stress the importance of maintaining morale during the long ordeal.

The plan to rescue the miners involves drilling a tiny "pilot" hole down to the miners' location, then widening the hole to a rescue chimney that will only be 26 inches wide. The men will then be pulled up, one-by-one; just hauling the miners to the surface will take four days, barring any unexpected problems. (NYTimes.com)

"Travel Abroad" is continued from front page.

"I enjoyed the experience," Doll shared, "and I want to be able to speak more Spanish. I was hesitant this year, but I might go back next year."

Meanwhile, Stephanie Belaires, a Freshman exercise sports science major, experienced her own Spanish immersion as she spent seventeen days touring Spain with her high school. "We started at Madrid, and we went all the way down south," Belaires outlined. "We probably saw over ten different cities." Some of those cities she visited include Barcelona, Cordoba, and Burgo.

"We went to a lot of museums and cathedrals," she explained, "so we learned a lot, but another aspect was having fun."

While in Spain, Belaires also witnessed the excitement following the Spain's victory at the World Cup.

"I was in Burgos in a town square, and the people were crazy," Belaires recounted, "They were dancing after they won, and they were jumping in fountains."

Annie Lockard, a Junior

biology major, did more than go site seeing when she spent a month in Guatemala volunteering for Primeros Pasos, or "First Steps," which teaches health and hygiene to children. "Most of the time I'd be traveling around to local public schools in rural areas," said Lockard, "teaching health classes to kids, and I'd teach three or four classes a day."

Some subjects which she taught include basic hygiene, the dangers of malnutrition, and sex education. "Guatemala actually has the sixth worst malnutrition rate in the world," said Lockard, "which is pretty atrocious." Lockard also taught children how to conserve the environment.

"Guatemala is a country of extremes," she recalled. "There's extreme poverty and extreme wealth right next to each other. It's chaotic at times, but a lot of fun."

And fun is exactly what Michael Alfieri had when he visited Brighton, England for four and a half weeks. In his own words



Alex Doll poses in Teotihuacan.
Photo courtesy of Alex Doll

the trip was "incredible, the best experience I've had. More fun than I expected and the transition was really easy."

Be it wakeboarding in the English Chanel or playing in an indoor soccer league, Alfieri truly took every opportunity to have a good time. "Everyone in England was very nice," he said. "Once you made friends with them they would invite you everywhere."

It is always exciting to visit another country, and despite initial challenges adapting to a new culture, these few Ursinus students, and many more, can all agree that traveling abroad is an amazing experience. In many cases, though, the only thing more exciting than going abroad is finally coming home.

The Grizzly

The student newspaper
of Ursinus College

Volume 35, Issue 1

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Ursinus enrollment finally under control, freshmen move in with ease

By Mike Delaney
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In recent years, the Ursinus community has come to expect the incoming freshmen class to quite literally overflow with students. In fact, last year's 515 new faces were spread between the Brodbeck-Wilkinson-Curtis, Beardwood-Paisley-Stauffer dorms and into New Hall and Sprinkle Hall. According to Richard DiFeliciano, the Vice President for Enrollment, 450 students make up the class of 2014, and with that the school's student population has reached full capacity.

Within the past five years, the retainment rate of freshmen at Ursinus has reached 93%. In comparison with many state universities this is exceptionally high. It is the school's goal to keep increasing this per-

centage with each successive incoming class.

"When students are returning, it's a very good sign that they're happy, they're getting what they need," said DiFeliciano. "Particularly in a small school, you really want to convey the sense that everyone cares about you, and all students are important as individuals."

This year, the freshmen are housed in BWC and BPS, leaving New Hall for the upperclassmen. This clustering was made possible by a number of interior renovations meant to maximize living space.

"Over the past two years, Facilities has been doing construction in the freshmen centers," explained Melissa Sanders, the Director of Residence Life, "where available space has been converted into residence rooms." Some examples of this conversion include making the laundry

room in BPS slightly smaller to devote space for an RA single, while storage closets, and even one seldom used bathroom, were completely gutted and refurbished for living.

According to Sanders, the reason for having the freshmen live in the same buildings is so they get to know each other and develop positive relationships. "We're hoping that everybody takes advantage of opportunities to get involved on campus," said Sanders, "to go to events, and to get to know the people around them."

While creating adequate living space is necessary for the college, it is also important that students have enough lounge space for relaxation. This summer, certain lounges which had previously been converted into living space were changed back for the benefit of both freshmen and upperclassmen.

