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## The Grizzly, November 17, 2011

Liz Kilmer

Nick Pane

Jenna Yaich

Lisa Jobe

Ron Stranix

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# Professor named 'Huffington Post' contributor

Liz Kilmer  
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Although a long-standing theater professional, Professor Domenick Scudera is adjusting to new levels of unexpected success. The UC theater and dance chair has recently received his most "widespread response" to date, yet it's owing to composition unrelated to the stage.

"I've never done anything like this... it's amazing," said Scudera, referring to his recent gig as a blogger for "The Huffington Post," specifically its new "Gay Voices" site.

As of Oct. 24, Scudera has published four weekly articles, of which, three have earned a coveted front-page spot.

"My Gay Lifestyle," his second and most popular piece, had reached over 51,000 Facebook "likes" as this issue went to press, not to mention a blogged shout-out from Dan Savage, a prominent gay activist noted for founding the "It Gets Better" project.

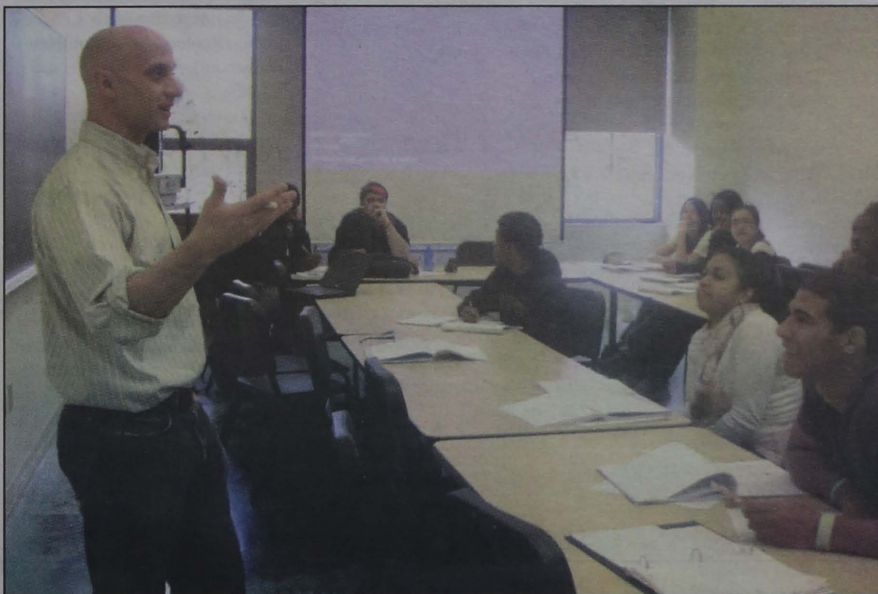
The piece, like most of Scudera's work thus far, follows a

satirical format. Stirred by a comment heard from 2012 presidential hopeful Michele Bachmann, the new "HuffPost" blogger sought to demystify notions that "the gay lifestyle" requires a distinction from any other lifestyle.

"Before we fall asleep, we each take out our personal, leather-bound copies of The Gay Agenda," writes Scudera in his concluding paragraph. "The Gay Agenda is our Bible. We do not look at the real Bible because we are gay and therefore have no religion or morality. We read and strategize how we can best destroy American society tomorrow."

While critical, even hateful remarks exist among the 350+ comments posted to the article, the majority of feedback is positive. "I love reading all of the comments," said Scudera, "I've read some that are just hilarious... it's funny that people are able to use that same [satirical] voice to talk to me."

Writes one commentator: "thank you— I have the subur-



Liz Kilmer/The Grizzly

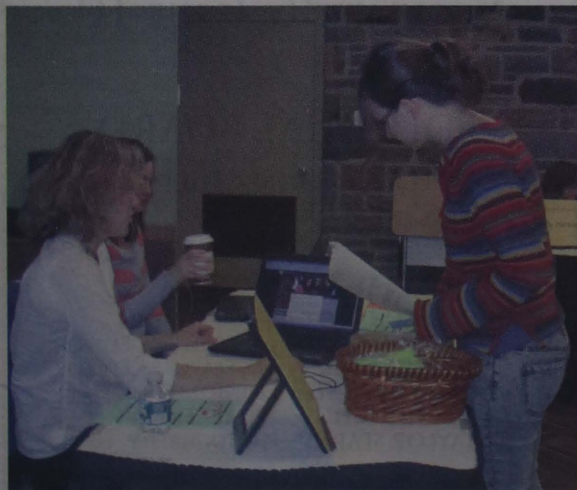
Professor Domenick Scudera, Chair of the Theater and Dance department, engages students during his Introduction to Theater course.

ban, former housewife lesbian equivalent of the same lifestyle. So off I go to do my gay laundry, shop for gay groceries before go-

ing and gay substitute teaching followed by gay tutoring— not tutoring children to be gay, mind you, but using my diverse life-

style to teach literacy to diverse

See **Professor** on pg. 2



Taylor Sparks/The Grizzly

The Sophomore Celebration kicked off in the Bear's Den on Nov. 1.

# Nov. focuses on sophomores

Jenna Yaich  
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On Nov. 1, 2011, Ursinus College kicked off its Sophomore Celebration month.

The celebration, which takes place throughout the entire month of November, began with a party in the Bear's Den sponsored by the USGA class of 2014.

The party provided pizza and drinks to the class and the sophomores learned about the month ahead of them.

The Director of First-Year Programs, Missy Bryant, said that Sophomore Celebration Month is a time during which the college can reach out to the class of 2014

to determine how the students' time at Ursinus has been.

Bryant said that the college wants to know what it is going well and which areas need improvement.

Faculty members and Student Affairs Directors facilitated six discussion groups throughout the month in order to determine how to improve the college.

Sophomores were given a series of questions that asked them to reflect on their time at UC and held healthy discussions about the campus.

