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## The Grizzly, March 29, 2012

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# Airband benefits crime victims center

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On Saturday, March 24, Ursinus College's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Airband event was held at the Lenfest Theater in the Kaleidoscope. There were nine groups that signed up to perform acts this year with all proceeds directly benefitting the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County.

Airband was founded in 1982 by Carla Rinde, Director of Career Services, and Residence Life.

Each year, different student groups and organizations perform various song, dance, and comedy acts to raise money for needy causes. Katie Fegan, co-chair of the Airband committee, explains that "the traditional idea of Airband is air-guitar and air-drums, but has evolved over the years into a more comedic and talent-based competition."

This year's charity, the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, is "a local non-profit that provides free and confidential comprehensive support services

to crime victims, their families, and significant others; prevention education and risk reduction programs, and training to the professionals who work with the victims of these crimes," co-chairperson Samantha Cermignano said.

This organization benefitted from Airband approximately ten years ago; last year, Frankie's Fight Foundation for Families Battling Pediatric Cancer was awarded nearly \$3,000 from this event.

The year before, Dignity Housing benefitted, which is a non-profit that provides safe housing for families and single adults to give homeless people a place to live and be independent.

There are many opportunities for interested students to get involved. They may join the planning committee, "auction" off a date at the Dates for Charity event or attend and/or bid at the event, coordinate groups to perform at Airband, and attend the

See Airband on pg. 2

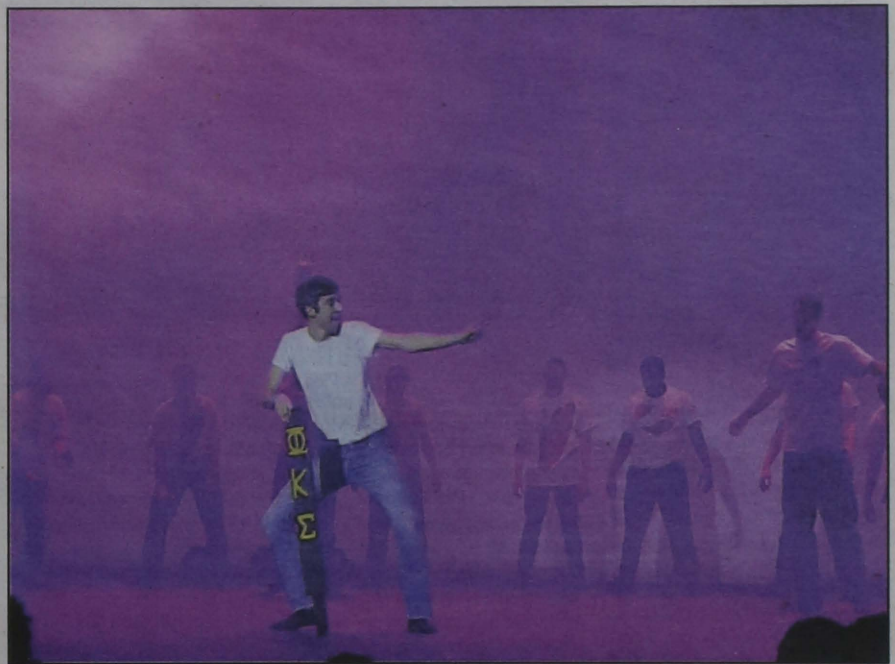


Photo courtesy of Jackie Kimmel

Phi Kappa Sigma danced to a mix of songs during their performance, including "I Can Transform Ya" and "The Black Parade."

# Blues Writer Sharon Bridgforth reads work

**Sara Hourwitz**  
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On Tuesday March 20, 2012, in a packed room in the Berman Museum, Sharon Bridgforth performed some of her blues influenced writings from her award winning *bull-jean stories* and one of her more recent books *love conjure/blues*.

As a lesbian and a RedBone Press author, Bridgforth writes stories and poetry that celebrate African American gays and lesbians.

When introducing her work to the audience Bridgforth described her writing as "breaking genre

boundaries."

Her writing incorporates poetry, fiction, and music. Because of this, Bridgforth emphasizes the importance of reading her works aloud.

While performing her work, Bridgforth would take on the different voices of her characters. She would also change the pace of her readings.

At times, Bridgforth would incorporate her own singing and also asked some of her audience members familiar with her work to sing and chant as well.

Bridgforth started writing at the age of 15. She said that puberty was a confusing and stress-

ful time, so she used writing as an outlet. Bridgforth continued to write throughout her teens and twenties but said, "I didn't share my work until I was 30."

Although writing was a big part of her life, it was not a part of her initial career plans.

Bridgforth said, "I thought I wanted to go into the movie business." She started out as an intern at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios and eventually got a paid position as a management trainee. However, after her mentor lost his job, she was forced to leave MGM studios.

Because she was a single mother at the time, she needed

to find a job as soon as possible. When she moved to Austin, Texas, she worked for social services organizations.

While she was there, Bridgforth and others decided to use art to benefit these organizations and encourage people to access these services.

As part of this endeavor, Bridgforth participated by performing some her writing.

Currently, Bridgforth is a resident playwright at New Dramatists and is the Visiting Multicultural Faculty member at the Theatre School at DePaul University.

Not only does Bridgforth trav-

el to different colleges to perform her work, she also has done tours around the country bringing her writings to life with casts of singers and actors.