It was important, though, to make sure all the renovations which make the school comfortable for the incoming class and the upperclassmen were done over the summer when construction would not impede upon living arrangements or students' work performance.

According to DiFeliciano, "[President Strassburger] was really clear on one thing: the most priority during the budget process is students' achievement."

Everything the college has done for the incoming class has been aimed toward helping the students succeed both this year and in years to come.

For instance, the day after moving in, the freshmen had lunch with their professors in order to be introduced under light and welcoming circumstances. Afterward, they were given constructive talks about building re-

lationships, dating on campus, and information about drugs and alcohol.

In discussions like these the faculty also tries to release some of the pressure felt by students when deciding their major or making big commitments to organizations such as Greek Life.

"There are going to be bumps along the road," said DiFeliciano, "No one gets through their first year of college without getting a grade or two that they're not used to getting, or not making a team. But those things actually make you a better student in the long run."

Without the stress of finding rooms for students to reside in, as the case was in years past, Ursinus can continue to focus on their student achievement endeavours and continuing their strong retention rate.

Greek Life rushes into Fall season with new regulations

By Katie Haldeman
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As we are all well aware, there are some major changes occurring in the Ursinus College Greek Life community this year. Kim Taylor, Assistant Dean of Students and also head of Greek Life, took time to discuss the changes a little more in depth.

Taylor hopes the Greeks take all these changes as a "challenge" and wants them

to excel. "I believe our Greeks can do great things," said Taylor while mentioning there are five main components to a successful Greek Life program: "scholarship, leadership, community involvement, civic engagement, and having fun."

The changes implemented this year are to ensure the most effective outcome of these five attributes.

One of the biggest changes is the time period available to sororities

and fraternities to "rush."

For those not familiar with the previous Greek Life system, rushing would occur for a majority of the Fall semester in years past. After winter break, students would come back and receive formal or informal bids from sororities or fraternities that were interested in getting to know you a bit better. The student then accepted their bid and was given a formal bid by that sorority or fraternity, allowing them to pledge said organization.

Pledging would then take place for about three weeks within the first half of the semester. After the time was finished, the student was accepted into the organization.

The amount of time organizations can spend with their pledges has also changed.

Taylor explained she no longer wants to allow the opportunity for Greeks to spend over 60 hours a week pledging and therefore it has now been cut down to only 20 hours a week during specific time periods. By October 15th the entire process of becoming a new brother or sister will be completed.

Pledging and recruiting can now only take place during the fall semester. Therefore, Greeks have a clear opportunity to spend the entire year representing themselves to the best of their ability.

In reference to recruitment, as of this year freshman students are no longer able to participate in Greek Life. This was put in place to make sure that freshman are given the chance to fully relax and deal with the first year of college for what it is.

Taylor said she wants the first year students to be able to just see everything in front of them. She continued to explain that freshmen have enough decisions to contemplate in the first month, there is no reason to push this one on them as well.

This change will allow low sororities and fraternities the entire year to recruit, allowing freshmen the chance to find the best fit for them and see what it truly means to be part of a Greek organization.

Lindsay Budnick, one of the presidents of the Greek Council, commented on her reaction to the changes. Budnick feels that these changes are the beginning of something really good. She feels that by having the entire year shows the Ursinus community that being part of a sorority or a fraternity is more than just rushing, it is an opportunity to do more positive things and get more involved in the community.

As for the idea of freshman not being able to pledge Budnick said, "it may hurt the numbers for some," but feels confident that everything will work out perfectly in the end.

This is not the first time Greek Life has changed its system. Every few years it seems as though the way the college runs its Greek Life program changes again.

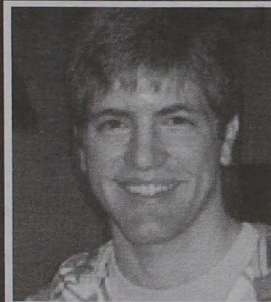
Taylor mentioned that the outcome of the newest change will be a good one. She has great faith in our campus' Greek Life organization and she knows that this outcome will raise the bar and make Ursinus Greek Life not only better but stronger as well.



Members of the Greek community put on a Greek Fair in Wismer Lower this past Wednesday night to kick-off the 2010 Fall Rush season. Each Sorority and Fraternity was given a table to display information about their organization.
 Photo by Bree Gaddy

Word on the street: Freshmen chime in with mixed emotions and different expectations

By Katie Haldeman
kahaldeman@ursinus.edu



Zach Hostetter - PreMed
Lancaster, PA

Most excited for:
Meeting all the people in
the dorms.