Bryant said that this information will be given to the senior administrators to be reviewed.

Aside from the discussions, the celebration is a time in which the class of 2014 can feel as though it has not been forgotten.

Bryant said that there is so much support within first-year advising that sophomores can feel off-track or forgotten when their second year comes.

This is also a time in which sophomores are trying to determine their major and this celebration can help them with that.

"We want to help [the class of 2014] discover their passion and find out what experiences they can acquire while here," Bryant

See **"Sophomore"** on pg. 3



# Greece names Premier, civilians killed at protest

## Tax Aid For Artist

Monday, November 6  
BEIJING, CHINA -

Thousands of people have donated to pay a massive tax bill served to Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei.

By Monday, Ai received donations totaling \$790,000 to pay off the \$2.4 million in taxes and fines that authorities claim he owes.

Many people, including Ai himself, believe that the tax bill was because of his outspoken criticism of the government, and not because of tax evasion.

A state-run newspaper has said that the donations could be classified as illegal fundraising.

The donations began coming in shortly after Ai announced that he had received the bill.

People have sent money via bank transfers, postal orders - and some have even flown cash folded into paper airplanes over the walls of Ai's compound.

Over 20,000 people have donated, according to a volunteer.

Ai had admitted that he does not need the money and plans to give it all back.



**Lisa Jobe**  
International News

He was detained in April at Beijing Airport when he tried to leave the country and was held for three months. (BBC News Online)

## Protest Turns Violent

Monday, November 6  
AMMAN, SYRIA -

Syrian forces killed at least 13 civilians on Sunday in the city of Homs in pro-democracy protests that erupted following prayers that marked the start of the main Muslim feast, Eid.

As a result of the violence, Qatar's prime minister is calling for Arab nations to meet to discuss Syria's failure to implement a deal drafted by the Arab League

to end bloodshed and violent retaliation against pro-democracy revolts that have rocked Syria since January.

Arab leaders have increased their criticism of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, but have stopped short of demanding political change, for fear of sparking chaos.

Syria's foreign minister said the government was taking every step to meet the Arab League's plan. (Reuters, hosted on News-Daily.com)

## New Premier for Unity Government

Thursday, November 10  
ATHENS, GREECE -

Lucas Papademos, a respected economist and former vice president of the European Central Bank, was named on Thursday as the premier of a new unity government in Greece that hopes to save the country from bankruptcy.

The announcement follows four days of intense feuding between Greece's political parties.

Greece's unity government has pledged to abide by the terms of a tough European aid package.

Papademos must now convince Greece's creditors to release \$11 billion in aid before the country runs out of money, and then he faces negotiating an even larger loan.

Analysts say he needs to move swiftly to convince European leaders that they will not face another shock like the one they faced in October, when former Prime Minister George Papandreou decided without warning to submit a \$177 bailout plan to a referendum.

The move angered Europeans, who had carefully worked out Greece's bailout as part of efforts to stabilize the euro. (New York Times Online)

## Funeral Held For Crash Victims

Saturday, November 12  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO -

Funeral services were held Saturday for Mexican Interior Minister Jose Francisco Blake

Mora and seven others who were killed in a helicopter crash on Friday.

President Felipe Calderon and his wife were among the government officials attending the service for the eight who died.

In a national address on Friday, Calderon announced that officials did not know the cause of the crash, but all angles were being investigated.

Analysts say the crash had put renewed attention on Calderon's controversial attempts to fight drug cartels in Mexico, because the interior ministry oversees domestic security.

The national mood, they say, is one of alarm. President Calderon has been criticized because the number of people killed in cartel violence has increased during his term.

Some are speculating the crash was somehow caused by organized crime, but others insist it seems unlikely.

The crash occurred in a rural area south of Mexico City. The incident has evoked comparisons to a 2008 plane crash that killed Mexico's then-Interior Minister. (CNN.com)

Professor continued from pg. 1

students."

According to Scudera, much of the feedback he receives includes thanks. "People have responded saying 'that's my life, thank you for saying that'... or 'this is the best way to reach people... this should be required reading for the people who don't understand.'"

Although Scudera's remained relatively low-key in terms of publicizing his new role, several Ursinus students and faculty members have expressed their admiration for his work.

Like many UC affiliates, Professor Nathan Rein posted the "My Gay Lifestyle" link to Facebook, stating "Domenick Scudera knocks it out of the park again."

It was through social media that many students learned of the articles, including junior Sara Sherr. "I thought it was hilarious," said Sherr, "he did a nice job of reflecting the irony. I loved it."

Junior Luke Fater agreed, commenting on Scudera's third piece, somewhat of a satirical spinoff to "My Gay Lifestyle." "I liked the humor in Scudera's 'Gay Agenda' piece," said Fater, "it was sharp, and a necessary critique of mainstream America."

While political satire has been at the heart of Scudera's blogs, he isn't limiting himself to this genre.

"I don't think I can keep doing that," said Scudera, claiming his future pieces will likely include a "personal story" or "[non-satirical] political issue."

We saw the former with his first piece, "Marriage Mirage," which detailed his experience as the officiant of a gay marriage between his two close friends.

While this piece didn't receive the media buzz that surrounded his others, Scudera has been granted the freedom to write what he wants.

Leeway is also rewarded in terms of deadlines - "I can send it whenever I want," said Scudera, "they said I could contribute once or twice a week." It was in this same simple nature that Scudera received the position in the first place; upon stumbling upon the new "Gay Voices" page (launched Oct. 3 of this year), Scudera opted to send the editor an extolling message. In return, he received a proposal to write.

"I don't know what possessed the editor," said Scudera, assuming his signed title as a college professor may have indicated

scholarly inclinations. But in any case, he is simply grateful that the offer ensued.