According to Sharon Bridgforth's website, Ursinus English Professor Patricia Schroeder is one of 33 professors across the country who has incorporated Bridgforth's work in the classroom. Schroeder taught Bridgforth's *love/conjure blues* in her Blues Literature Seminar.

Many of the works that she covers in class are by men, and

See Blues on pg. 3

# Compensation in Afghan murders, French shooter brought to justice



**Lisa Jobe**

**International News**

## French take down shooter

Thursday, March 22

**TOULOUSE, FRANCE** –

The French police siege to capture Mohammed Merah ended when police shot him in the head as he fired back at them. Merah, 23, was wanted in the killings of three French paratroopers, a rabbi, and three children at a Jewish school in Toulouse.

These killings were covered in *The Grizzly* last week. Merah fired more than 30 shots at police as they entered his apartment to end the standoff, which had lasted more than 31 hours.

Police found video recordings of the attacks, ammunition and ingredients for explosives after he was killed. Police tracked Merah down through clues linked to his motorcycle and by tracking his IP

address.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said that everything had been done to bring Merah to justice alive, but that security forces could not be exposed to more danger as they attempted to arrest him.

(CNN.com)

## Russian politics streamlined

Friday, March 23

**MOSCOW, RUSSIA** –

Russian lawmakers unanimously approved legislation to make it easier to form and maintain new political parties on Friday.

The legislation is in response to the outcry over disputed parliamentary elections in December and huge street protests in Moscow that followed.

Some critics say that the legislation goes too far, however, making it too easy to register parties, leading to a splintering of opposition and making it easier for the government to consolidate power.

The bill is expected to easily pass the upper house of Parliament and be signed by departing president Dmitri Medvedev next

week.

Supporters of the bill say it is a victory at a time when President-elect Vladimir Putin and the ruling United Russia Party have been criticized as holding too tightly to power.

The new law would reduce the required number of members to register and be allowed to participate in elections from 40,000 members to 500.

The law would be effective immediately upon Medvedev's approval, allowing new parties to participate in regional and local elections this fall.

(NYTimes.com)

## Afghan families given money

Sunday, March 25

**KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN** –

U.S. authorities have given cash compensation to the families of Afghans killed, allegedly by an American soldier in Kandahar, a family member and tribal elder said on Sunday.

The families received \$50,000 for each person killed and \$10,000 for each person wounded in the shootings, which occurred

in two villages earlier this month. Afghan officials say 16 people, mostly women and children, were killed in the attacks.

On Friday, U.S. authorities charged Staff Sergeant Robert Bales with 17 counts of premeditated murder. The death toll is thought to be 16 people, and the 17<sup>th</sup> count refers to the unborn child of one of the victims.

Both the U.S. Embassy and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force would not confirm or deny whether compensation was given.

The killings have further damaged strained U.S.-Afghan relations at a time when foreign forces are preparing to withdraw by the end of 2014. (*NewsDaily.com*)

## Turkey close Syrian Embassy

Monday, March 26

**TURKEY** – Turkey closed its embassy in Syria on Monday, and announced it was suspending all activities in Damascus due to deteriorating security conditions. Turkey is not the first to do so, but it is a key player in the region and was a close ally of Syria until last year. The move is likely to put increased pressure on the Syrian government, and could also boost opposition groups. Turkey and Syria share a border, 16,000 Syrian refugees have fled to Turkey. Turkey, along with the United States, has announced that they will increase the amount of “non-lethal” aid sent to opposition groups in Syria. This includes items such as communication equipment and medical supplies. A major meeting of opposition groups was planned to take place in Istanbul on Monday, to form a more unified goal. (*Christian Science Monitor*)

**Airband** continued from pg. 1

the Dates for Charity event or attend and/or bid at the event, coordinate groups to perform at Airband, and attend the event itself. Cermignano explains that “100% of proceeds go to that year's charity, including ticket sales and money raised by the dates at Dates for Charity.”

At the culmination of the event each year, performers compete for five different awards. Seven of the performance groups are eligible for these awards – the RA act and Seismic Step performances are not judged.

This year, the awards were as follows: Best Comedy Act – Kappa Delta Kappa “Channel Surfing;” Best Costumes – Punishment for Decadence (the name of the student group and their performance); Most Creative – Tau Sigma Gamma “We're Off T-UC the Wizard;” Best Chore-



Photo courtesy of Jackie Kimmel

Airband was hosted by Pat McAndrew and Caroline Lippe.

ography – Sigma Sigma Sigma “Good Bears Gone Bad;” and Best Crowd Pleaser (overall) –

Phi Kappa Sigma “Night of the Living Skulls.”

## THE GRIZZLY

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# Gilmore visits Berman Art Museum

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The Ursinus community welcomed visiting artist Kate Gilmore this past Wednesday as she discussed her career to crowds in the Berman Museum of Art. Gilmore was invited to lecture at Ursinus College by Pedro Barbeito, a visiting instructor in the Department of Art and Art History.

Gilmore was selected by the art faculty to address UC students from an assortment of four emerging artists compiled by Barbeito.

In recent decades art schools have grown more heavily populated with women, reflected in Ursinus' high female to male ratio in the art department.