Least excited for:
Reading the summer book.

Kelly Cinalli - Undecided
Miami, FL

Most excited for: Meeting
people, getting smarter, not
failing, and having a good
time - all at once.

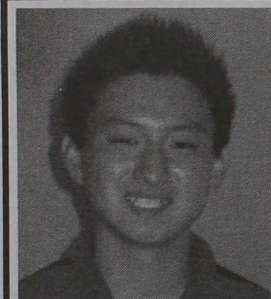
Least excited for: All the
work, writing papers, and
CIE.



Charles Lee - Neuroscience
Orange County, CA

Most excited for:
The snow!

Least excited for:
Morning classes.



Melissa Arey - Undecided
Bethesda, MD

Most excited for:
Getting close friends.

Least excited for:
CIE.



Check us out every Monday night in Olin 103 at 7:00 p.m. for our weekly meeting. Can't make it to the meeting? Have a story idea? Want to write for us? E-mail grizzly@ursinus.edu or the section editor you would like to write for. Don't forget to search for us on Facebook!

Speed dating with new UC professors

By Katie Haldeman
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As we all arrive back on campus it is important to acknowledge not only the new physical changes but also the new changes in faculty and staff. I took the opportunity to do what I call "speed dating" with as many of our new professors and staff around the campus as possible, to ask them some different questions.

To start off my round of "dates" I conversed with our most recent edition to the Math/Computer Science Department, Nicholas Scoville.

Prof. Scoville is a graduate of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He mentioned that during his undergraduate career his biggest fear was that he, "would not be able to fake [his] way to a degree." He further explained that when he was in graduate school, his biggest fear was that he would not be able to fake original research, and now, at Ursinus he explained his biggest fear is that he won't be able to fake that he actually knows what he is talking about.

He said, "sooner or later the charade must end. I will be found out." All these fears are something students can probably relate to.

When Prof. Scoville

isn't teaching he can be found enjoying a unique sport, bodybuilding.

"I'm not into most sports. The one sport I am partial to is bodybuilding. There is a sport that requires complete and total discipline in everything you do."

When it comes to television Scoville explained, "I don't watch much TV anymore, but back in the day it would have to be *The Cosby Show* and *Saved by the Bell*. When I had satellite, I enjoyed *Life is Worth Living*."

Aside from an interest in bodybuilding and remembering his old favorite shows, he said his favorite thing to do for fun is to spend time playing with his two daughters.

Dr. Favero is the latest biology professor. A graduate of William and Mary (undergraduate) and University of Virginia (graduate), she explained that her favorite sport is dance and that she loves sleeping, a lot!

When she isn't sleeping she enjoys spending time with her



Dr. Carlita Favero
Photo courtesy of Carlita Favero

children and family. She loves the colors orange and purple but depending on what shade of green it is she loves that as well.

Like Professor Scoville she doesn't watch a lot of television but she did say she is a fan of *Medium* with Patricia Arquette and *Word Girl*, which airs on PBS.

She also gave advice to her future students: "Be proactive!: read for class, investigate the subject on your own (don't expect to be spoon fed), get help if you're having trouble."

Although only two of the new professors on the UC campus were highlighted, look out for future interviews with more of our latest faculty and staff.

"Freshman" is continued from front page.

communication games, ones that made us step out of our element a little bit to solve a common problem.

It was really interesting to see who lead, who followed, and who stayed in the shadows. Regardless of who had to sing during one game or bark like a dog during the other, the orientation games achieved its purpose: breaking the ice and getting everyone to step a little bit out of their shell.

Then came the seminars. There were a few of them - one on alcohol, another on rape, and even an inspirational speaker.

I must say, these lectures were very well put together. I can honestly say that I walked out of each discussion with a little more knowledge under my belt. Whether it was how to spot a sexual predator, to the volume of alcohol in a drink, to the impor-

tance of diversity in my freshmen class, I definitely enjoyed every minute of learning about these important concepts.

At the end of the day, the question became, "Now that I'm here, how do I feel about Ursinus?"

Truthfully, I couldn't really answer that question until the end of my first week-end here. After the first day, though I was excited, I was a little skeptical.