"I feel really fortunate that I stumbled into this," said Scudera, "I want to take advantage of it."

## WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays,  
6:30 p.m.  
Olin 101

# THE GRIZZLY

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
OF URSINUS COLLEGE

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 10

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# UCDC offers multiple performances this week

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From today through Saturday, Nov. 19, the Ursinus College Dance Company will present their semester works in the Lenfest Theater, the main stage located in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for the show are two dollars for students and senior citizens and five dollars general admission.

The show will feature works choreographed by Meredith Lyons and Peter DeMuro, new dance faculty members within the Department of Theater and Dance at Ursinus this year.

"Choreographed works in the show this semester are by my co faculty Peter DeMuro, adjunct faculty Duane Lee Holland Jr., NYC guest artist Colleen Thomas, former dance faculty Cathy Young and myself," said Lyons, who currently serves as a visiting assistant professor of dance. "My repertory course that was offered this semester will be showcased in the performance."

Lyons' piece will feature an "atypical" sound score produced entirely electronically by Dr. Garrett Hope, a new professor in the music department.

Lyons and Hope collaborated to create a piece that is entirely technology based, and they are planning a similar project for the spring semester. According to Lyons, it is the first time some students have gotten a chance to dance to this unique sort of sound.

DeMuro's work will feature modern dance inspired by the era of the 1960s.

Some of the struggles faced by women in this time will be the overarching theme to his work.

"The work is about what it was like to be a woman at that time. It is set to a nice selection of female music that highlights that era," Lyons said.

Duane Lee Holland Jr., a hip-hop specialist and adjunct professor in the dance department, is staging a work described as "urban funk", which incorporates many hip hop elements.

Cathy Young, the former Ursinus dance faculty chair and current Boston Conservatory Dance Director, will be honored during the Saturday show. A piece staged by Young that premiered last spring by UCDC will be featured again in this performance.

The piece will feature Dr. John French, piano, and Dr. Holly Gaines, soprano saxophone, of the Ursinus music department

and honor the legacy of the late President John Strassburger.

"This piece is the culmination of inspiration from a wide range of sources including President Strassburger, Robert Frank, and the rich culture of American history," said Katherine Greco, a senior dance major and UCDC performer.

"What's unique about the work is that it not only includes movement, but also images by Josh Krigman, narration, and live music."

In addition to the show premiering this week, the new dance faculty is working hard to keep the department moving forward in a transitional time.

"Everyone is talking about this new change within the dance department, so it would be wonderful to see everyone in the audience as we showcase new works," Lyons said. "Some of these kids are doing things that they've never done before, and the show is going to be a great success!"

For more information and ticket reservations, contact the Ursinus Box Office by phone at 610-409-3795 or via email at [boxoffice@ursinus.edu](mailto:boxoffice@ursinus.edu).

Those planning to attend are encouraged to reserve tickets prior to the show.



Courtesy of Carol Royce

UCDC will showcase new performances this week.

## Sophomore continued from pg. 1

said.

Departments have held various activities throughout the month and encourage sophomores to attend the ones that remain.

These events include forums that explain the independent learning experience (ILE) that each Ursinus student must complete before graduation and ways to "fund your future" with scholarships and awards.

One of the most important events will be held today, Nov. 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bear's Den.

The Residence Life staff will talk for an hour about how to achieve success at Ursinus.

The event will supply the sophomores with desserts and students will have the opportunity to win gift sets and gift cards.

On Nov. 21, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. there will be an event discussing volunteer work in the Bear's Den.

The event will describe the benefits of volunteering and how sophomores can find the right community service for them.

If you are interested in volunteering, but aren't sure how to begin, attend this event.

The next date sophomores should keep in mind is Nov. 29, 2011.

The class of 2014 will be holding a meeting in Olin Auditorium at 9 p.m. to have discussions about how the executive board can better address class issues.

Class President Branden Irving said that he believes this meeting will be effective in demonstrating to the class of 2014 the reasons why the students voted them into office.

He said that the executive

board is here to serve the class and school and students should come prepared with questions and areas where they would like to see improvement.

Irving said that he will debrief the class on the past year and what the executive board plans for the future.

Students can contribute ideas for future events at this meeting, such as fundraisers, charities, and social/cohesive events.

Sophomore year is a critical and transitional year into a student's Ursinus career.

Irving said sophomores have many decisions to make in a short amount of time regarding how their time is spent on the Ursinus campus that will ultimately shape their futures.

Sophomores are advised to seriously consider their career goals and these events are meant

to build upon those crucial decisions.

"The sophomore year is the time in which we must complete

the framework of the bridge leading to the other side where the grass is truly greener," Irving said.

## Are you tech-savvy?

The Grizzly is looking for an enthusiastic student to come on as Web Editor in spring 2012

### The Web Editor will:

- \* Manage the NEW Grizzly website
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- \* Help with online exclusive content

### Interested applicants should:

- \* Email Grizzly Adviser Kirstie Hettinga at [khettinga@ursinus.edu](mailto:khettinga@ursinus.edu) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30

LOOK FOR OUR FINAL FALL ISSUE  
ON THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 2011



# Bearitones, B'Nats premiere 'Let's Du et!?'

Eva Bramesco  
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On Saturday Nov. 12, the students of Ursinus were treated to a night of singing and laughter courtesy of the UC Bearitones and B'Naturals.

"Let's Du et!?" was the first fall concert that the acapella groups had attempted, though it was not their first time collaborating.

"It was really cool to not only have our first fall concert ever, but also our first show with both the B'Nats and Bearitones," said Bearitones President Ron Stranix.

Those who have attended in the past can easily recall that the highlights of their individual concerts were often the result of the groups teaming up.

The two groups performed a generous amount of fan favorites, including throwback hit "Bring it All Back" by S Club 7, LMF AO's "Party Rock Anthem", and the classic "Somebody to Love" by Queen.

