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## The Grizzly, March 1, 2012

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## Grasso hosts Leadership Summit

Melissa Rutkowski  
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Five years ago, Ursinus College head softball coach Jen Croneberger was first introduced to Brian Grasso, creator of Free Thinking Renegades. After witnessing him speak at a fitness industry seminar, Croneberger became captivated by Grasso's movement.

A self proclaimed writer and story teller, Grasso launched Free Thinking Renegades Nation a mere 14 weeks ago.

FTR Nation was designed to inspire the world to do the extraordinary.

Dismissing clichés such as "ain't nothing to it, but to do it," Grasso takes a more unconventional approach to life.

Croneberger invited Grasso to speak during the second session of "The Leadership Summit," proclaiming Grasso's movement "can be life changing for those who want it to be."

Despite suffering from the flu, Grasso made the trek from Montreal, Canada to present his show "Sawubona: Ignore the Rules; Inspire the Extraordinary."

His presentation is designed to encourage the audience to pursue their true purpose in life by forg-

ing their own unique path. Grasso's show was met with mixed reviews.

Sophomore chemistry major Paige Fronheiser represents the views of FTR Nation supporters when she proclaims, "I loved him! I hear lots of phrases like 'what is happiness and success to you' but it really sunk in when he questioned 'When you wake up 30 years from now, what are you going to think of your life?' He gave me many thoughts to ponder. Overall, it was great!"

Grasso claims his biggest fear is that our generation is being taught what to think rather than how to think.

Thus, he encourages students to follow the renegade road by being creative, bold, and daring in their life choices.

Grasso expressed his concern that the general public tended to follow the "paved road" in life, which presumes that fulfillment in life stems from attaining success.

While maintaining that the paved road is not necessarily a bad road, he asserts that it is a measure of conformity.

Grasso preaches when following the "renegade road", success will be realized once happiness is already achieved. Grasso further



Emerson Hawkins/The Grizzly

Brian Grasso spoke with attendees after his discussion.

highlights that there is not a single definition of success, and that instead success in life is a definition you have to make yourself.

After speaking to the crowds, Grasso aired his video "Life by

Numbers," which emphasized our inevitable death and thus urgency to be audacious.

His controversial video sparked many students to take offense to his movement.

While some students like Fronheiser found Grasso inspiring, others were not sold on his

See "GRASSO" on pg. 2

## Board meets on Diversity Reports

James Noebels  
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On Feb. 17, President Fong shared three reports on campus diversity with the Ursinus community via email as a precursor to the Board of Trustees' retreat today where it will review the latest draft of its strategic plan.

In his note attached to the three documents, Fong said he

wanted to share the reports with the campus community "so that students and staff, as well as faculty, have a common background to the discussion of diversity as it is treated in the strategic plan draft."

The committees behind each of the three reports observed and made recommendations for the state of diversity at Ursinus directly to the President.

After the findings of the

Teagle Home Team were sent to Fong in September, they were given to the Campus Priorities and Planning Committee (CPPC) diversity workgroup. The Faculty Committee on Diversity (FCD) shared its report with the CPPC workgroup, the Teagle Home Team, and the Presidential Committee on Race and Equality (PCRE) in December, after which the workgroup on diversity submitted its re-

port to the CPPC. The PCRE submitted its report at the end of January.

Fong said in his comments on the three reports, "You will note that the recommendations from the three groups sometimes diverge from one another."

Though some information in each of the reports is similar, one major difference is that the report of the FCD recommended the implementation of

what it is calling a "Chief Diversity Officer/Special Assistant to the President for Diversity," or CDO/SA.

According to the report, "this individual should know the best practices of 'diversity work' and current literature about diversity, i.e., be knowledgeable about diversity as a field."

See "BOARD" on pg. 3

# International News: Train disaster in Argentina, Western journalists killed in Syria bombings

## Fifty dead in train crash

(CNN.com)

## Journalists killed in Homs

Thursday, Feb. 23

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** –

Argentina's president declared a two day period of mourning after 50 people were killed and hundreds more injured when a commuter train plowed into a barrier in a Buenos Aires station.

