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The Grizzly, February 16, 2012

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Prof. debuts 'A Bright Swarm of Beetles'

Sara Hourwitz

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Beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and running through Saturday, Feb. 25, Ursinus College's Theatre Department will be presenting "A Bright Swarm of Beetles" in the Lenfest Theatre in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center. The play was written by playwright and current visiting assistant professor for the English Department Don Zolidis and is directed by Theatre Department chair Domenick Scudera.

"A Bright Swarm of Beetles" is a play about Mikhail Bulgakov, a famous writer from the Soviet Union.

In an email, Scudera said that Zolidis' play is based on Bulgakov's life.

The audience will watch the young Bulgakov as an impoverished opium addict during the Red Revolution struggle to eventually reach "literary stardom." However, after he progresses, the audience will witness his decline, during which his work is banned throughout the Soviet Union. These events will lead up to Bulgakov attempting to collaborate with the infamous Soviet Union dictator Joseph Stalin.

Zolidis, who has 38 published plays, describes his most recent work as a drama which incorporates some comedy throughout the play.

He also said that the play can be categorized as an epic play "in the sense that it covers a large sweep of history with both famous (Stalin, Stanislavsky) and anonymous."

Because "A Bright Swarm of Beetles" is a historical play, Zolidis did a lot of research before he actually started writing it.

Zolidis said, "I read the diaries and letters of everyone involved—brushed up on context of life in Moscow in the 20s and 30s, and even gave it to a few other professors to take a look at."

Some of the characters are given lines that they actually were attributed with saying in history.

Although he did incorporate a lot of the actual history in the play, Zolidis also included his own creativity. Some scenes were designed to not be factual because he thought they would fit better in his play.

Zolidis gave his play to Scudera to read in the summer of 2010. Once he read it, Scudera wanted to go ahead and make a production of it. Scudera said



Liz Kilmer/The Grizzly

Senior Tucker Bacon and sophomore Caitlin Jackson rehearsing in the Lenfest Theatre.

"it is exciting to have [Zolidis] working here at Ursinus and we are all thrilled that he is allowing us to premiere this latest work." Zolidis feels elated about the performance as well because he

never thought "A Bright Swarm of Beetles" would ever be put on stage.

He said, "I was writing something that I loved for the sake of simply creating this play, without

hope that I would ever see it performed."

Scudera, Zolidis, and the stu-

See "PLAY" on pg. 2

SPINTfest offers alternative housing options

Samantha Mascia

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As most of the campus probably already knows, it's that time of year again: housing selection. For many freshmen, this can be both exciting and overwhelming. With so many housing options, particularly on Main Street, there is a lot to choose from. Sophomores and juniors are probably feeling more anxious, as they usually have a good idea as to

where they want to live, but do not know if their lottery number will carry enough luck to allow them to receive their first choice.

Then, there are students who still are not sure if any of the housing options are right for them. This is where the SPINT (Special Interest) Housing Program comes into play. SPINT is coordinated by Assistant Resident Director Erica Schindewolf, Class of 2012, who describes the goal of SPINT in a very straightforward manner: "to

give students with like interests an opportunity to live together in Main Street Houses while also expanding campus community and promoting educational and personal growth."

There are seven different themed SPINT houses altogether. Two of these houses, Hobson and Musser, maintain the same theme throughout the years: community service and international, respectively. Wicks (the Honors House) and Hillel (the Jewish

Studies House), are also a part of the SPINT community, but have different obligations. Lastly, there are five SPINT houses that are eligible for new themes each year: 476 Main, 777 Main, Cloake, Schaff, and Zwingli.

According to Schindewolf, the theme selection process begins shortly after winter break when Residence Life hosts brainstorming sessions. These sessions are open to all students and offer a place where they can propose

any idea that they may have for a SPINT house. Typically there are two of these sessions, before the end of January, when the formal theme proposals are due. The applicants are also given ten minutes to elaborate on and discuss their proposal to the ARD (Assistant Resident Director) and PCs (Program Coordinators) of each of the themed houses. After

See "SPINT" on pg. 2

"SPINT" continued from pg. 1

this, the ARD and PCs vote on the houses, which are then announced to campus.

The themes for the 2012-2013 school year are as follows: 476 Main Street is the Contemporary Society House, 777 Main Street is the Wellness House, Cloake is the Africana Studies and American History House, Schaff is the Queer House, and Zwingli is the Outdoors Recreation and Environmental Activism House. Shortly after the themes for each of these houses was selected, SPINTfest started as a way to offer the campus community a way of learning more about the houses and the types of residents who live there.

Dean Scott, PC of Zwingli (the Outdoors Recreation and Environmental Activism House) encourages "people who love nature and are passionate about being outside and have a personal conviction for stewardship." In the past, Scott says that this program has had various events, such as full moon hikes, Perkiomen Trail bike rides, rock climbing, recycling events, and an organic dinner, with plans to add in other events such as outdoor yoga and

meditation and ice skating in the future.