"Party Rock Anthem" was the standout of the night, garnering praise for both vocals and humor.

"The overall entertainment, and not just vocals of the performance, made it so unique, and [soloists] Shawn [Craven] and Dave [Nolan] were hilarious," said junior Jennilyn Weber.

The finale, Queen's "Somebody to Love," was both stirring and powerful.

Soloists Chris Smith and Liz Palovick filled Bomberger auditorium with their dulcet tones and undoubtedly gave the audience many a goosebump.

Another highlight from the program was the spooky and serene "Hide and Seek" by Imogen Heap from the B'Naturals, which was a piece focused not around a soloist, but relying on one complete sound from the ensemble.

An aspect of the acapella program at Ursinus that must not be overlooked is the fact that all the work that goes into each production is completely student driven.

Music directors Abby Hauk and David Nolan did a remarkable job in coaching their groups. Each soloist came forward with clarity, precision, and confidence.

Soloists from the B'Naturals included Palovick, Ryann Burke, Natausha Davis, Andrea Haring, Jessica Meikrantz, and Cydney Van Dyke.

Bearitones soloists included Craven, Nolan, Smith, Andrew Carr, Zack Scheib, and Marcos Crespo.

Both the Bearitones and the B'Naturals had palpable energy and enthusiasm on the stage that only served to enhance the audience's experience.

Abby Moore, President of the B'Naturals, believes that a performance is a dual experience and that the performers can receive



Taylor Sparks/The Grizzly

"Let's Du et!?" included acapella renditions of Queen's "Somebody to Love," LMF AO's "Party Rock Anthem," Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek" and more.

as much from the audience as they receive from the performers.

"I think we had a great audience that gave us a lot of energy. It really fueled us for a good performance," Moore said.

"Most people attend an acapella concert to listen to the music, but I thought watching the show was equally if not more entertaining. I feel like they put their hearts and souls into making

it enjoyable for the ears and the eyes," said senior Elly Wallace.

It should also be noted that both groups are very easy on the eyes. One audience member remarked that it was quite possible that these singers constituted the most attractive student groups on campus, which is a statement not refuted by many.

Needless to say, the audience did not leave disappointed.

B'Naturals member Cydney Van Dyke summarizes nicely;

"Overall I think the concert was a great collaboration of musical styles and genres. High energy performances and emotionally driven pieces showcased both groups' talent, motivation, and technique. Plus, working together was such a fun experience that escalated the level of support each group has for each other."

# Students compete at Simon Business School

Julia Fox  
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Last weekend, Ursinus' Business and Economics Department sent 10 students to the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York to participate in an Early Leaders Case Study Competition.

Students applied directly to Simon's admissions office in October, and after receiving acceptances to compete, Dr. Carol Cirka, Chair of the B&E Department, helped them to prepare for the competition and plan their weekend trip.

Students departed campus with Cirka on Thursday afternoon and arrived in Roches-

ter that evening. Friday morning, they reported to Simon School of Business' campus.

First, they attended a recruiting session in which a Simon representative explained Simon's Early Leaders Initiative and discussed Simon's business school.

Simon has a top-tier Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program that encourages students with less than three years of work experience to apply.

Typically, acceptance to MBA programs requires four to six years of work experience, but Simon believes that students fresh from college are likely to be very successful in business school.

After their recruiting session and a brief question and answer session with current Simon students, the group

of UC competitors received their team assignments for the weekend's competition.

Simon formed 10 groups of five students, and UC students were represented on five teams.

Students from the United States Military Academy, Oberlin College, Dickinson College, Bard College and other institutions also participated.

Students came from a variety of majors including business and economics, international relations, neuroscience and others.

One by one, each team was brought to a room and given a packet of information explaining this year's case.

In brief, the case asked students to decide whether or not Zara, a clothing store, should update its technology.

With their information in hand, teams of students reported to classrooms to create recommendations for Zara.

Students had approximately 24 hours to complete their cases. Teams worked until 10 p.m. in Simon classrooms on Friday, pausing only to bring boxed lunches and dinners back to their assigned study rooms to eat while working.

At 10, buses brought competitors back to their hotel, where most teams continued to work until the early morning.

At 7 a.m. on Saturday, students boarded buses to return to Simon, where they continued to work in their classrooms.

After deciding on their recommendations for Zara, teams created PowerPoint presentations.

On Friday afternoon, groups

presented their PowerPoints to a panel of judges consisting of current Simon students, Simon professors, and visiting professors.

Judges scored presentations and students returned to their hotels.

Saturday evening, students returned to Simon for the last time for an awards dinner.

The three teams with the highest number of points from judges received recognition and generous checks from the Simon School.

Four UC students were members of winning teams. Thad Gregory and Zana Mathuthu came in first place, while Tim Jordan and Morgan Vandermast were members of the second place team.

In all, UC teams were awarded \$8,000 from their placement in the competition.



## Senior interns at Sacred Heart

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Mike Ward, a senior neuroscience major and double minor in politics and international relations, interned for six weeks with the Chief of Neurology at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania this summer.

Ward shadowed the Chief of Neurology as he met with patients and experienced a week in the Emergency Room, shadowing ER doctors. The internship was self-created and allowed Ward, an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), to get a taste of different sectors of hospital operations.

Ward was able to be present when the Chief met with patients and was allowed to "try out some of the things he was doing." Taking basic vitals and accessing neurological deficits, Ward says, "definitely called upon a lot of my EMT training and knowledge I had from my biology and neuroscience courses."

Additionally, Ward exercised his observation skills in accessing patients in the ER, as well as his people skills in interacting with patients.

He believes that medical schools are beginning to pay more attention to applicants who demonstrate strong communication skills.

When trying to discern what is ailing a patient through questions, or in conveying to a patient aspects of his or her condition, listening, articulation of concepts, and manner of expression – all parts of successful communication – are vital.