The train was traveling around 16 mph when it entered the station 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

The train's 28-year-old driver had just started his shift and had a good track record.

Authorities are investigating whether problems with the train's brakes caused it to crash into a barrier at the station.

The accident injured 676 people. Rescuers pried open windows of damaged train cars into order to reach injured passengers, and family members crowded around Argentine hospitals waiting for news of loved ones.

Thursday, Feb. 23

**HOMS, SYRIA** –

Two Western journalists were killed Wednesday in the embattled city of Homs, prompting renewed calls for President Bashar al-Assad to relinquish power.

The two journalists killed were U.S.-born Marie Colvin, a war correspondent, and French photojournalist Remi Ochlik.

At least two other Western journalists were reported injured in the shelling of Homs, which has been ongoing for almost three weeks and has killed hundreds of civilians, activists say.

Reporters Without Borders, a press freedom group, alleged that the building where the two were killed was deliberately targeted by the government, because it was public knowledge that the building was used regularly by

journalists as a makeshift media center.

So far, there is no evidence to back these claims. (*Los Angeles Times*)

## Prince suffers brain damage

Friday, Feb. 24

**THE NETHERLANDS** –

A Dutch prince who was buried in an avalanche while skiing in Austria suffered extensive brain damage and may never regain consciousness, his doctors have said.

Johan Friso is the second of Queen Beatrix's three sons.

The head of trauma at the Innsbruck hospital where the 43-year-old prince is being treated said it took almost an hour to reanimate him after rescuers found the prince buried in the snow.

He was buried for 25 minutes. The doctor said that oxygen deprivation during this time led to massive brain damage.



**Lisa Jobe**  
International News

The prince is a low-profile member of the highly popular Dutch royal family.

He is married and has two daughters, ages six and five. (*The Guardian*)

## Suicide bomber strikes military airport

Monday, Feb. 27

**KABUL, AFGHANISTAN** –

A suicide car bomber killed nine people in an attack on a military airport in Afghanistan on Monday, the latest violence since

copies of the Koran were burned at a NATO base last week.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred at the gates of Jalalabad airport.

The airport is used almost exclusively by NATO and the U.S. military.

Nineteen Afghan civilians and law enforcement officers and four NATO soldiers were also wounded in the attack.

Riots have occurred across Afghanistan over the past week in retaliation for the burning of the Koran at the main NATO air base.

President Barack Obama and military commanders have apologized for the incident, and NATO has described it as a "tragic blunder."

Over 30 people have died and 200 more were injured in the violence.

The violence has highlighted the challenges faced by NATO forces as they begin to pull out of Afghanistan, a process that is scheduled to be completed in 2014. (*Reuters.com*)

"GRASSO" continued from pg. 1

theory. Senior Arielle Ross, recounts, "I thought the speaker was really patronizing. I think that rather than encourage us to work within the systems we will have to live in, he demeaned that lifestyle, which for some of us is actually appealing. He also lacked, or seemed to lack, a basic

understanding that he was lucky that he's made enough money to do what he does and that many of us will never have those opportunities. The video was trite and his speech uninteresting and clichéd."

Others agreed with Grasso's theories but criticized his presentation of them.

Senior Bonner Leader Maire

Moriarty said, "The biggest problem with Brian Grasso is that he is completely right. Everyone should take the time to think about the life they live outside of what is considered 'normal' or 'successful.' That's what made the presentation so frustrating – I agreed with everything he had to say, but his methods drove me crazy."

# THE GRIZZLY

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over spring break for news updates. Our next print issue will be distributed on Thursday, Mar. 22.

## WRITERS WANTED

Join us for our next meeting on Monday, Mar. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Olin 101

## CORRECTIONS

The Grizzly strives to be accurate in its reporting. If you notice a mistake, please contact us at [grizzly@ursinus.edu](mailto:grizzly@ursinus.edu) and we will make every effort to amend the error.