Lauren Lusardi, PC of Hobson (the Community Service House), describes Hobson's residents as a diverse group with "different majors, interests on campus, athletic teams...everyone is united by their passion for community service." Hobson is best known around campus as the organization behind the 10,000 Villages Sale each year, selling hand-crafted jewelry and décor from artists in third world and developing countries. Additionally, the students of this house volunteer at for many different causes, ranging from soup kitchens to animal shelters.

This year, Hobson residents are coordinating a Prom Dress Drive to begin shortly after spring break, which will focus on collecting gently used prom dresses from members of the campus community to make the prom and special and memorable event for the less fortunate this year.

Any student who is interested in the Outdoors Recreation and Environmental Activism House and/or the Community Service House (both described above) or any of the other SPINT houses



Courtesy of Brenna Simon

Students attend a SPINT Q&A session in the Bear's Den of Upper Wismer.

can complete an application, provided by the Residence Life Office. Students may apply to up to two of the SPINT houses by Feb. 20, 2012. Applications should be turned in to the Residence Life

Office, now located on the second floor of the Wismer Student Center.

All applicants will be contacted for interviews after Feb. 21, 2012 and notified of their de-

cision by Mar. 16, 2012, prior to the campus-wide student housing lottery. Students with additional questions are encouraged to contact ARD Erica Schindewolf at SPINT@ursinus.edu.

"PLAY" continued from pg. 1

dent actors have all been working hard to put on this production. Zolidis said that he attended the auditions for his play and about half of the rehearsals.

He also has been making changes to the script wherever he sees fit throughout the whole production process. Scudera is

happy about Zolidis' consistent involvement in the production because "It is not often that we are given the chance to have a playwright as part of the creative production process."

Although the design and technical aspects of the play were begun during the fall semester, the rehearsing for the play just started this semester.

Auditions for "A Bright

Swarm of Beetles" were held during the first two weeks of this semester, so actors have only had a few weeks to prepare for their upcoming performances.

Tickets for the play are \$2.00 for students and senior citizens and \$5.00 for general admission. To reserve your tickets call (610)-409-3795 or send an email to boxoffice@ursinus.edu.



Courtesy of Ryan Pugliese

Students pose with their bears during last Friday's Build-A-Bear event. The event was sponsored by the Campus Activities Board.

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Somali group tied to terrorists, Assassination in Syria

Al-Shabaab Tied to Al-Qaeda *Prison Term*

Thursday, Feb. 9
SOMALIA – Somalia's Al-Shabaab has tightened its ties to the al Qaeda terror network. Al-Shabaab is a group of Islamist militants that control much of southern Somalia and have long been affiliated with al Qaeda. But in an audio message posted on Al-Shabaab's website on Thursday, the group's leader, Mukhtar Abu al-Zubair pledges his allegiance to al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. In the message, al-Zubair congratulates al Qaeda "for the defeat of the crusaders in Afghanistan and Iraq." Al-Zawahiri posted a video message in response in which he praises the move. Al-Zawahiri took command of al Qaeda after U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden last May. (CNN.com)

Dissident Given

Friday, Feb. 10
BEIJING, CHINA – A Chinese court sentenced a veteran dissident to seven years in jail Friday, his son said, just days before the Communist Party's next leader visits the White House. Zhu Yufu was convicted of "inciting subversion of state power" by a court in eastern China, after a hearing on January 31. Prosecutors cited a poem he wrote and messages sent over the Internet, his son told reporters. Zhu was jailed in 2007 for two years, following a seven year jail sentence that started in 1999 over his outspoken criticism of the Chinese government. He was arrested again in April. Xi Jinping is nearly certain to succeed Hu Jintao as Communist Party chief in late 2012 and as state president in 2013. He is likely to face U.S. criticism over human rights issues in China when he visits the White House. Xi is scheduled to leave for Washington on

Monday. (Reuters, hosted on NewsDaily.com)

Hospital Chief Murdered

Saturday, Feb. 11
DAMASCUS, SYRIA – The head of a Syrian military hospital was killed in Damascus on Saturday, by what the state news agency is referring to as an "armed terrorist group." Three men shot Brigadier General Dr. Isa al-Kholi as he left his home in Damascus. It is believed to be the first assassination of a senior official in the capital since the uprising began last March. State military continued to attack the city of Homs with tanks and artillery fire. Activists say that 400 people have died since the bombardment began last Saturday. No group has said it was behind the killing of al-Kholi. The assassination comes after a rash of bombings in Syria this week. The government has