I had really expected to make more friends the first night, and I was expecting everyone to be a little more outgoing. But the truth is, the first night of freshmen year all of us newly independent young adults are still adjusting to our newfound freedom.

Fortunately, by the second day mostly everyone is ready to be themselves and meet new people- which is exactly what I did. I went from a dance party with a strobe light in one dorm to a community jam session

in the first floor common room of Beardwood Hall.

In one day I made a bunch of new friends, and I met the kind of friendly, easygoing, and unique people that had attracted me to the campus in the first place.

This is what I had truly expected Ursinus College to be like. So, in

short, Freshmen Orientation was a success. Rather than it be something to get through, it was something that I think everyone came to enjoy. Now we just have to learn to enjoy classes!



Giavanna Banner
Photo by Katie Callahan

Point: Allow citizens to build mosque in New York City

By Derrick Wickward
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When it comes to the War on Terror, Americans, even those who are not politically inclined, tend to have strong opinions. Due to the nightmarish events that occurred on 9/11, many Americans often associate terrorism with Muslims and the Islamic religion. So when the idea of building a mosque about

two blocks away from the site of the most devastating terrorist attack in American history came up, it was bound to strike a nerve.

To be honest, when I first heard this story, I became enraged. I consider myself to be very patriotic and the events of 9/11 were so heinous that my emotions got the better of me. I responded as I feel many Americans probably reacted when they

first heard the idea. I considered it a smack in the face to the victims of 9/11 and to the rest of the American people. But now that I have had time to calm my emotions and reflect on the situation with a clear head, I feel that not allowing the mosque to be built would be a breach of American values and would be detrimental to the War on Terror.

My first and foremost reason for reaching this conclusion is the simple fact that this mosque is being built by AMERICAN Muslims. They are citizens of this great country and deserve to be treated as such. They did not ask for the negative stereotype that the Islamic extremists have bestowed upon them. They did not wish to shed the blood of their fellow Americans. They mourned as we mourned nine years ago. They lost as we lost. They were born here and they have lived their lives here as American citizens and they deserve to have their Constitutional rights upheld alongside the rest of us.

One of the greatest attributes this country has is the

freedom to practice whichever religion you please without fear of discrimination. This freedom does not exempt the religion of Islam. If we deny these Americans their right to build their place of worship wherever they wish, we are infringing upon their first Amendment Rights as citizens by discriminating against their religion. Could you imagine the uproar that would be caused if Christians were told that they could not build a church where they wish? Or if the Jews were told that they could not build a synagogue? Just because Islam is still a minority religion in this country does not mean that it should be treated any differently.

To further highlight the patriotic nature of my opinion, I also thought about the general effect that the mosque situation would have on the War on Terror. What do you think the reaction in the Muslim world would be if we disregarded one of our greatest values and discriminated against their religion? It would only be more ammo for the terrorists. Those responsible for

the attack on our country that built up people's misdirected anger toward a religion in the first place would rejoice because they would now have powerful propaganda to use against the United States and its people. They would spread the message that Americans hate Muslims and it would only fuel the terrorist movement. This would result in more attacks, more suicide bombings, and more innocent casualties and would ultimately be damaging to the War on Terror, and it would all stem from the intolerance of emotionally charged people.

Do people have the right to be angry about 9/11? Of course. Do they have the right to want to punish those responsible? Sure. But do they have the right to treat American Muslims as second class citizens because of their faith? Absolutely not. If they want to build their mosque, then let them build their mosque! If nothing else, it will show that the American people are tolerant of all religions and that we will not be swayed or intimidated by the atrocious actions of terrorists.



There is controversy over a planned mosque located just two blocks from Ground Zero (above). Photo courtesy of CNN.com

Counterpoint: Build the "ground zero" mosque somewhere else

By Thamer Jendoubi
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Park 51 or "the Ground Zero Mosque" as it is more commonly referred to in the media, has been at the center of a heated dispute between liberals and conservatives in the past few weeks. The proposed project, which would see a thirteen-story Islamic center built in lower Manhattan (less than 3 blocks away from where the 9/11 attacks took place), has been fiercely contested by many Americans who feel that such a center would be disrespectful to those who lost their lives on 9/11

as well as the victims' families. Others, who are in favor of building the center, argue that it is unfair to make all Muslims pay for the crimes of a handful and that Muslims should be able to practice their religion freely, just like everyone else in this country. While both sides make valid points, neither is entirely correct and unfor-

tunately, only one of those sides is going to get what they want, and I believe that side should be the opponents of the project.