# Psychology major organizes autism discussion

Sara Hourwitz

sahourwitz@ursinus.edu

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, junior Briana Brukilacchio, a psychology major, led a discussion group focusing on autism.

During the discussion, Brukilacchio shared facts about the disease and the nonprofit organizations that promote autism awareness.

Brukilacchio decided to organize this discussion because she is taking the Neurodiversity Seminar, which is about autism, taught by Professor Jennifer Stevenson.

Brukilacchio said that she believes it is important for the campus to learn more about the disorder, especially because "The opinions of those on the spectrum are really underrepresented in the media."

Not all those who attended the autism presentation knew much about the disorder, Brukilacchio took the time to provide her audience with some background information.

She explained that autism is a general term that encompasses Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, and PDDNOS, which stands for Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified. One of the key issues that Brukilacchio focused on during the forty five minute discussion was the nonprofit group Autism Speaks, which many people can identify by its blue puzzle

piece symbol.

According to the Autism Speaks website, the organization is "dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families." However, Brukilacchio argues that Autism Speaks is "a horrible nonprofit."

She explained that autism Speaks is not fulfilling its missions because apparently all the money being raised is not being used for its intended purpose. Brukilacchio said that roughly only \$1000 out of the \$45 million that Autism Speaks fundraised actually went to help the people with autism and their families.

Brukilacchio also said that many people with autism do not support Autism Speaks, one reason for this being that no one on the board of the organization is autistic.

Furthermore, others with the disorder do not feel that they need someone to speak for them. For example, Brukilacchio read a blog post from a person with autism which said, "Autism Speaks does not speak for me."

Because many people disagree with Autism Speaks' ways, the Neurodiversity Movement was created. Brukilacchio said that the Neurodiversity Movement was "sparked by the injustice of what's going on in the autistic

community and is led by people on the spectrum."

Unlike Autism Speaks, the Neurodiversity Movement supports the belief that people with Autism do not need to find a "cure." This movement promotes the idea that we should all embrace our differences no matter what they are.

After Brukilacchio presented some of her research about autism, she took several questions and comments from the audience.

A few of the students who were in attendance were also from the Neurodiversity class with Brukilacchio, so they offered more information about autism and the different organizations associated with it.

Senior Anna Larouche, who admitted to not knowing much about autism, said that she enjoyed the evening's discussion. Larouche said, "I learned about the differences in the spectrum and the activity going on in the advocacy area."

She also said that the information she had learned has encouraged her to read more about disorder in the future.

Brukilacchio said that those in attendances at the discussion will hopefully "be more aware of the views of the people who have autism, and to realize that a lot of those people feel as if society is representing them as a burden rather than a group of people with



Sara Hourwitz/The Grizzly

Brukilacchio leading the autism discussion last Tuesday.

a lot to contribute."

Brukilacchio hopes to schedule more autism discussions in the future.

She plans to bring in new ma-

terial to each discussion that will expose the Ursinus community to alternative ways of viewing the disorder.

"BORAD" continued from pg. 1

The report stresses that s/he would be part of a new Ursinus Committee on Diversity as well. Such a committee and position, the report argues, would help to clarify and distribute the duties and responsibilities that currently are unstructured and unorganized.

"We have identified one common issue affecting diversity on campus: visibility and transparency," reads the report under the subsection "Statement of the problem".

According to the FCD's document, the "Chain of command -- policies in emergencies, who to report to, positions or titles of persons etc. -- regarding diversity remains unclear or unstated."