Lisa Jobe
International News

blamed rebel groups, which have in turn denied responsibility for the blasts. Based on intelligence reports, U.S. officials believe al Qaeda may be behind the recent bombings. Meanwhile, the United Nations General Assembly is facing greater worldwide pressure to intervene in Syria. (BBC News Online)

India, Georgia Suffer Car Bombings

Monday, Feb. 13
JERUSALEM – Assaultants targeted Israeli diplomats in

India and Georgia in almost simultaneous attacks on Monday. Two people were wounded in a car bombing in New Delhi, and an attempted car bombing in Israel was thwarted in Georgia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Iran, and Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah of the attacks. He said that Israel had also thwarted similar attempted attacks in Azerbaijan and Thailand. The explosion in India gutted a diplomat's car, injuring the driver and a diplomat's wife. The names of the victims and the extent of their injuries were not made public. In the former Soviet republic of Georgia, an explosive device was placed on the car of a driver for the Israeli embassy. The driver of the car called police when he noticed a suspicious package on the underside of the car. The package turned out to be a grenade, which police defused. There was no immediate comment from Iran or Hezbollah. (The Associated Press, hosted on Google)

S.U.N.'s Poetry Slam entertains with variety of guests

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As part of S.U.N.'s "Black is Beautiful" campaign, Saturday evening's Poetry Slam was planned and hosted by freshman S.U.N. executive board activities coordinator, Sinnea Douglas and co-hosted by Senior Sarah Jean Schwolsky. Douglas was part of the Philly Youth Poetry Movement for 3 years (also on their Philly Youth Slam for 2 years), and Schwolsky is the current editor of Ursinus' literary magazine, the *Lantern*. The slam, which took place in the Kaleidoscope's Blackbox Theater, included performances by both students and the Philly Youth Poetry Movement.

The Philly Youth Poetry Movement was founded and directed by Gregory Corbin, and they are the 2011 International Youth Poetry Champions. The mission of PYPM, as Douglas described, is "dedication to helping to the youth of Philadelphia find their voice in a city that doesn't always acknowledge them." It is that dedication that drew her to the movement, as well as their understanding of the importance

of self-expression.

Along with the captivating and creative performances by the PYPM performers, Ursinus was proud to present some of their own budding poets. S.U.N. provided first, second, and third place cash prizes to the winners, and six judges were picked from the crowd.

The rules of a poetry slam call for the audience to influence the judges' decisions by making noises of approval when each poet says something they like during their performance. They are then rated from numbers 1-10 for each poem. There were four finalists who made it to the final round out of eight performers. The finalists were Ethan Wright, Codey Young, James Shelton, and Leah Mele and Emily Duffy as a pair. After the fierce final round, Codey Young took the first place prize with his poems entitled, "Identity" and "Curiosity." Leah Mele and Emily Duffy won second place with their poems entitled, "Letters from an Angry Cow to a Happy Farmer" and "Sugar." In third place, James Shelton performed "Letter to a Young Miss" and "God is a Proxy".

When asked what winning the

Poetry Slam felt like, Young said "it was nerve-wrecking and exhilarating at the same time. It was the first time I've ever competed with my poetry. Usually I'm pretty reserved with my work but what made it most enjoyable for me was having the Poetry Movement there."

He explained that it is impressive to see people who dedicate their lives to perfecting the construction of words to convey a message. Third place winner Shelton had also never participated in a slam before and he was "glad [he] was able to place, but it was also great to finally present [his] work and have people respond to it".

For Mele and Duffy, it was their first time sharing or performing their poetry outside of a classroom or workshop setting. Mele admitted that "we were so nervous. We really wanted to compete though, so we really just went for it." Duffy also said that "it was exciting for us just to get up there and perform; winning second place was an unexpected bonus. It felt great!"

There were a lot of firsts that night—for each person, it gave them the encouragement to con-

tinue doing what they are passionate about. As for Douglas, although she has been in plenty of poetry slams, she's never hosted one before. She confessed that she was "a bit nervous at first because

[she] wanted to make sure everything went smoothly. About halfway through [she] started to relax and in the end, [she] was proud of what [she] accomplished."



Mike Schmidt/The Grizzly

Emergency personnel respond to a call at New Hall Tuesday evening, after a burning smell was detected by residents and safety officers around 5 p.m. Multiple fire trucks, ambulances, and police vehicles arrived at the scene and student residents evacuated the building to allow an inspection of the cause of the smell. First responders eventually traced it to a room on the first floor, and took care of the situation before allowing the students back into the dorm around 6 p.m.

Commencement awards to be chosen by students

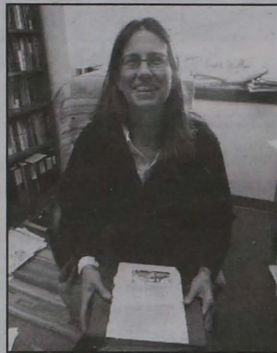
James Noebels
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Before the end of February, students will have the chance to vote for two Commencement awards given annually to two faculty members, the H. Lloyd Jones, Jr. Award for Distinguished Teaching and Mentoring and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Of the three awards given to faculty members at Commencement, the Jones and the Lindback Awards are the two voted on directly by the student body.