First, let me start by saying that it is not the arguments of those against the Islamic center that have convinced me that it should not be built. On the contrary, most of the arguments I've heard from that side are actually quite poor. Some opponents say that they wouldn't mind the center being built farther away from Ground Zero, or that it's too soon after the attacks to have a mosque that close to the site. To that, I would ask: where must the center be built in order for it to be an acceptable distance? If two blocks is too close, how about three? Or ten? Or fifty? Where's the line, and who draws it?

The same goes for the question of time, and I might add that the Manhattan Mosque has been a mere five blocks from Ground Zero, and no one seems to have had a problem with it.

No, it's not these arguments that have influenced me. I believe that the center shouldn't be built simply because it would offend so many people. Whether this offense is justified or not is a different matter, but the fact remains that people would take offense to this Islamic center; people whose relatives were killed by extremists who also happened to be adherents to the religion. It's easy to call people narrow-minded or bigots, but we have no idea how we would react if we found ourselves in a similar situation.

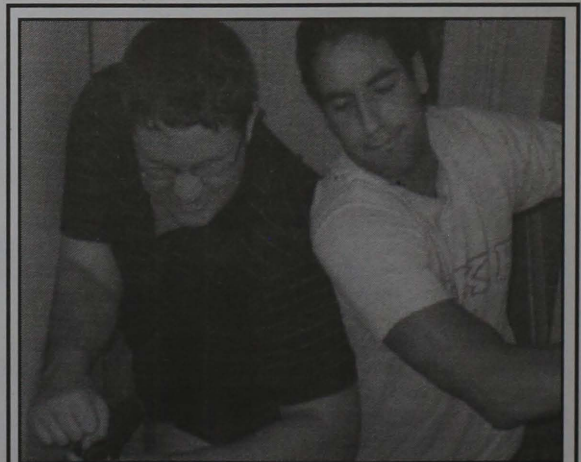
Are there racists out there who don't want the center built simply because they hate Muslims? Yes, of course there are, but if those were the only people who opposed this project, then I would be entirely in favor of it, but that is not the case here. I believe that those behind the project should build their center; I just think they should find a place a little farther away, so as not to offend so many people, and build it there. As President Obama said, these people have every right to build their mosque wherever they want; that's guaranteed by the Constitution. However, I believe that in life, there are times when people should sacri-

fice those things that they want, and even their own rights, as an act of kindness and sympathy.

If the government or state was preventing this Islamic center from being built, then I would take issue with that, but as it stands, the decision of whether the center gets built or not rests solely in the hands of those behind the project. As it stands, they have two choices. The first is that they can build the center

two blocks from Ground Zero, and consequently offend thousands of people needlessly. The second is that they can decide not to build it there, even though they have every right, and move their project to a location a little farther away, where people won't take as much issue. Is it fair to ask them to do the latter? Absolutely not; but in my opinion, it is the best possible outcome in this unfortunate dilemma.

"...Are there racists out there who don't want the center built simply because they hate Muslims?
Yes, of course there are..."



Derrick Wickward (left) and Thamer Jendoubi battle it out over whether or not the United States should allow for a Mosque to be built just blocks from Ground Zero. Photo by Carly Siegler

Book review: A student's brief take on Oscar Wao

By Emily Short
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It takes a talented writer to create a novel that makes the reader laugh while telling a decidedly tragic story. This is exactly what Junot Diaz does in *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

While at first I was not terribly interested in the persona of Oscar Wao or Dominican history, the book is written with such a unique, witty, and casual tone that it sucked me in after only a few pages.

The humor is shocking, sarcastic, and biting at times. The style of black comedy in particular makes one feel almost uncomfortable laughing while reading, as it pokes fun at the misfortunes of the characters. However, the humor balances out the depressing aspects of the book and propels the story forward.

One aspect of the book that really stands out is the utmost care Diaz takes to in-

troduce his characters so that the reader understands each of their pasts, aspirations, feelings and motivations as they make decisions in their lives.

It is a story of interwoven characters. The first is the Dominican boy Oscar. He is grossly overweight, heavily involved in nerd and science fiction culture, and passionately in love with women. He is in a battle against his perpetual virginity and is constantly rejected by women.