Originally on track to become a neurologist, Ward credits the internship with changing his mind and opening his eyes to what he really wants to do. "Thanks to the internship, now I really want to be an ER doctor," Ward said. "I was thinking about Neurology, but it's really not for me. I thrive on adrenaline, so [the ER is] more suited to me."

Networking proved important for Ward as the Chief of Neurology is writing a letter of recommendation for Ward's Watson standing. He is also thinking of spending another couple of weeks this winter break at the hospital, shadowing in Neurology and the ER.

Ward "absolutely" believes students should try an internship before committing to a career, "especially if you're thinking of going to grad school for a specific job."

He believes that the experience an internship gives, and the perspective shadowing someone can provide, allows you to either determine whether the career is something you "definitely want to do."

You may end up afterwards like Ward, saying: "maybe this isn't for me. I definitely cannot stress enough that if you want to be a doctor, go intern with a doctor, shadow a doctor at least once before you go to med school, before you make your final decision. It will help regardless of what happens."

Ward plans to go to medical school to become a doctor of Emergency Medicine. He is waiting until next summer to apply to schools, however, because he is a finalist for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.

## MCS department welcomes Professor Kirstie Hettinga

Marina McCann  
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Professor Kirstie Hettinga is a new faculty member in the Media & Communication Studies (MCS) Department at Ursinus, where she specializes in journalism.

Hettinga has previously held several positions on her college newspaper staff, including Editor-in-Chief at a mid-sized university in California where her career in journalism began.

After her undergraduate program was complete, Hettinga began graduate school, but realized that she needed more professional experience.

"I pursued internships and spent some time at a local paper and then received an internship with AccuWeather, from which eventually turned into a part-time job," Hettinga said.

During her final year of her doctorate at Penn State University, Hettinga, like many graduate students, went on to the job market, scouting for potential positions and chances to interview for teaching opportunities.

Although she did not know much about Ursinus, Hettinga applied for a visiting assistant professor position.

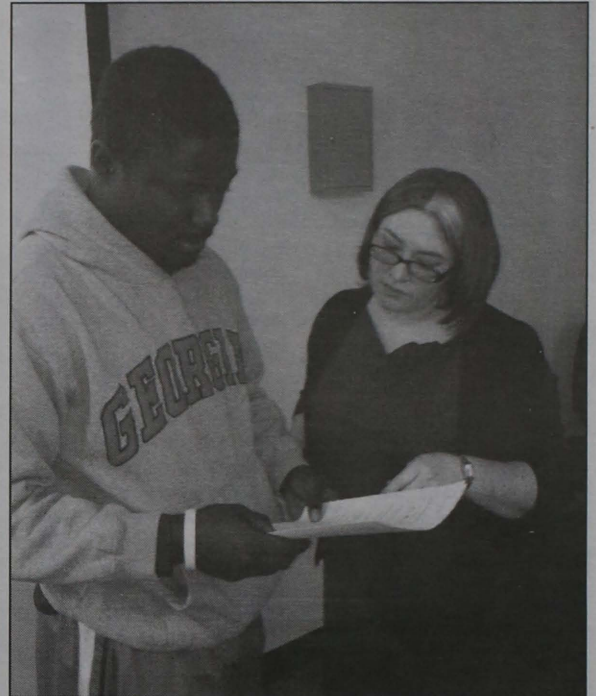
"I was interviewing at Ursinus and afterwards, I remember going back to my hotel room and calling my mom because I really wanted this job," Hettinga said. "It just felt right."

After receiving the position in the MSC Department, Hettinga transitioned from being a traditional journalist to teaching journalism in a classroom setting.

"It was not tough for me to transition because I have been in academics and school longer than I have been a journalist," Hettinga said.

Hettinga believes that she obtained a very solid journalism education, which makes teaching journalism easy due to her love of the subject.

"My Ursinus experience has been wonderful so far," Hettinga said. As the current adviser to Ursinus' campus newspaper, *The Grizzly*, Hettinga hopes to encourage the students who contribute to gain as much experience as possible in journalism.



Marina McCann/The Grizzly

Professor Kirstie Hettinga discusses an assignment with senior Kahli Pittman, a student in her Print Journalism class.

"Some of my best times were as a student journalist and I can only hope that I can make it a good experience for all students who participate," Hettinga said. Sophomore Sabrina McGettigan, who is currently

in Hettinga's print journalism course, said that Hettinga offers a real-world perspective to the MCS Department.

"Professor Hettinga's 'throw students into the deep end' style of teaching works really well and she adds additional insight along the way," McGettigan said. "I feel like I have learned so much from her in the short period I've spent in her classroom."

Similarly, Hettinga explained that with any institution there is a learning curve but overall, the opportunity to educate Ursinus students has been an enjoyable one.

"My favorite part of my job is everything ranging from seeing *The Grizzly* come out on Thursday with a new layout to seeing a student improve concretely. That is when you can actually see the impact that you can have as an instructor," Hettinga said.

Like any new professor,

Hettinga's goals for next semester and beyond are to expand upon the classes that the MCS Department offers while continuing to help students develop journalistic skills.

"I think it is important for students to go out there and do things," Hettinga said. "Journalism is a 'trial by fire' sort of thing where you have to talk to people, make mistakes and learn from them."

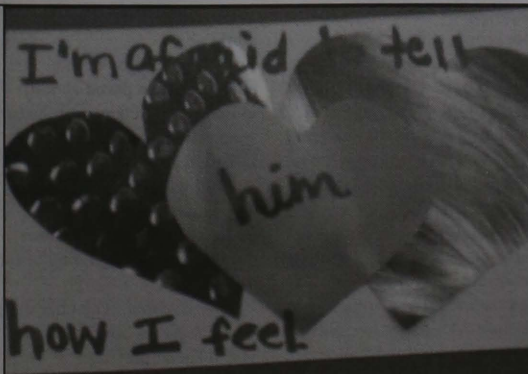
Hettinga ultimately hopes to introduce and expose students to new ways of writing and communicating while here at Ursinus.