The 2011 recipient of the Jones and Lindback Awards are Dr. Rebecca Evans, Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations and Dr. Beth Bailey, Associate Professor of Biology, respectively.

"It was a complete surprise the first time and it felt wonderful," said Evans, who won the Lindback Award in 2006. "I think one of the things that makes it



Taylor Sparks/The Grizzly

Dr. Rebecca Evans

feel so special...is that it really is students who select it."

A student doesn't have to have gotten a job because of a certain professor or have worked on an Honors project with one, she said.

The kind of professor who wins these awards is one that makes an impact on a student in any way.

"It doesn't mean that the difference has to be one that seems incredibly significant." If she were a student, Evans said,

"being in that classroom with whoever it might have been, that person just really made me confident in what I wanted to do."

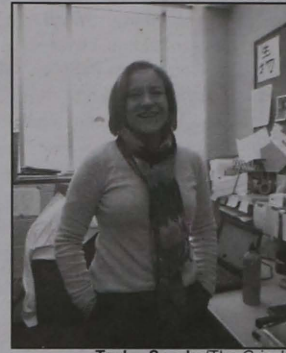
But what qualities in a professor should a student want to acknowledge by nominating someone?

"I think that [a recipient] makes a connection with individual students," Evans said, "because particularly strong letters from students for this award are what ultimately lead to the award being bestowed on a particular person. So to a certain extent it takes extra effort and extra desire on the part of students to go through the effort of putting in somebody's name."

Like Evans, who has won both the Jones and the Lindback Award, Dr. Beth Bailey is the only other faculty member to have received both since 2002.

Because these awards are given based on the recommendations of students, Bailey feels honored to know that those she teaches think highly of her.

"I guess because I teach a lot of freshmen sometimes I think



Taylor Sparks/The Grizzly

Dr. Beth Bailey

that they're not going to go out of their way," she said, "but I also teach juniors and seniors. For both of the awards, I was very surprised and very honored because they are student-initiated which is, to me, more important than having your faculty vote."

"I think the students sometimes feel that the faculty are out to get them or are here to punish them and we're not, obviously," she said. "So when students go out of their way to say 'you're a good teacher or you're a good advisor,'

it's important because it shows that I'm doing what I want to do and it's having an impact."

Bailey and Evans are part of the group of recipients who receive students' nominations for the awards.

"I would tell students that if you want to nominate somebody, do it in a meaningful way," Bailey said. "Write a letter that gives specific examples about why that professor was important to you."

As a two-time recipient now, Bailey knows that students who value the time they spend with their professors will be the ones who nominate someone.

"For me it means that students are willing to work hard, they're not going to hate you just because you make them work hard and in fact maybe they will appreciate that," she said. "I think the people that win these awards ultimately are demanding and the students appreciate that."

Students should anticipate an email before the end of the month asking for nominations.

UC roller hockey program is looking to expand and improve with new recruits

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One would think Ursinus College students do not play hockey because the school has no ice skating rink, or an ice hockey team.

However, Ursinus students do not need a fancy skating rink, or a paid coach to play hockey.

The Bears have a Roller Hockey Club that competes in the Philadelphia Collegiate Roller Hockey League.

Though the team has finished the last few seasons with losing records, team member Bill Cornely believes that it is due to the lack of participants on the team roster.

The Ursinus Roller Hockey team is actually co-ed, and due to the fact that it is a club, it has anywhere from ten to fifteen mem-

bers depending on the day.

Cornely is the team's starting right winger and walked on to the team at the beginning of the semester.

"I signed up for the team this year in September. I pretty much signed up as soon as I found out," Cornely said.

Cornely started playing hockey when he was 6-years-old.

Since then, he has played an entire season of either roller hockey or ice hockey every year.

Although basketball took up much of his time in high school, he would still play hockey during the summer, competing in local summer leagues.

"I've played on so many different teams. I took it up as a hobby, but I've been on a lot of good teams. I was on a team in grade school and we won the Pennsauken cup and people take

that seriously. It's like a sixteen-man bracket," Cornely said.

With so few participants in a club, there are not enough people to make adequate shifts for players that need rest.

The team players have to play for longer shifts than other teams and it negatively affects their performance as a result.

Senior Mike Duffield is the team captain and is also a member of the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity on campus.

Duffield went to Council Rock North High School in Newton, Pennsylvania.

The team has not had a season that has consisted of more than 3 games since their 2007-2008 season.

During that season the team had sixteen games and finished 2-14.

Cornely is hoping that the in-

coming club members will turn the teams luck around.