In order to understand Oscar's story we get to meet and delve into the past and present lives of those closest to him, such as his mother, sister, and college roommate. Diaz tells each character's history in great detail, in such a way that the reader can develop an emotional and empathetic bond with each one. It is an anecdotal and character-driven story.

The plot may not always be fast-paced, but that isn't to say there isn't any ac-

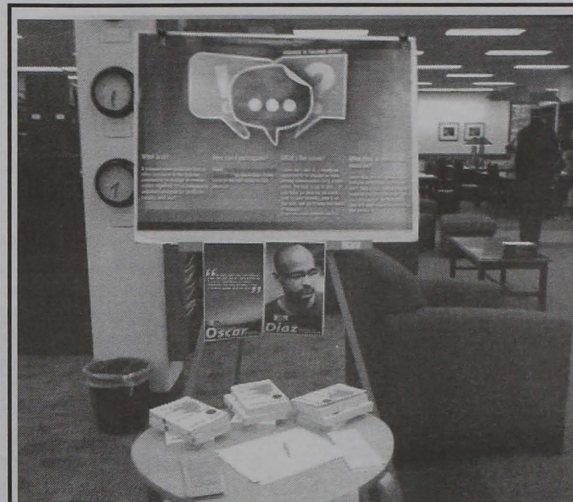
tion. There are stories of gangsters, murder, crime, sex, love, rejection, pregnancy, cancer, rebellion, and passion. It seems there is never a dull moment in the lives of Oscar's supposedly cursed family. Nor does it seem there is ever a happy one.

The novel is rich with the culture of Santo Domingo and Diaz provides the reader with an in-depth, but optional telling of Dominican history in the form of footnotes.

The most distinctive and enticing aspect of the story is the author's tone. It is casual, filled with pop-culture references, and written in a way that feels more like a conversation than a book. This tone makes the book interesting and accessible to all varieties of readers.

Although the use of Spanish gives the book a very realistic feeling, the heavy use of Spanish phrases and slang may be off-putting to some who are not familiar with the language.

Another interesting aspect of Diaz's storytelling is



Myryn Library's display of Junot Diaz's novel. Students can look forward to more events being held that all revolve are Diaz's piece.
Photo by Carly Siegler

that the point of view is that of an outsider. We are not usually inside of the characters' heads. This allows the story to be told in an almost objective manner. This book, the campus's

kickoff to a new program called "Ursinus is talking about..." is a surprisingly captivating read. The story of Oscar Wao is one that everyone should hear

Summer at the multiplex (and a musical): Part I of II

By Carly Siegler
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Jesus strums on his guitar, sings how "Summer has come and passed. The innocent can never last." No, not *that* Jesus. I'm talking about the Jesus of Suburbia, Green Day's representative here on earth for the angst and disillusionment of the young people of a post-9/11 America. First introduced on the 2004 album "American Idiot," Jesus is now Johnny (John Gallagher, Jr.) who, along with a cast of talented "disciples," has been rocking out all summer at Broadway's St. James Theatre, the perfect kickoff to my summer's entertainment.

There. I have been dying to plug "AI" for months.

Now that that's out of my system, I would like to say that it's good to be back. I really have missed rambling on about my passion of all things entertaining (sparkly objects included) these past months. I would be lying if I told you that the multitude of movies, books, theater, and concerts that occupied my summer were all for the sole benefit of you faithful "Grizzly" readers, but I promise that I always had you in mind, whether I was snapping photos of Broadway marquis or jotting down notes in dark 28 dark cinemas in preparation for this very moment.

Whether or not the majority of women would go to Shakespeare's poison-chugging, dagger-thrusting heroine for love advice beside the point, "Letters to Juliet," starring Amanda Seyfried, Christopher Egan and Vanessa Redgrave, was one of the sweetest, if not most predictable, love stories to grace the screen in recent years. Speaking of misunderstood martyrs, Russell Crowe as "Robin Hood," was a merry time (excuse the pun), a delectable spectacle of action and romance, courtesy of Crowe's chemistry with fellow Aussie Cate Blanchett's Lady Marion.

"Sex and the City 2" was predictably glitzy, but with the exception of the agelessly funny Kim Cattrall, this is one franchise that needs to take off its Manolo Blahnik's and call it a night before it becomes nothing more than a blister on the heel of the flawless television series. Another sequel that was just not up to par was "Iron Man 2," although that did not stop the box office gods from smiling upon it. "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," on the other hand, may be the third of five installments, but this film was the strongest yet, despite Kristen Stewart's (un)dead line readings.