Consequently, Gilmore's close proximity in age to students and her feminist perspective made her an ideal candidate as a visiting artist. These relatable characteristics have led Gilmore to be perceived as a role model to up and coming artists.

Barbeito describes Gilmore's work as following in the footsteps of feminist artists.

He views Gilmore's projects as breaking down the former masculine art scene, evident in her piece "She Bangs, She Bangs" in which Gilmore takes a stand in the former male dominated minimalist scene by featuring women

hammering white cubes.

Besides her lecture, Gilmore agreed to meet one on one in the studios with four seniors. One such student, Biology and Studio Art major, Elizabeth Palovick said "It was a phenomenal opportunity to talk with an artist that is of such a high caliber as she is. Even if she typically works in a different medium than what I am familiar with, her opinions and critiques were very beneficial. She was extremely approachable and gave me a lot of good advice and artistic references to look into."

Gilmore attended a liberal arts school, Bates College, where she was a European History and Arts double major. While at college, Gilmore grew passionate about the arts, leading her to seek her master's from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Gilmore's work in installation, video, sculpture, and performance-based art depicts female characters in atypical environments. Gilmore says that she is inspired by personal experience and observations of power structures throughout society. Her goal is to spark larger discussions from her pieces, apparent in "Star Bright, Star Might" which was played on a jumbotron in Time Square, NYC. This controversial project features Gilmore's face



Courtesy of Emily Patrick

"Star Bright, Star Might" was displayed on a projection screen during Gilmore's presentation last Wednesday in the Berman Art Museum.

breaking through a star cut-out in plywood. Gilmore describes this character as refusing rejection and demanding to be a "star."

Barbeito hopes that students were able to take away from Gilmore's visit the desire to "engage and be a part of this world in any way they wish." Gilmore serves as an exemplary role that it is acceptable to deviate from

society's expected path in life. Barbeito encourages all students to find their own niche in life regardless of how unconventional it may appear to the world.

Sophomore Joy McDermott, who attended Gilmore's lecture, said "some of her videos were really funny and they all had deeper meaning but it wasn't what some might think of as 'art.'"

Students can view Gilmore's work in New York City's Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, along with the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and various other renowned museums within the U.S as well as Switzerland, Italy, Austria, and Germany.

## WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

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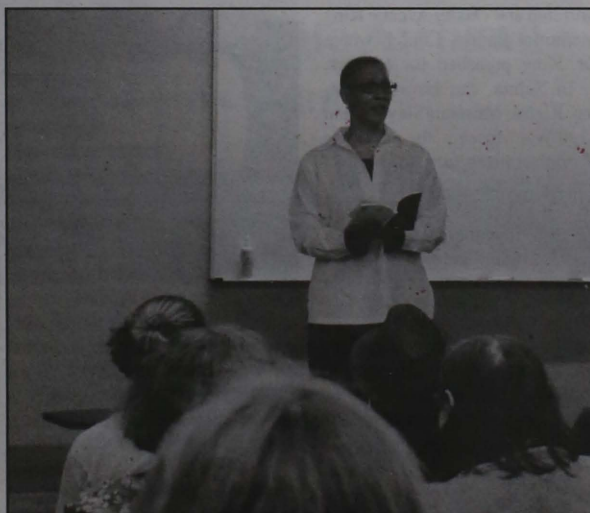


Photo courtesy of Heidi Jensen

Blues Writer Sharon Bridgforth reads aloud from *love/conjure/blues* during her presentation last Tuesday evening.

"BLUES" continued from pg. 1

"Celebrating African American Literature" last fall.

After watching Bridgforth's performance, Schroeder decided "I need this voice to add to my class." Describing Bridgforth's work as "mesmerizing," Schroeder said her students have gained a new perspective on writing and are exposed to a woman's experience in this type of literature.

With support from Ursinus' Creative Writing program, the Multicultural Affairs Office, and S.U.N., Schroeder was able to invite Bridgforth to campus, providing her students with a better understanding of Bridgforth's writing.

Senior James Noebels, a student in Schroeder's Blues Seminar, enjoyed Bridgforth's performance.

In an email, he said that when reading her book, "you absolutely need to come up with your own voices and dialects because it's written in different fonts, sizes, everything. So to hear her present her work the way she wants us to do it was very helpful."

He felt that he had achieved more guidance of how to navigate through Bridgforth's work after witnessing her work performed.

Furthermore, Noebels also expressed his liking of the style of Bridgforth's *love/conjure blues*. He said, "I think what I like about her work is that, yes, it's a book, but the real way you're supposed to read it is as a community of people, aloud, call and response, so you can feel it. I love reading; I'm an English major. But this was cool because I've never 'talked' a book."

# UC Recyclemania holds Green Day Carnival

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On March 24, the Recyclemania team at Ursinus held the Green Day Carnival, an event aimed at increasing awareness and involvement in sustainability efforts.

The event was held in the Bears Den from 11p.m. - 2p.m. and following its "Clean, Green Carnival" theme, it featured games, snacks, raffles, and performances by campus groups.

The event functioned so that people would receive raffle tickets for playing sustainability games and learning about environmental responsibility.

Participants could receive tickets by winning games such as "Knock 'em Down," "Bottle Bowling," "Green Pong," "Minute to Win It: Ball Balance," and "Green Flip Cup."