"As soon as I found out [about the club], I practically forced my [some of my friends] to sign up too," Cornely said.

One of the team's new members, Sam Brenner, lives in Boston Massachusetts, which he described as a very big street hockey town.

Brenner said that he had also grown up playing roller hockey as well.

The two friends hope that they will definitely help the team in terms of helping with the club's overall program, as well as the issue with a lack of bodies for shifts.

There are also more people signing up for the club this year as well, as the popularity of the club seems to be expanding.

If the club continues to prog-

ress with the help of new members, the team is hopeful that their record will improve.

The Philadelphia Collegiate Hockey League is one of great competition, so it will not be easy. Simply adding new members will not ensure success.

However, as good as the league is, it can be completely unpredictable as well, so one can never be entirely sure how different teams are going to perform.

Anyone that may be interested in signing up for the Roller Hockey club can contact Bill Cornely at wicornerly@ursinus.edu for more information.

UC students aid Spring-Ford school district after tragic suicide

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Tragedy struck the Spring-Ford School District in Royersford, Pennsylvania about two weeks ago after a ninth-grade student had committed suicide.

Students are struggling as they attempt to cope with the recent loss of their classmate.

Some members of the student body feel as though the school district is not doing enough to address these types of issues.

Kaitlyn Vanderlaan, the founder and president of the on-campus group To Write Love on Her Arms, thought it was time to take action.

On Thursday, Feb. 16th from 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at the Spring-Ford 8th Grade Center, UC students will come to support the high school students.

There was an overwhelming response among the UC community to attend, and 60 students will be present.

"We will be starting off with a large group assembly. We will be doing an activity in which students will be asked to stand up if they ever experienced the situation at hand," Vanderlaan said.

She made sure to note that UC students will be participating as well alongside the Spring-Ford students.

"This is a way for students to silently open up and see that they are not the only one in their school struggling with various issues," Vanderlaan said.

At the conclusion of this exercise, four selected UC students will tell their personal stories involving issues such as eating disorders, depression and suicide attempts.

Overall, this activity will emphasize the importance of encouraging students to ask for help.

"Not all of the UC students going into the 8th grade center have struggled with mental illness, but we all have one thing in common. Each of us has been hurt and felt pain at some point in our lives. Everyone can relate to that on any level," Vanderlaan said.

After the stories are presented, small groups will be formed and everyone will reflect on the stories.

"UC students will try to find out what the students need, things we can do to help and how the teachers and parents can assist

them," Vanderlaan said.

The program will end with a large group discussion focusing on resources and information about suicide prevention.

The resounding message from the event is "We've all had an experience where we thought our world was ending, but we got through it. There is hope, and we have found a much better place," Vanderlaan said.

"I know they feel as though their teachers and parents cannot relate to them. That's where we come in. We're closer in age, and we are going to make ourselves vulnerable to get on their level. We also want to try to bridge the gap that they feel exists between them and the adults in their lives."

To Write Love on Her Arms is a national, nonprofit group.

Its mission is to help people battle depression, addition, self injury and suicide.

The TWLOHA Uchapters are subdivisions of this organization found on college campuses around the country.

"Through organized meetings and events, each chapter serves as a voice of hope, inspiration, and support for students and their surrounding communities," Vanderlaan said.

Neuman interns as Education Coordinator in Lancaster, PA

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Courtesy of Sarah Bollert

Jessica Neuman, a junior English major with a gender and women's studies minor, interned this summer at the United Way of Lancaster in Pennsylvania as an Education Coordinator for the area.

Her internship was through AmeriCorps', meaning that it was a paid governmental internship granted to the non-profit.

The first few weeks of the internship were filled with routine office tasks.

Neuman, coming from a background of community service work with Ursinus' UCARE, hoped she would be "getting to know her community better" and "working with people in some way, or at least coming up with ideas to give to the public."

In an effort to make the most of her internship, Neuman talked to the director who was immediately impressed by her initiative and gave Neuman work on the forefront of the organization.

Neuman was able to pick up a project on family engagement, a new program happening in schools focused on promoting family involvement to promote graduation rates.

Neuman did a lot of research on the subject, finding that kindergarten is the most opportune and likely time to involve families, so graduation rates can be improved by improving the kindergarten experience.

Upon presenting her research to the Education Director, the director was prompted to connect her to kindergarten transition programs and had her do field work with preschoolers at the Elizabethtown Childcare Center.

A project that was especially close to Neuman was her work to secure a grant for the Ready Freddy program, a kindergarten transition program which is part of the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Child Development.

The program teaches children

how to read, parents how to read to their kids, and general facts about enrollment and transitioning to that first stage of public school.

Now, thanks to Neuman, this spring will mark the first year Lancaster is offering the Ready Freddy program with the United Way's accomplishment of finding funding for it.