It's been a few years since either Julia Roberts or Tom Cruise has headlined a summer blockbuster. "Knight and Day," starring Cruise, have been a bit sillier than the films that made him famous, but every time he flashes that boyish grin, it is a reminder that this man will forever be Tom Cruise, movie star. "Eat, Pray, Love," starring Julia Roberts could do with a title change. Perhaps something like "This spaghetti looks damn good too bad I can't look like Julia Roberts after eating it, time for a bathroom break, Javier Bardem! Javier Bardem! Javier Bardem!"

Co-incidentally "Eat, Pray, Love" was produced by Brad Pitt, whose female counterpart Angelina Jolie starred in "Salt," as a CIA agent who must clear her name when she is accused of being a Russian spy. The movie, which is nonstop action, takes more than a few cues from Brad's buddy Matt Damon's much cleverer Bourne films. Meanwhile, Brad's ex, Jennifer Aniston starred alongside Jason Bateman in "The Switch," a rom-com about a woman who unknowingly inseminates herself (artificially, that is) with her best friend's sperm. It's better than it sounds, I swear.

When it comes down to it, the best blockbusters of the summer were the adorable "Toy Story 3" and Christopher Nolan's "Inception." The beautiful Pixar film recently became the highest grossing animated movie of all time. Now personally, I'm hop-

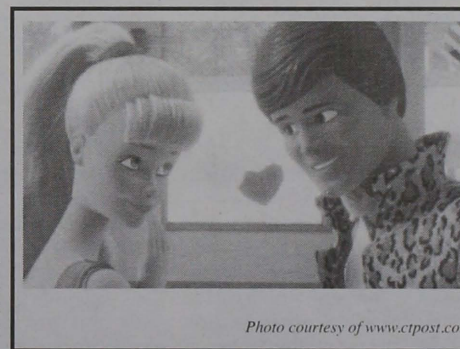


Photo courtesy of www.ctpost.com

ing that *Toy Story 4* finds the toys actually at college with Andy (Buzz gets buzzed!). I can tell you now that as much as I loved the acid trip that was "Inception," this epic, like "Avatar" before it, will not be taking home the big prize come Oscar Night. Unless someone plants the idea inside the Academy Members' heads...

Stay tuned for next week, where I will dissect what the independent film world had to offer this summer, from a young woman's search for her father in the mountains of Missouri to a love affair between a French powerhouse and a musical genius (hint: They don't teach us this part in CIE II).

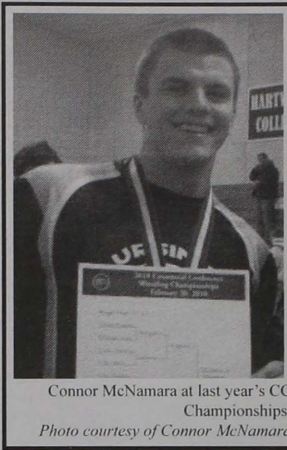
McNamara enjoys unique wrestling trip to Siberia, Russia

By Nick Pane
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Often times when a part of the world like Siberia, Russia is brought up in conversation, it is the butt of a joke. It is a part of the world that is seemingly so desolate, cold, and barren, that it hardly seems like a desirable place to visit, much less live in. It is a world that we as Americans can't really relate to. For Ursinus junior wrestler Connor McNamara, it was a two week vacation that isn't anything like a typical summer beach trip. For the second half of June, McNamara competed in the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA), something that was made aware to him by his coach. "The trip was arranged by the NWCA," said McNamara, "Not long before the planned departure, someone had

to drop out, and so there was an opening on the team. Coach Racich called me and got me started on joining the team." McNamara was one of only twelve wrestlers selected to participate in the event, something that certainly speaks to his credentials and history of success as an athlete. McNamara has been featured in Division III rankings for wrestling, and competed in the NCAA Division III Championship meet last year as a sophomore. He helped to lead the Bears to second place finish at the Centennial Conference Championships. On a trip like this, wrestling was easily the most familiar thing to McNamara's experience at first. McNamara noticed immediately the differences between American customs, and that of Russian norms. "The culture there is obviously very different from

our own, but the most striking aspect was their treatment of wrestlers and Americans. Wrestling is their national sport, so we were treated like celebrities, and also because we were in a very remote part of the world where American visitors are rare. One of the villages had never seen an American before we went there, so our celebrity was doubled. They were incredibly excited to see us - I've never had the mayor of a city come and personally welcome me to his city, or come to watch me compete." McNamara also learned a lot from wrestling against competi-