The tickets could then be entered in a raffle for great prizes, including gift cards and vouchers

from Da Vinci's Pub, Comfort Cafe, the Irish Shop, and the Philly Pretzel Factory. Other prizes included a basket made by the Ursinus environmental office, a facilities fleece vest, a children's basket with seedlings, and M&M and raisin guess jars.

In addition to the games and raffle, there were live performances by the B'Naturals and ZBS (an improv group) and representatives from Phi Kappa Sigma, STAR, and Comfort Café present.

"I would consider our event a great success for our campus community and a fun culmination of the 2012 Recyclemania competition. Thanks to our students, faculty, and staff, rates of recycling here on campus have increased dramatically over the past two months, and I know I can speak for the entire Recyclemania board in saying that we are very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to continued sustainability success in years to come," said Recyclemania chair



Courtesy of Sophie Zander

Aubrey Paris.

The Green Day Carnival is part of the larger Recyclemania effort in which Ursinus competes against 605 colleges and universities to lower their waste the most significantly.

Each week the institutions record and report the amount of recyclables and waste produced to measure their improvement and see which institution has

improved the most.

This competition is aimed at increasing sustainability and promoting a healthier environment, and according to the Recyclemania website, by week five the academic institutions had worked to reduce green house gas emissions by a combined total of 36,528 metric tons of CO2.

This was the first year Ursinus officially entered the National Competition, and it has seen momentous increases in the amount of recyclables the school produces (vs. trash).

"We even had to get a new storage shed for all the recycled materials! I'm confident that together we will make Ursinus a very sustainable school," said Sean Miller, President of Recyclemania.

"It's remarkable, seeing the community come together to support a great cause. That's what recycling is all about - everyone doing their part to help reduce our impact on the environment," Miller said.

Recyclemania was started by Maryanne Berthel, who arranged every aspect of the multifaceted initiative including the Green Day Carnival, as well as the volunteers who made the Green Day Carnival and other Recyclemania efforts possible.

While the actual competition will end on March 31, the UC Green Team hopes it will inspire continued environmental consciousness and responsibility.

The entire community can cooperate to reduce waste, increase recycling and better the natural world, seen in the message presented by the Green Day Carnival and verified through its success.

John Sawhill, the late president and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, succinctly sums up what the Green Day Carnival was aimed at achieving: "A society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy."

# Alabama civil rights trip was living history for students

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During spring break in early March, eight students from the course of African American Religious Experience, taught by the campus Chaplain, Reverend Charles Rice, spent five days in Alabama for a civil rights trip.

"It was like walking into a piece of history," said first-year student, Charlotte Dobson.

Paulette Patton, Director of Multicultural Affairs, helped organize the trip and accompanied the class.

In previous years, students have visited Mississippi and other southern states as part of their civil rights trip.

The group was small in size in order to allow interactions to be deeper between the students for discussions and reflections.

This year, the trip's primary focus was on Alabama, and included visits to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham.

On the day of their visit, the group met with civil rights leaders, J.D. and Gwen Ap-

pling, who participated in the Children's March in May 1963. The group joined the two leaders in a tour of Kelly Ingram Park, and even had the privilege of eating dinner with them.

The couple, who still happen to be activists in today's current fight for justice, was able to offer positive advice for ways to uplift a community to the students and reassured them that there is still much work to be done.

"It was then that it truly hit me, that many people still alive were part of a segregated time here in the United States. It was this trip that made me realize that many of the issues that many of us believe to be over, did not occur very long ago. It is this series of events that allowed me to understand that the residue from the civil-rights movement is thicker than I had ever imagined. It was just over 40 years ago, our parents were alive during this time, the problem is not over," junior Rodolfo Coplin said.

The students also attended a service at the 16th Street Baptist Church where the infamous bombing of four little girls took place in the fall of 1963.

In Montgomery, they toured the Tuskegee-Moton Field, Tuskegee Airman Museum, Tuskegee University, the Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Institute, the Rosa Parks Museum and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where Dr. King preached for 6 years.

In Selma, the National Voting Rights Museum/Slavery and Civil War Museum, the grave site of Viola Liuzzo (a white activist murdered after a Selma march), and sites of historic marches were the last stops the group made as part of their landmark journey.

"[The trip] was one that made a life changing impact on how I view my people, society, and education. Generations today do not realize just how privileged and blessed they are to be in the positions they are in," sophomore Tyrell Martin said.

Sophomore Mercy Gambrah, could also attest to the importance of realizing just how privileged people are.

"It can be easily taken for granted, but understanding your history helps you to make decisions that won't



Courtesy of Olivia Minick

disappoint those who worked hard to get us to where we are today," Gambrah said.

Each night after the group returned to their hotel, they spent a little over an hour reflecting on the events of the day and were able to discuss the sites and exhibits in direct correlation to the texts they read throughout the first half of the semester.

One sentiment the class shared overall was to their active duty to

teach all they know to others in order for equality to persevere.

"Making it as far in life as I did and climbing even higher, I now feel obligated to reach out to my people and teach them about what many schools in this nation fail to teach them, educate them, all in order to help them succeed in life. I must also make them realize that they have to do the same for the next generation," Martin said.

# Greek Week in progress, helps to unite UC sororities and fraternities

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Greek Week at Ursinus College is a week dedicated to everything Greek.

It is a week for Greek organizations on campus to come together and unite.