The program will serve 100 kids to start "and hopefully get[s] bigger and bigger" said Neuman.

Thanks to Neuman's efforts to expand the Ready Freddy program, she has been offered a paid internship (which is normally unpaid) next summer with the organization in Pittsburgh.

She has already been told by the Ready Freddy director that there are three projects lined up for her to do, which is extremely impressive.

The internship asked that Neuman utilize her skills in writing, communication, analysis, compilation of information, and research skills.

She also used her confidence and skills in persuasion to say to her employer that "these are the skills I have" and to ask how they could use them to help the organization.

Neuman's advisor, Dr. Jaroff, believes her liberal arts education is the reason she felt confident enough to do that.

As far as the future goes, Neuman doesn't really see herself doing social work, however she enjoys the opportunity to help others.

"I will not be able to do anything that doesn't involve helping someone in some way or empowering children or other people to do good things in the world," Neuman said.

Word on the Street

with Brooke Mitchell

"How did you spend Valentine's Day this year?"



Liz Wallace
Biology, 2012

"With my boyfriend, then with the rest of the students in my night class until 10 p.m!"



Ethan Kuhn
Religious Studies/German,
2013

"Doing whatever the woman wants me to do."



Katie Banas
MCIS, 2012

"All by myself!" (to the tune of *All by Myself* by Celine Dion)

Valentine's Day hype is overblown

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So, Valentine's Day has passed, and the majority of America (including Ursinus) ran around frantically in preparation of it. But whatever happened to Groundhog's Day? Or President's Day?

Why is it that all of our focus, attention, time, and money is so heartily—no pun intended—dedicated to Valentine's Day? I mean, after all, even St. Valentine's existence is questionable.

It's undeniable that love is a good thing. A lover should convey his or her feelings and admiration toward the object of his or her affection. Yes. Absolutely. I am all about that.

But is it necessary that all these feelings be packaged up

into a one single day with all of the commercialism?

The point of the holiday is to appreciate and remind someone that they truly mean a lot to you. If this is the case, every day should be Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day also tends to bring out the best and the worst in people. Of course, it's easy to place these people into categories. I'm thinking: The Good, The Bad, and The Hopeless.

The first category includes the stereotypically perfect boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, or husband who has spent days and possibly months coming up with the perfect V-Day gift.

Honestly, kudos to these guys.

It's the thought and meaning behind a gift that really matters. No matter how small, inexpensive, and ordinary it is, we can appreciate the reasons

behind it along with the possible hardships and obstacles in the way of attaining it.

These are the people that really try and would be just as happy without anything in return. I love these people.

In the second category, I include all of the people who do absolutely nothing on this day to appreciate their boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife. When I say nothing, I mean nothing.

More specifically, these are the malicious Grinches of February who go out of their way to publicize how they don't "believe" in Valentine's Day and how it's a bunch of crap on crap on crap. It would be nice if they could all just take a chill-pill, be social, and stop being so negative.

Then we come to what I refer to as The Hopeless. These are the boys and gals, although

personally I feel this applies more to girls, that spend all their time before V-Day trying to fantasize about what it is that their significant other is going to get them and how "it better be perfect, or else."

When the day does roll around and they are surprised with something gushing with romanticism and sincerity, these men and women mope around because it was not the perfect gift or surprise—their expectations are much higher.

I also include in this category the people that don't have anyone to share Valentine's Day with, so they lock themselves in their room, eat a box of chocolates, and watch some love movies as they tell themselves "love does not exist." That may be more of a female thing, but men get emotional too... right?

Most importantly, despite

the fact that I think it's weird that Valentine's Day is ranked in importance right next to birthdays and anniversaries, there's no harm in it. People do put in an effort to make this day special for others and that's just great. Maybe, just maybe, it could be done more often.

And to those people who just don't appreciate what they get, it's just too bad. They are missing out. But I'm sure their type-A personalities will wear them out soon enough.

At the end of the day, everyone should make the most of Valentine's Day rather than denying its existence, like the people in category two. We should also take it easy on the obsessing and preoccupation over it.

I mean, don't we all have other things to do on the day of Feb. 14?

Celebrate Feb. 14 regardless of relationship status

Taylor Sparks
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Yes, the Valentine's Day season has certainly arrived. While many of us make a huge day of it and stress out in the weeks before, I guarantee that most of the world certainly does not.

Furthermore, unlike a holiday such as Christmas, all it really takes to make someone happy on Valentine's Day is a card or some chocolate.

Speaking from a female standpoint, I don't really expect a gift such as solid gold, or even a billion dollars! To be honest, I don't really expect much of anything.

It may be a commercial holiday, but it is not the only "holiday" that we have made into a bigger deal than it actually needs to be.

For Labor Day, people use it as an excuse to tan on the beach. On President's Day, most businesses and most schools actually do receive a day or two off.