She stressed that the role of student media on campus is a vital part of staying in tune with the world of journalism and would like to see this growth occur on the Ursinus campus.

"I think it is important as student media grows for it to work together," Hettinga said. "Journalism today isn't nearly as fixed in specific platforms as it was and I would like to see more progress and expansion in different avenues for communication."

### UC PostSecret

Leave your secrets in our PostSecret box in Wismer Lobby on 3x5 index cards!





# Good writers are an endangered species

As a senior at Ursinus, I can safely say I've peer-edited some objectively awful writing in my day. Those students will remain nameless, of course—you can count on me for confidentiality.

I've always wondered, though, how people can go through better high schools than I did but lack basic grammar skills.

I've also wondered why these people insist on constructing awkward sentences that are completely devoid of any unique or intriguing thought. They have to be able to read, right?

My answer to this question is a resounding and somewhat frightened "no." As a disclaimer, I am in no way insinuating I am the best reader, writer, or whatever-er at Ursinus College. But you don't need the ability to draw to identify something that's poorly-drawn. It's a necessary question.

How is it that students are graduating from this college with such little writing ability? Students from private schools—who supposedly have a more

valuable education than mine—still struggle with articulating coherent thoughts. What happened to all of the writing skills we were supposedly all taught?

I personally subscribe to the idea that you cannot be a good writer without being a good reader—and the reading material that these students are consuming is depressingly poor.

Let's take a look at some of the most popular books on the market today.

For example, a month ago I was blessed to be a part of a conversation about the Twilight series and its innumerable virtues. The women discussing the series noted how they disliked when "people made fun of the movies" and how the books "were so well-written" (I am sure this is not the first time this conversation has happened).

I'm not here to make a case about whether or not Twilight is good writing. If you would like to argue this point, you can feel free to email me (it's at the top of the page). I'm also not implying



Anna Larouche  
Opinion Editor

that if you enjoy Twilight you are automatically an illiterate moron. You can enjoy Twilight for what it is—highly processed sugar-crack—and still be an intelligent, eloquent writer.

It's just less likely that you will be.

Okay, okay, I'm kidding. I have my own guilty pleasures when it comes to writing, and those who know me can feel free to ridicule me in front of the entire student body.

My point is this: A generation with the perspective that Twilight is "well-written" simply can't be good writers. We aren't good readers. The critical eye towards literature has escaped us, and we have no examples of good writing to take cues from. I can

count myself among the scores of students who have skipped reading a novel in high school and bragged about it.

But as I read writing from my peers in classes—writing that leaves much to be desired—I can't help but think that my teachers in high school were right.

Perhaps we really WERE only cheating ourselves. We are going into the world with writing skills that are on par with those of high school students, skills that stalled upon receipt of our high school diplomas.

We consume J.K. Rowling, Stephanie Meyer, and Stephen King like starved wolves and award these writers with praise and admiration. Meanwhile, we read each other's essays and wonder how they got to be so terrible.

I know I'm being a bit dramatic. I might just be a little angry that Twilight is as popular as it is and creating a ridiculous scenario surrounding that particular phenomenon. But I know that, reading this,

you recognize that you have read your own fair share of bad writing. If you're like me, you've also created more than your own fair share.

There is trial and error in this art, of course, but I can't help but feel that the prevalence of bad writing today isn't a coincidence.

We read huge volumes of poorly-written, inconsequential articles and books daily, while eschewing writing that is valuable because of its perceived difficulty. It's almost a tragedy.

As soon as I graduate, I am going to take up reading for fun as a hobby again.

Independent research has its way of sucking the joy out of reading, after all. I am frightened that my already mediocre writing skills might atrophy into something worse. I hope that those not pursuing graduate school will do the same.

We can solve this epidemic yet. Buy good books. Read good books. Don't let the terrible writing of your classmates slide. Our generation can and will remain articulate.

# Modern Warfare 3 is fast-paced and engrossing

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The countdown timer ends and you immediately sprint off the spawn, catching your first opponent off guard with a burst from your trusty MP5. Hardly stopping to think, you rush through a nearby doorway, run up the stairs, and greet two would-be campers with a generous spray of bullets they never saw coming.

Gunfire immediately streams through the window in retaliation to your success.

After leaving a Bouncing Betty behind for the unlucky investigator, you double time it toward an overgrown playground behind the building to avoid notice from the vengeful Delta Squad.

As you go prone in a patch of grass to call in a UAV, +200 blazes across the top of your vision as that Betty's managed to score a double kill. You settle

into your hiding spot and grin at the anticipated kills your newly achieved Predator Missile is sure to earn.

This is the beginning of a good match in *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3*, the latest game of the CoD franchise.

Much like developer Infinity Ward's last installment, *Modern Warfare 2*, it's essentially a single game broken up into three versions: single player, special ops, and the draw for most players, competitive multiplayer.

But let's start with the little things first. The roughly six-hour campaign, for instance. While significantly shorter than other first person shooters you'll find, there's no reason to feel that you're being cheated.

The plot, closing out the story of Captain Price and Soap MacTavish, is satisfying but nothing special. The gameplay is perfectly linear, many of the scenes are predictable, and the whole thing throws reality right out the window.

But, really, none of that actually matters.

Thanks to the absolutely insane World War 3 scenario, every mission is filled with enough action to make it feel totally unique.

You'll play body guard to the Russian president on a plummeting passenger jet, weave a jeep around trains in the London metro system, and race a speedboat past the Statue of Liberty while all of New York City lights up with enough explosions to make Michael Bay weep. The action never lets up, and the variety always leaves you anxious for one more level.