On Ursinus' campus, there are six sororities and seven fraternities, and all are participating in this week's festivities.

On Monday, these Greek organizations gathered for the annual kick off of Greek Week event, the Rock Placing Ceremony.

In this ceremony, every organization came together with a rock decorated in their sorority and fraternity colors, and then placed their rock under a special tree in Olin Plaza. Next, the Greek organizations came together for a friendly competition of Greek Trivia.

"This week is a great week for Greek organizations because it is important to feel like we are a part of something bigger, which is what being in a Greek organization is all about," said Phi Alpha Psi President Elizabeth

Wallace.

The Greek organizations are split up into teams that compete against each other to see who can call themselves the Ultimate Greek Week Team.

The events consisted of Greek Trivia, a Greek God and Goddess competition, a scavenger hunt, a comedian performance, and finally, tug of war and relays.

Every team aspires to win each event.

"Greek Week is a great week to be Greek. It is one of the most fun weeks on campus and I enjoy spending time with the other organizations, and competing against them in some friendly competition," said Delta Pi Sigma President Dominic Mallon.

This is the first Greek Week that new members of organizations, who educated in the fall, will be experiencing.

A new member of Tau Sigma Gamma said, "I am super excited to participate in my very first Greek week. I am most excited about the powder puff game that is being held on Saturday. I also really enjoy seeing all the banners hanging in Wismer. It makes me proud to be Greek here on the Ursinus Campus, and proud to be

a part of this fantastic community of organizations."

This week supports Greeks, helps organizations to get to know each other in a different environment than everyone is used to, and creates friendly competition.

Coming together and being a smaller organization in the larger community is what being Greek is about for many Ursinus students.

Greeks have shared that being in the Greek community means always having support from your fellow Greek organizations.

This week also provides an opportunity for the rest of the Ursinus student body to know what Greeks are doing on campus.

It also aims to teach other students that may not participate in a Greek organization that being in an organization means much more than just hanging out with other organizations on the weekend.

For the Greek community, being involved in sorority and fraternity life is about being a part of a sisterhood or brotherhood that can never be broken.

Greek week strives to further this belief and have fun in the process.

# Rosati embraces opportunity at Frederick Living

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Courtesy of Sarah Bollert

Allison Rosati, a senior exercise and sports science major with a minor in coaching, interned at Frederick Living, a senior community in Frederick, Pennsylvania, in the spring of last year and was then hired as a paid employee the summer of 2011.

Originally interested in an internship that dealt with occupational therapy and children, she was encouraged by her academic advisor to instead try working with another age group: senior citizens. At Frederick, Rosati was responsible for keeping residents active.

Using her leadership and public speaking skills, she taught wellness and nutrition classes, and also spent time in the dementia unit engaging residents with exercise classes. Rosati even implemented a Wii Bowling League, creating an energizing, competitive atmosphere.

Additionally, Rosati transferred program attendance records from paper to computer format, and while doing so, noticed around seventy-five percent of attendees were females.

To engage the men of the community she created "The Frederick Fellows," a men's group that met monthly with Rosati and still meets to this day, a result Rosati considers "probably [her] biggest accomplishment."

"My internship has definitely been the pinnacle of my Ursinus career by far," Rosati said.

She stays in touch by volunteering about every two weeks and has established a connection between Ursinus and the Frederick community, bringing residents to visit the campus to attend her basketball games. Her adviser even created a capstone course this semester that enlisted Rosati's help to pair each student with a Frederick resident to provide first-hand, outside-the-classroom implications to their studies.

Rosati's studies at Ursinus have been enriched by her internship experience. Last semester her capstone dealt with wellness program management and

students were required to analyze a facility's management perspectives. Rosati used the opportunity to look at Frederick Living from a management point of view, adding to her understanding of how the community functioned.

Rosati's success came from her willingness to expand the possibilities of her potential interests.

She first took her advisor's advice to work at a retirement community, and then on site switched from the occupational therapy department to working on the aforementioned programs when she found the former didn't suit her as she had expected.

"I'm thankful that I was able to explore a different area of Frederick," Rosati said.

Rosati is going to graduate school to study gerontology, the study of aging.

"Now that's what I'm doing for the rest of my life and I absolutely love it," Rosati said.

Having been accepted to graduate school, she will attend evening classes and work at a position at Frederick during the day.

She now has to decide whether she "wants to explore management more or wellness," management being a field she never would have previously considered had it not been for her capstone and firsthand study of Frederick.

As someone who once saw retirement communities in a negative light and who has had her professional interests change drastically in the last year, she advises students to "be open to new possibilities."

# Word on the Street

with Brooke Mitchell

## "What was your favorite Airband moment this year?"



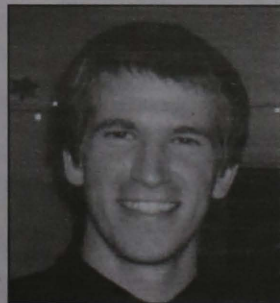
Rachel Pandl  
Psychology, 2013

"In the RA act when the three boys did the single ladies dance wearing high heels and spandex!"



Natalie Massari  
Biology, 2013

"My favorite part was Tau Sig's Wizard of Oz act- it was really funny and creative!"



Jeff Landau  
Biochemistry, 2012

"When Chris [from Phi Kappa Sigma's act] shuffled across the stage as a zombie with the light and fog behind him."