Connor McNamara at last year's CC Championships.
Photo courtesy of Connor McNamara

tors from the region, something that he intends to incorporate into his routine and his style of wrestling. The Russians are certainly known for their wrestling in the United States), and McNamara was sure to put himself into the role of student during his time there. He went on to talk about how the Russian style of wrestling is much more methodical than the aggressive nature of American wrestlers. "I feel that my improvement in sheer athletic terms was

substantial," said McNamara, "I learned a new appreciation for the ways that people from literally the other side of the planet are similar to and different from us, and what it really means to be an American abroad. I tried to approach the trip with the attitude that I'm unlikely ever to travel to Siberia again, so I wanted to try everything and immerse myself in the culture." McNamara hopes to use such a style to better himself as an athlete and lead the Bears to another strong season in the Centennial Conference. As a sophomore, McNamara, along with Connor McCormick and Nate Murren, was eliminated from the NCAA Championships in the consolation round last year. After an accolade such as a trip to Siberia, McNamara is sure to build off his experiences and go deeper into the Championship tournament come season.

Ursinus trio teams up for New Jersey Triathlon

By Nick Pane
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When the average person is trying to paint a picture of triathlon participants, they often think of a prototypical "Iron Man". They are massive human beings that are gifted with a physical skill set matched by few, and the heart and guts to complete three grueling tasks one after the other without rest. It is a contest that requires one to be in excellent shape, and the confidence to per-

form at an incredible level. There are competitions worldwide for these triathlons, which consists of over two miles of swimming, 100 miles of biking, and running a marathon, all in succession of each other. Considering the gargantuan numbers, few typically train for such a thing. However, smaller triathlons are also held for people that also want to test their physical condition and put it up against one of the more challenging events in the world. This is exactly what three Ursinus students decided to do during the summer.

Ally Cragg, Brandon Russell, and Alex Potts, all juniors at Ursinus, agreed that they wanted to team up for a smaller version of a triathlon. "Alex mentioned about the triathlon, and [Brandon and I] both were interested," said Cragg. "Later in the summer, Alex texted me about it, asking me if I really wanted to do it, and I told him I would. So his family signed us up for it." The three agreed to split up the events to one per person to create a relay for the triathlon. Potts swam for a quarter mile, before handing it off to Russell for an 11-mile bike ride, and the relay concluded with Cragg's 4-mile run. Because it was a relay, they were all able to watch each other start and finish their events. "I had never done any type of competition of that nature before, besides track meets," said Russell, "but there were over 700 participants and I thought it was going to be really hectic riding on the busy beach roads. The whole experience was really fun." The triathlon itself was more or less designed to promote exercise than anything else, a cause that should never be lost on anyone. Of the 700 participants, the age range had no limits. "It was great seeing

the variety of people competing, all the way from 10-year-olds to the 'elite' and even a couple in their 70's that finished together," said Russell. It's certainly good to know that events such as this can bring out groups of all ages to put their physical skills to the test, something that cannot always be said in our society today. However, on this day, people and families came out in impressive numbers to compete in an event that they could measure themselves up to, and allow them to get in shape from a multitude of activities. The three Ursinus students, surely drained once the competition was all said and done, were excited at their own performance, the overall experience in itself, and the fact that they had teamed up to compete in something so unique. "We were all excited that we participated in something that not many people have done," said Cragg, "We were happy that we were in the physical condition to compete in these kinds of things and it was nice to see [everyone that was involved] come together." Ally Cragg and Brandon Russell are both members of the Ursinus College Track & Field team.



From left to right: Alex Potts, Brandon Russell, and Ally Cragg
Photo by Katie Callahan

Upcoming Games:

**Friday,
Sept. 3, 2010:**

- Volleyball @ Moravian
4:00 p.m. Tournament
- WSoccer vs. Lebanon
4:00 p.m. Valley
- Volleyball @ Moravian
6:00 p.m. Tournament
- Field Hockey vs. Messiah
7:00 p.m.

**Saturday,
Sept. 4, 2010:**

- M/W XC @ Delaware
Valley Invite
- WSoccer vs. Baptist Bible
1:00 p.m.
- MSoccer vs. Misericordia
3:30 p.m.
- Football vs. Albright
7:00 p.m.