Even when those six hours are up, there's still more to do.

Special Ops is back with 16 more missions specifically designed to make you and a friend feel like total badasses. It also includes a new survival mode, challenging you and that friend to hold out as endless waves of increasingly difficult enemies try to take you down.

However, it's the juggernaut of online multiplayer that really matters and MW3 still delivers.

The gameplay this time around is somewhere between the simpler, weapon based combat of MW1 and the perk and kill streak focused MW2. Series regulars will be able to jump online and after a few games become comfortable with the weapons and balances.

The only real complaint with multiplayer is that many of the maps don't feel as fresh as they could. Several are the same, brown and gray towns rearranged into slightly different piles of rubble. Despite this, the strength of the gameplay, along with other, fantastically designed maps, manage to make up for the maps well enough so that it really isn't an issue.

So, *Modern Warfare 3* is a great game, with enough content to warrant the price. But it's time to address the elephant in the room: admittedly tweaked, expanded, and refined, this is

nearly the same game that's dominated the sales charts for the last 4 years.

However, depending on whether you've had enough of CoD by now, this shouldn't affect your purchase. You need to ask yourself a few questions before buying this game.

Do I want a unique gaming experience, filled with innovation, thoughtful strategy, or puzzle solving? Have I had enough of a game that mainly rewards reflexes?

Seriously, don't buy this game.

Do I still enjoy insane set pieces, fast paced action, gaining experience, customizing weapons, and earning killstreaks?

Do I want the sharpest gun mechanics available? Did I understand what the hell was going on at the beginning of this article?

Buy it. Now. The only thing you'll regret is how much time you'll spend playing.



## Men's indoor track and field has conference championship aspirations

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Men's indoor track and field head coach Chris Bayless has high hopes for his athletes this season.

The men's team officially started practice on October 25<sup>th</sup> and has been working hard to prepare for this coming season.

"I have high expectations for my men. We were second indoor last year and we were leading the meet with just two events to go," Bayless said.

During their preseason, the team prepared by working out in the gym and non-cross country runners practiced on the old cross country course during the months of September and October.

Team captain Anthony Gochal explains that even though Haverford College took the Conference Championship last year, he feels very confident with the new additions to the team and the returning athletes.

"I'm excited to see a lot of the new faces run. The freshmen are looking really good. A lot of our upperclassmen were hurt so

they're coming back. We have a lot of new good people but we also have a lot of great returning people who just got better," Gochal said.

At the 2010-2011 Conference Championship meet, the Bears finished in second place, only 11 points behind Haverford. It was the best finish for the men's indoor team in the history of the program.

Bayless also feels confident with the returning runners.

"Just like the women, we really did not graduate any of our huge point scorers and with the Indoor Championships held at Ursinus this year it will just give us more motivation to win the Championship," Bayless said.

The promising new crop of freshmen and returning scoring members offer reasons for optimism regarding a championship title.

"I should have a couple of National qualifiers with Chris Rountree in the Triple Jump and possibly the hurdles. My Men's 4x400 [Meter] Relay will be one of the top relays in the country as well," Bayless said.

The newer faces on the team also show much promise for this season.

"I have added a very deep freshman class that will come in and contribute immediately. Darius Jones, Richie Schulz, [and] Evan Shea will all contend for conference titles," Bayless said.

Gochal also shares Bayless' optimism about the new additions.

"Some of the freshmen have the possibility to break into the top eight to score," Gochal said.

Despite coming in second at last year's Conference Championship, both Bayless and Gochal see placing first this year as a huge possibility.

"As always Haverford and Dickinson are our biggest challengers but I think we are now deep enough to overtake them this season," said Bayless.

"We finished second last year but finishing second to a lot of people that are returning isn't good enough. We aren't going to be happy until we get a team championship," Gochal said.

## Martell wins Defensive Player of the Year Award



Courtesy of Shane Eachus  
Martell (21) brings down Susquehanna running back Greg Tellish (33) in a 49-14 Ursinus win on Oct. 22

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Senior linebacker Greg Martell (Levittown, Pa./Neshaminy) became the first player in Ursinus history to win the Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Year Award.

The 2011 All-Centennial Conference football team was announced on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Martell, who was also a 1<sup>st</sup> team all conference selection in 2010, was a unanimous 1<sup>st</sup> team selection in 2011. His 87 total tackles (54 solo) were a team high, making this the third con-

secutive year in which Martell has lead the Bears in the tackle category.

Martell, who also served as a team captain for the Bears in both 2010 and 2011, registered four sacks and seven tackles for a loss, while forcing and recovering one fumble, and recording one interception in ten games.

Martell, who is a Business and Economics and Mathematics double major was also named to the Centennial Conference Fall academic honor roll for the third consecutive year.

Martell was joined on the All Centennial Conference team by 12 of his teammates.

## Success is a tradition for Racich's wrestling program

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After the Messiah Invitational on Nov. 5 and hosting the annual Fall Brawl on Nov. 12, the 2011-12 Ursinus wrestling team has begun its campaign.

Displaying both a dominating team effort and many top individual finishes at the Fall Brawl, Ursinus' wrestlers are doing what they came here to do: be successful.

With Head Coach Bill Racich at the helm, the term successful encompasses much more than just the mats.

What is his favorite part about this year's exciting 25 freshmen? 17 of them are chemistry or biology majors.

"[The freshmen] chose Ursinus College for the best education possible and the opportunity to continue in a sport they love. The first semester of freshmen year is a difficult transition for every

student on campus and the young wrestlers are no different," Racich said.

"It's all about creating an attitude of academic and athletic excellence while pursuing victory with honor." Once freshman understand this recipe, he said, confidence takes the wheel and young wrestlers learn to achieve success both on and off the mats.