# Trayvon Martin case is a wake-up call

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Skittles and a bottle of iced tea.

Who would have thought that those two items would become the symbol of innocence in this case that has swept the nation for the past month? March 26 marks the month anniversary since Trayvon Martin was slain after his tragic walk to the store while on his phone with a 16-year-old girl.

Trayvon Martin—for those who are not familiar with the story—was a 17-year-old black male who was shot to death after “looking suspicious” in his black hoodie to 28-year-old white male (and self-appointed neighborhood watch captain) George Zimmerman, in a predominantly white neighborhood in Florida.

The fact that a black male is even deemed suspicious in a neighborhood of whites says a lot about the issue of race in America.

Too many denials of the issue of race being a key factor in Trayvon’s death have surfaced, and there is an imperative need to address such dismissals of

reality. I witnessed a tweet from a girl on Twitter earlier this week that said, “Like seriously, why is there still racism? It’s 2012 people, come on.”

I wish I could have told her in 140 characters or less that it is no shock that there is still racism in 2012, because cases of injustice and inequality on behalf of human rights from hundreds of years to decades ago have still not been addressed, solved, and critically examined. It is sad that Trayvon Martin’s death is one of the few cases that have even been exposed to the public; situations even worse than this one happen day in and day out and rarely make news.

Florida’s self-defense law is one that, in my opinion, seems to be subtly practiced by the law enforcement in various cities and neighborhoods.

It is a known fact that after Zimmerman killed Trayvon, the police did not arrest him, nor did they administer a drug or alcohol test. Zimmerman also had the luxury of having no background check ran on him—although he has had a history of crime.

However, it’s particularly interesting how black male youths and adults are arrested on

the spot for trivial misdemeanors and sent to jail, or back to jail, for so much as not calling an officer “sir” in communities where protocol is to arrest anyone who “looks suspicious”. The thing that people fail to understand is that crime is historically specific and constructed socially. Crime has a color to it.

The reality is: when you are of color in America, the possibility of living a life of crime is already a plan that has been created by the government for you to live up to. Based on current rates of first incarceration, an estimated 28% of black males will enter state or federal prison during their lifetime, compared to 16% of Hispanic males and 4.4% of white males.

There is also much speculation about the fact that Zimmerman’s mother is Peruvian, and his father is white. Does his family truly believe that because he has a somewhat ethnic background, race definitely was not a factor? Do people believe he gets a pass on the race card?

Either way, Zimmerman has had the opportunity to identify as a white man his entire life

because of his skin color. His privilege affords him many things that black people cannot even imagine.

Geraldo Rivera’s recent claims that Trayvon’s hoodie is as much responsible for his death as George Zimmerman, seems to be a sentiment shared by many. His remarks blame the victim, however.

Unfortunately, when white male youths walk around with hoodies, they are most times not seen as a threat, but for a black male to wear an article of clothing, it is personally threatening to those around them. Black males (actually, any people of color) are cursed with a stigma in America: that stigma calls for them to have to act like the status quo.

If they dare not to, they are seen as criminals, troublemakers, outsiders, or resistant if they dare go against what is considered “normal”. White is normalized in America.

In the book by Dr. Marc Lamont Hill & Mumia Abu-Jamal, “The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America,” Hill asks Mumia who he considers himself to be.

Mumia describes that he is a “free Black man living in captivity” and that a large percentage of black men can answer that question in a similar way. He states that we are still in captivity in this country and that he’ll “never forget the words of Harriet Tubman. She said, ‘I could’ve freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.’ That idea is still true today. We are the freest un-free people in the world.”

I am a firm believer that black people—just like Trayvon Martin—have constantly had to pay a cost for freedom and equality. Our differences from white people have cost us our lives. Justice for Trayvon Martin will not be won if people are not willing to honestly and effectively discuss their fears, concerns, and prejudices in terms of race and realize that equality is not shared by all.

America is not a land of freedom and opportunity—those statements are fantasies made to appease and to keep people complacent in a fight for justice. We cannot continue to choose to ignore these issues if we really want to strive to live together safely in this new millennium.

## Ursinus celebrates St. Patrick’s weekend

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While a holiday in honor of the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, commemorating the arrival of Christianity in Ireland does not seem like anything I would be interested in, the way Ursinus celebrates St. Patrick’s Day makes it my favorite holiday.

It appears that when donning St. Patrick paraphernalia and green and white garb, it becomes completely normal to finish racks of Nattys and take shots before brunch. Any holiday that spawns a day of accepted alcoholism produces no qualms in my book. St. Patrick’s Day has become a sanction on intense day drinking, and this year Ursinus students celebrated the Irish spirit with more fervor than ever.

In my opinion, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations are amazing because they bring the student body closer together, however there are some negative consequences that one must be careful of.

The one negative consequence of the St. Patrick’s Day intense day drinking: public embarrassment. For instance, a hefty boy (who will remain anonymous to avoid further embarrassment) was witnessed body-rolling halfway down a hill. flattening a Natty can on his way down.

In my opinion, keeping ones drunken stupidity confined to their small group of friends is everyone’s best bet. This year a black lab from a neighboring house was trying to party with Ursinus students. Although it was nice to see students mingling

while petting the dog, there were also those drunkards trying to steal and/or ride him. Let the poor dog sniff out brews! Harassing an animal is neither funny nor humane.