If I am remembering correctly, Groundhog's Day has turned into a freak show where people travel miles and miles to watch a man with a top hat drag a groundhog out of his peaceful little ground hog home so that he can determine the next 3 months of weather. For god's sake, it's televised!

Perhaps people may believe in a non-existent Saint Valentine, but if we are depending on a ground hog to predict weather patterns, I think we may have bigger problems on our hands.

Yes, we should recognize the people we love more often and not just on Valentine's Day. But, if we are going to go down that road, why do we only have to give people presents on their birthdays?

Why don't we just give them birthday presents every day of their lives?

Why wait until Christmas to give someone a gift or have a party, why don't we just wear green and red and drink eggnog every day of the year?

Despite the stress of these holidays, people enjoy the

opportunities to be together. Our lives have gotten so busy that sometimes people really do need reminders to let people close to them know that they care and are thinking of them.

Valentine's Day isn't just a day for couples; it SHOULD be a day for friends as well. We all need to just calm down and change the way we think about it.

Instead of naming it Single's Awareness Day like a negative grump, take the opportunity to show your friends and family some love. If you don't like Valentine's Day, then that's your prerogative.

If you think it's stupid and "not a real holiday," then don't bother getting so worked up about it.

Nobody says you have to frolic around campus throwing valentines at people and pretending to be Cupid.

If you want to sit in your room and eat chocolate and watch "Love, Actually," do it.

If you want to celebrate it with a loved one, do it.

Stop being so hostile towards

Valentine's Day, people. Stop obsessing.

There are bigger things in life to focus on and I guarantee that

one day out of the calendar year is certainly not one of them.

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

Coach Profile: Joe Groff, Women's Volleyball

Vicki Cameron
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There is a new face in the Athletics Department at Ursinus College.

On Jan. 30, Joe Groff was hired as the Women's Volleyball Coach.

Groff has a long and personal history with both the sport of volleyball and Ursinus.

"I'm glad to be back at Ursinus. Coming back to this school is something I have always wanted to do," said Groff who graduated from Ursinus in 1980.

Surprisingly, Groff had never touched a volleyball until his freshmen year here at Ursinus.

After playing on the Men's Club Volleyball team for four years, Groff began to love the sport of volleyball, and it soon became an important part of his life.

In 1980, after graduating from Ursinus with a degree in economics and a minor in history, Groff began coaching the junior varsity volleyball team at Ursinus, as well as serving as assistant coach for the varsity team.

Soon after head coach Kathy Miller left the team in 1985, Groff became head coach of the volleyball team, a position which he



Courtesy of James Wagner

Groff, who began his volleyball career as a freshman at Ursinus College, returns to coach volleyball for the Bears for the second time in his professional career.

would hold until he left Ursinus in 1990.

Groff took no time away from coaching volleyball.

He coached various age levels of CYO volleyball teams at Visitation High School.

In addition to coaching for CYO, Groff coached several age

groups at Keystone Juniors Volleyball Club.

He took an additional coaching position for the Sunoco Golden Masters, a volleyball team for men who are fifty five years of age, or older.

As a coach, Groff has been to national tournaments, coached at

Nike clinics, and held his own volleyball clinics.

When he wasn't busy coaching, Groff continued to play volleyball as well, as he played in several leagues throughout the year.

Volleyball has played an integral role in Groff's life, and when

he heard that there was an opening for a new volleyball coach at Ursinus he jumped at the opportunity to return.

As an Ursinus alum, Groff said he's always wanted to come back to Ursinus to coach, and wanted to be able to be at the school that had done so much for him.

He immediately applied for the job as head coach, and was brought in for an interview for the position on Jan. 30.

Over the past few weeks Groff has been busy meeting with the current members of the women's volleyball team.

He has been receiving information and feedback from the girls about volleyball at Ursinus.

"The girls seem excited as well, and I hope their excitement and energy will transfer into the upcoming season," Groff said.

Groff has high expectations for the team.

Winning a tournament and making the playoffs are among his goals for the team next season.

Being back at Ursinus has been a pleasing experience for Groff.

He hopes that in his second stint at Ursinus, he will be able to make an impact on the volleyball program once again.

Senior Spotlight: Lindsay Teuber, Women's Basketball

Matthew Johnston
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Senior Forward Lindsay Teuber recently recorded her 1000th point for the Lady Bears, an event which she considers to be her greatest basketball achievement to date.

When asked if this impressive feat was the accomplishment of a specific goal or the result of how she naturally plays the game, Lindsay explained that it was a welcome surprise.

"My 1000 points was not a goal. I was not even sure that I would be able to accomplish it considering I only played a fraction of my freshman year due to an injury. Somehow I did it though, and it was very exciting," Teuber said.

As early as 5 years old, Lindsay was signed up by her parents to play for a local basketball team.