A wrestler who has bought into Coach Racich's plan and has seen success in both the classroom and the practice room is senior captain Alex Blank.

"Being part of a team with such history and past greats has been inspiring to achieve personal greatness during my four years," said Blank, a three-time Centennial Conference place winner and a two-time NCAA Scholar All-American.

"Coach has provided me the environment to excel on the mat and improve as a person and a wrestler. Most importantly I have become accustomed to the ide-

ology of 'adapt and overcome', because nothing in wrestling is given and no task comes without a struggle."

A peer to peer mentoring program instituted within the team has ensured that each younger wrestler has an older one he can seek for guidance.

Whether it is inside the sport, academically or socially, Racich believes that the connections within the team help his younger men learn to succeed in all aspects of campus life.

The 25 new faces in the practice room come from seven different states and bring with them outstanding academic and athletic achievements.

Eight of them won at least 100 matches in high school and more than that were either district, regional or state place winners and medalists. A few earned All-Academic Team honors in their respective areas as well.

"Overall the team will be very young but we are hoping with

time they mature into what we expect: successful," Racich said.

The Bears return a dozen lettermen from last season and have three senior leaders, one of which is 197-pounder Connor McNamara.

"The huge influx of freshmen is great because it challenges our upperclassmen and adds a lot of positive energy to the team," McNamara said.

"Overall I think we're much hungrier than we've ever been. Last season was disappointing for us and for me personally since I missed the whole year with an injury, and we all want to get back on top and win the conference."

Racich said his top returning wrestlers are Blank at 133 pounds and fellow captain, Centennial Conference Champion and NCAA Qualifier at 149 pounds, Connor McCormick. Two outstanding returning juniors are Mike Kevlin (184), a two time Centennial Conference place winner, and Bill Cornely (285)

who placed in 2011.

The return of McNamara, a Centennial Champion and NCAA Qualifier, is a "big boost" to the upper weights, said Racich. McNamara was one of only two Division III wrestlers who competed with Team USA for 14 days in 2010 in Siberia.

"His international experience is something that should put him back on top of the podium in 2012," Racich said.

The Bears anticipate great performances during the Petrofes and Citrus Invitationals of December before facing any conference opponents in 2012.

"We only have three seniors, but we have strong leadership in our two captains and it seems like the whole team is really pulling the rope in the same direction this year," McNamara said. "We're looking forward to big things this season and hopefully we'll have plenty of Ursinus fans there to see it happen."



# Field Hockey headed back to Final Four

**Dixon Speaker**  
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With three games and three victories this past week, the Lady Bears once again find themselves in the Division III Field Hockey Final Four.

They will be playing third ranked TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) Saturday, in the National Semifinals at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts.

The Lady Bears' road to a National Championship began after winning their 8<sup>th</sup> straight Centennial Conference Championship, defeating Franklin and Marshall 2-1 on Franklin and Marshall's home field.

This served as a form of pay-back for the Bears, after losing 5-1 to the Diplomats in September here in Collegeville.

Senior forward and team captain Corinne Freeman explained that the early season loss to Franklin and Marshall certainly provided extra motivation for the Lady Bears to earn retribution over their conference rivals, and a victory in the playoffs.

Freeman, who is among the conference leaders in points, hopes that her team can carry this same type of mentality into their upcoming game against TCNJ, who dealt them their only other Division III loss earlier this season.



Courtesy of UC Athletics

(Left to Right) Kate McEwen, Jenna Stover, Alyssa Thren, Corinne Freeman, and Julie Pilla celebrate a goal in the Centennial Conference Championship game against rival Franklin and Marshall College.

Ursinus entered the tournament last Wednesday as the 11<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the nation, and defeated Christopher Newport by a score of 3-1 in their first round game at Eleanor Frost-Snell Field here in Collegeville, the last home

game of the season.

After their win at home, the Lady Bears traveled to Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland for their second round and quarterfinal games, where they would have to face an all too familiar

playoff foe.

Once again, Ursinus found themselves facing Messiah College in the NCAA tournament.

Messiah, ranked seventh in the nation this year, had knocked Ursinus out of the tournament in

both 2009 and 2010.

Ursinus was down 1-0 entering the 10<sup>th</sup> minute, when Senior Nicole Hanby scored off of a rebound to tie the game.

Then, Ursinus' all time leading scorer, senior Alyssa Thren, took over, scoring two unanswered goals in the final five minutes, giving the Bears a 3-1 victory.

The following quarterfinals game was won in similar dramatic fashion, with the Bears defeating the second ranked Salisbury Sea Gulls, 1-0 in overtime.

Both Freeman, who scored the winning goal, and Head Coach Janelle Benner attribute these victories to the girls' ability to remain focused and positive in tight games, or when playing from behind.

"One of the greatest qualities this team has that has allowed for them to be successful is their ability to never give up. We have been in games where we have been down by a goal and have fought really hard to come back to not only tie the game, but also get that go ahead goal to put us in the lead," Benner said.

"[The girls] have continued to believe in themselves and have truly accomplished so much already this season."

Saturday's national semifinal game against TCNJ will be broadcast live in Wisner Lower Lounge at 2 p.m.

## UC Sports Schedule 11/18-11/19

11/18  
Men's Basketball  
vs. Keystone  
@ University of  
Rochester  
3 p.m.

11/19  
Men's Swimming  
vs. Gettysburg  
Floy Lewis  
Bakes Center  
1 p.m.

Field Hockey  
@ TCNJ  
@ Nichols College  
Dudley, Mass.  
2 p.m.

Women's Basketball  
@ Skidmore  
Skidmore College  
Tournament  
8 p.m.

Men's Basketball  
TBD  
@ University of  
Rochester  
TBA

Women's Basketball  
@ Utica  
@ Skidmore College  
Tournament  
2 p.m.