Wiffleball in Reimert was another day activity that I felt brought the student body together. The Men’s Lacrosse team relished their win by starting a wiffleball game in the courtyard as spectators watched from the balconies.

Ursinus sophomore lacrosse player Jordan McGinty, agreeing, said, “Wiffleball in the Reimert courtyard really started the afternoon festivities for the lacrosse team. Everyone was messed up so it was a really good time.”

However, many could not handle the marathon of drinking that St. Patrick’s Day entails.

Such a feat of prolonged celebrating requires stamina, and many fell victim to the dangerous nap. The nap is such a potential danger because many wake up and realize they have slept through the entire night of celebrations!

This is another negative consequence of drinking all day for St. Patrick’s Day, it can be too taxing on the body and ruin the nighttime festivities.

Those that were unable to make it till the night were lucky in one aspect though; that they missed out on some displays of nudity. There were many gentlemen running around sans clothing. I am not sure whether they thought their clover leaf clad boxers would entice the ladies or were trying to show off their beer bloat and matted rugs of chest hair, but needless to say

it was not a good look.

While campus safety reports being extraordinarily busy throughout the day trying to quell the chaos, unfortunately they did not address these nude bandits. Regardless of who you are (excluding Christiano Ronaldo), I do not want to see your package bouncing around in tight green briefs. Plus, it’s March and your legs are ghostly pale. That much blinding white thigh is not attractive.

While I caution others to avoid public embarrassment, napping and nudity, I think that the celebrations brought the Ursinus community even closer together. So although I am an atheist, I’ll raise my glass to Saint Patrick and thank him for creating a holiday that brings great beverages and great people together.



# Player Spotlight: Amanda Laurito, Track and Field

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In her third year running track and field at Ursinus College, junior sprinter Amanda Laurito is looking to be successful once again in 2012.

Coming off her best season to date, Laurito hopes to repeat the success she had last season, and perhaps do even more.

"My goals for this outdoor season are high. I hope to qualify for Nationals along with my other teammates. I also hope to take gold medals in all of my events at the Conference Championship meet, as well as to win the Centennial Conference Championship with my team," said Laurito.

When she first came to Ursinus, Laurito had no intention of playing a sport.

In high school, Laurito was a gymnast and had never even thought about being a track runner.

Once she came to Ursinus, Laurito overheard some friends talking about track, and she became interested.

Head track and field coach, Chris Bayless, approached Laurito about joining the team and she quickly accepted Bayless' invitation.

Her choice proved to be a good one, as Laurito has become a stand out both on the team and in the Centennial Conference.

Last season Laurito had her best season yet.

She broke six school records and took gold medals in all of her individual events at the Centennial Conference Championship meet.

Despite dealing with injury issues during the winter, Laurito's indoor season was successful, as she won a gold medal in the 60 meter dash, along with two silver medals in the 200 meter dash and the 4x200 meter relay.

Laurito is hoping to stay healthy during her outdoor quest for success.

"I would like to qualify for Nationals and meet all my goals for this season, but my ultimate goal is to have a completely healthy season this year through the help of my coaches and the athletic trainers. If I do not qualify for



Courtesy of James Wagner

Nationals this year, I would like to make that my ultimate goal for next year in my final season run-

ning track at Ursinus," Laurito said.

With several meets left in the

outdoor season, Laurito still has plenty of time to achieve these goals.

Early season meets have shown promise for the third year competitor, as she has placed within the top eight in her events in each of the past two meets.

In upcoming weekends, Laurito will look to continue building upon her training as the track team travels to Widener University, University of Delaware, and Gwynned-Mercy College for invitational meets.

Laurito feels as though more than just training and hard work could aid in her dreams to repeat as a Centennial Conference champion and to become an NCAA championships qualifier.

She claims that support from other students is always significant in helping the team meet their goals.

So, Laurito urges, students should be sure to check out the next track and field meet, and help Laurito and her teammates push towards their postseason goals in the process.

# Rugby continues building tradition

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On St. Patrick's Day, the Ursinus men's rugby team was victorious over American University in Washington D.C. in an early round national playoff contest.

Thanks to the victory, the Rugby team earned the right to take on William and Mary in Norfolk, Va. last weekend.

Sadly for the Rugby team, this is where the team's national playoff run ended.

Despite the loss, the Rugby team can speak proudly of their accomplishments this year, having moved farther through the national playoffs than ever before.

The club began in the fall of 2001, with the first match being against Swarthmore College in the spring of 2002.

The club participates in a regular season in the fall and an exhibition season in the spring. Jared Good, an Ursinus alum and

four-year captain, was one of the few who began the club.

"It was always a learning process in the early years. We played competitive rugby, winning our share, but also taking our lumps against bigger schools and more experienced teams. With the original players graduating, it was a few years until we had a solid base of experienced players, and didn't have to always start players new to the game," Good said.

In the past, the men's rugby club has had trouble in keeping their schedule intact, whether it was a matter of the team getting a field for an upcoming game, or a field to just be able to practice on.

"It was a little rocky at times, but we worked together to make it a success. A playing and practice area will always be a compromise at a small school with limited field space," Good said.

Not being allotted a field to practice on has resulted in the club finding their own space in the limited resources on campus.