She recalls that at such a young age, the choice to undertake the

hobby wasn't exactly her idea.

However, her natural skill and affinity for the game reaffirmed her parents' decision.

Despite also playing soccer and track and field, Teuber always excelled in basketball.

"I only played soccer for my high school and not for a club team, so I did not get as much exposure to college coaches like I did for basketball. In a way, I chose basketball when I decided to play AAU," Teuber said.

As many successful athletes do, Teuber has quite the unique pre-game ritual.

"I like to do everything the same way before a game," she explained. "[It's] nothing specific, but everything has to be the exact same as the game before."

No matter the opponent, Teuber approaches each game, like her pre-game ritual, with the same philosophy; playing hard, smart, and together as a team.

The 5'10 all-conference forward leads the Lady Bears in

scoring, field goal percentage, free throw attempts, free throws made, blocks, and rebounding.

More impressive are Teuber's figures in the conference.

She appears in 8 of the 13 categories, most notably, 5th in scoring, 4th in overall rebounding, 3rd in blocked shots, and 3rd in field goal percentage.

Teuber spoke positively about her team this year, as they are in position to earn a spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs.

"One word Coach Buckley uses to describe us is 'resilient' and I would have to agree. We have encountered a lot of adversity this year with injuries and roster changes, but we've battled through it all," Teuber said.

Ursinus is well within reach of their goal of securing a spot in the playoffs, and positioning will likely hinge on the outcome of Saturday's contest against Muhlenberg College, which will also be senior day. Tipoff is 1 p.m.



Courtesy of Ursinus College Athletics

Senior wrestlers exemplify leadership, excellence

Keith Baker
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The Ursinus Wrestling team has had an incredible season to say the least.

Currently they are 11-1 overall, suffering their only loss by one point to one of the top 20 teams in the country.

More importantly, the team is undefeated in the centennial conference and has dominated their opponents.

Head Coach Bill Racich has led his team to one of the most successful seasons in recent history by beating notable teams such as Gettysburg and Johns Hopkins.

When asked what the difference was between this season and others, coach Racich credited the success to his staff's ability to recruit the very best student-athletes around, and their focus on coming together as a team.

"My staff and I worked hard on the recruiting trail to bring in the best student-athletes we could and the wrestlers did not disappoint," Racich said.

Senior Captains Alex Blank and Connor McCormick have done exceptionally well on the mat, however their contributions off the mat make them invaluable assets to the team.

Racich spoke highly of Blank and McCormick, describing them as "dream" captains.



Courtesy of Ursinus College Athletics

Alex Blank, a double major in exercise and sports science and psychology, finished in sixth place in his weight class at this season's Petrofes Invitational.

"Alex and Connor's personalities complement each other very well and they have led this team through good times and bad with class. I trust their judgment and decision making ability but more importantly their peers do so as well," Racich said.

Blank and McCormick have certainly taken on the responsibilities of being a captain with great aplomb.

Last year the team finished

fourth at Centennial Conference championships, something Blank said left a bad taste in his mouth.

"As an individual I expected a lot from this team from day one and my expectations have only been raised as we continue to move forward into the post season," Blank said.

"I could not have asked for a better season than this year. The focus of our wrestlers this year is unbelievable. The past three years

we have had some ups and some downs throughout the season but this year seems to be just up. The team has come together better than it ever has and the balance we have obtained between upperclassmen and freshmen is really something special," Blank said.

Coaching a team with 21 freshmen is no easy task.

Some may see this young team as lacking experience.

Coach Racich does not see it

this way.

"It doesn't matter what sport you participate in, making the jump from high school to collegiate competition takes a special person. The young student-athletes I am privileged to work with have made a commitment to excellence on and off the mat, have the burning desire to win, made social sacrifices, and have accepted their roles," Racich said.

While the Bears continue to dominate their opponents they never forget that the sport is not just about winning or just beating your opponent. It has a higher purpose.

"Winning is important but pursuing victory with honor is more important," Racich said.

"The men in our program are winners 24/7 and to say I am proud of what they accomplished to date is an understatement."

Coach Racich and his team have their sights set on the upcoming Centennial Conference Championship on February 25, as well as the NCAA Division III Championships March 9th and 10th.

UC Sports Schedule 2/17-2/18

2/17
Men's Swimming
CC Championships
@ Gettysburg College

2/18
Men's Swimming
CC Championships
@ Gettysburg College

2/18
Gymnastics
@ Towson
4 p.m.

2/18
Men's Basketball
vs. Muhlenberg
3 p.m.
Senior Day

2/17
Women's Swimming
CC Championships
@ Gettysburg College

2/18
Women's Swimming
CC Championships
@ Gettysburg College

2/18
Women's Basketball
vs. Muhlenberg
1 p.m.
Senior Day