"Getting a field, that's a big

one. We practice behind Reimert, but that's going to stop I hope. It's totally trashed behind there," said senior co-captain David Porbunderwala.

Yet, the rugby club has had their share of not being organized and on top of what needed to be done in order to be a successful team.

"The start of my junior year, we were sort of lost, more or less. We weren't very timely with things, so we were asking for fields, you know, the week of," Porbunderwala said.

Along with finding fields for practice and games, for away games the rugby players themselves have to provide their own transportation.

Some games are three hours away.

"We get I think about \$3,000 a year, and that mainly goes to gas. That is one of our main expenses," said senior co-captain Mike Ward.

"We figured out our contacts of what we had to do to get

*"It was always a learning process in the early years. We played competitive rugby, winning our share, but also taking our lumps against bigger schools and more experienced teams. With the original players graduating, it was a few years until we had a solid base of experienced players, and didn't have to start players new to the game"*

— Jared Good  
Ursinus Alum

games going on. Once Mike and I got in control of it, we started talking to administration months in advance. When we got the schedule for the fall season we emailed them in July explaining our needs," Porbunderwala said.

Communication has improved between both team and administration in hopes of improving their relationship and acquiring their needs.

"Now we are a lot more vocal with the administration in terms

of what we want as a team," Porbunderwala said.

Alumni have recently started an association to continue their support to the current and future teams.

"This year we've formed the Ursinus College Rugby Alumni association in hopes of fostering a better relationship between the school and our club team. The team is facing several issues that the alumni would like to help resolve," alumnus Ben Mannix said.

"We are actually going into the eleventh season of the club. So, we have a fairly large alumni base at this point. They are finally getting organized. Which means they will be helping us out in terms of advocacy with the school if we ever need that, financial, they have already started raising money for us. They are even looking at maybe trying to get us some corporate sponsorship from small business just in the area," Ward said.

# Senior Spotlight: Jeff Ocampo, Men's Lacrosse

**Keith Baker**  
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The Men's lacrosse season is underway and one player who stands out on and off the field is senior midfielder, Jeff Ocampo.

Last season, Ocampo and company finished 9-6 overall, while going 4-4 in Centennial Conference play.

Ocampo believes that this season the Bears can improve upon that record.

In 2011, Ocampo scored a team-high 36 goals, which helped him earn Centennial Conference Player of the Year, and All-American honors.

Not being complacent, Ocampo has big goals for this season too.

"We've been building our program steadily during my time here. I want to gain national recognition for our program by winning the Centennial [Conference] and competing in the NCAA tournament," Ocampo said.

Ocampo feels that the team's offseason dedication should go a long way in helping the team achieve these goals.

"Last year, we started working with a team building company named 'The Program'. Twice this year, we've had the opportunity to work with a 12-year former Navy Seal officer doing small boat team Judgment day, as well as another 5 a.m. workout with him. It was an unbelievable opportunity for us to grow and



Courtesy of James Wagner

Senior midfielder Jeff Ocampo has evolved into one of the conference's elite players, while also becoming a team leader both on and off the field.

learn," Ocampo said.

"The Program", as Ocampo mentioned, is a rigid training program that prepared the team beyond the physical aspect of the game.

"We have continued to im-

prove our mental and physical toughness by working with The Program, being committed to our out-of-season workouts, and holding each other to a high performance standard," Ocampo said.

In a Centennial Conference poll, the Bears were picked to finish fifth in the conference, however, Ocampo does not seem to pay much attention to those pre-season polls.

What he does note is the con-

tribution of the team's freshman class thus far.

"I have to give credit to the freshmen class for doing a phenomenal job in every aspect. I can honestly say we pushed them hard in the weight room. It's paying off as they are having a huge impact on each game," Ocampo said.

"It's tough losing some of the players and leaders from last year's senior class, but I believe this team is one of the most talented and hardest working group's I've seen during my time here. I'm proud of the culture we've created," Ocampo said.

Goals, assists, points, and games played are not really what Ocampo feels is the most important thing to be remembered by.

"We believe that the true test of a class is to leave a place in better shape than when we found it. I hope that the things we're doing will change the players that will succeed us. I suppose that's my only goal, that the things we do now will have a lasting impact," Ocampo said.

Only time will tell what April will hold for the men's lacrosse team and Ocampo in his final year as Bear.

But one thing is for sure, the Ursinus men's lacrosse team will miss Ocampo's contribution in years to come.

The Bears next home game is April 14<sup>th</sup> when they will face conference rival McDaniel College on Patterson Field at 3 p.m.

## Upcoming UC Sports Schedule

3/30-3/31  
Men's and Women's  
Track and Field  
Danny Curran Invitational  
@ Widener University

3/31  
Baseball (Game 1)  
vs. Washington College  
12:30 p.m.

3/31  
Men's Lacrosse  
@ Eastern  
2:30 p.m.

3/31  
Baseball (Game 2)  
vs. Washington College  
3 p.m.

3/30  
Baseball  
@ Muhlenberg  
3:30p.m.

3/31  
Women's Lacrosse  
@ Bryn Mawr  
1 p.m.

3/31  
Softball (Game 1)  
@ Moravian  
1 p.m.

3/31  
Softball (Game 2)  
@ Moravian  
3 p.m.