While the report of the FCD calls for a new committee and CDO/SA to the President, the

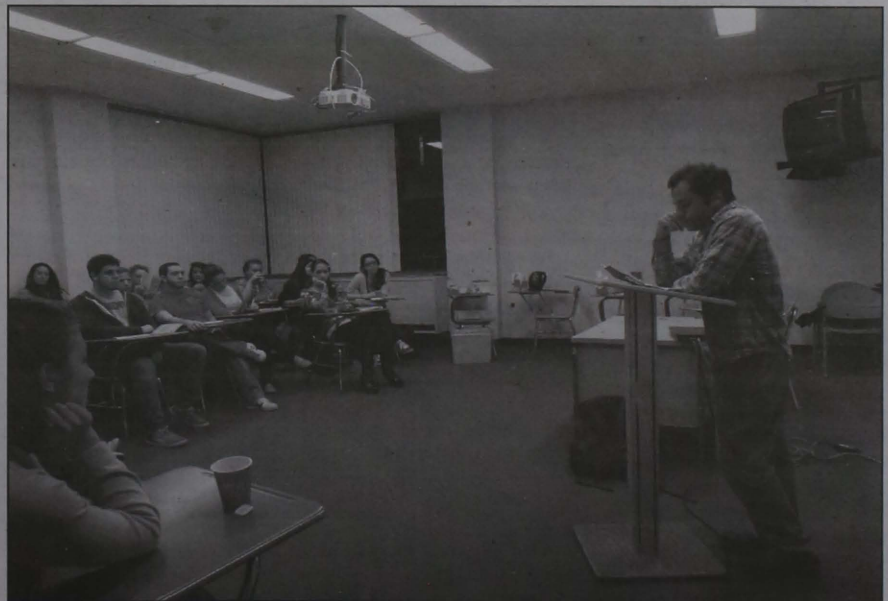
other two recognize the proposition and deem such a suggestion unnecessary.

With the Board of Trustees retreat today the members of the Board will definitely be talking about the diversity workgroup's reports and the recommendations within.

The Ursinus community will have the opportunity to publicly discuss the topics overseen by each of the CPPC's workgroups after the spring recess.

Residents of Collegeville and surrounding areas will have the same opportunity to do so online as well.

With the varying recommendations on what to do with a CDO/SA, Fong said in an interview via email, "This is why the campus discussion on this aspect of the strategic plan will be so important in determining what to do about this recommendation."



Elle Kurz/The Grizzly

Ursinus graduate Dave Hamalian talks to students last Tuesday evening about Camphill Village, an "ecologically focused farming and handcrafting community that includes adults with developmental disabilities" (events.ursinus.edu). For further information on Dave and Camphill, contact UCEA at ucea@ursinus.edu.

# THE GRIZZLY FEATURES

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## Lt. Gen. Helmick of the US Army to speak on campus tonight at 7 P.M.

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This evening, Lieutenant General Frank Helmick of the United States Army will be visiting Ursinus College to address the student body.

LTG Helmick is currently the Commanding General of the XVII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, a position which he assumed on Nov. 19, 2009.

LTG Helmick attended a number of military institutions to prepare for his role in the US Army, including the US Military Academy, Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the Naval Postgraduate School, the United States Armed Forces Staff Course at the Armed Forces Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

During his career, LTG

Helmick has served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, the Joint Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as the Senior Military Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Before accepting his current leadership position, LTG Helmick led the Corps Headquarters to Iraq in support of Operation NEW DAWN, where he served as the Deputy Commander for Operations.

Previously, he commanded the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the NATO Training Mission-Iraq.

Throughout his career, LTG Helmick has held a number of other senior command positions with the United States Army, and has accepted numerous awards, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Service Medal,

Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the NATO Medal.

He has been awarded the Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

LTG Helmick last visited campus during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Tim Blaine, a senior and Politics major, was in attendance and remembers the presentation fondly.

"LTG Helmick is a three-star general, which is an enormous accomplishment considering the limited number of generals that the US Army has. LTG Helmick oversaw the training of the Iraqi Army and police force, meaning that he has literally shaped history. It was an honor to hear a man of LTG Helmick's credentials and experience speak two years ago, and I wouldn't miss the opportunity to hear another one of his lectures," Blaine said.

According to Jane Helmick, a senior and the daughter of LTG Helmick, tonight's talk will shed light on the role of the US Army in Iraq.

"My father was there when the war in Iraq began, in the middle of it, and then closed it out. I think that a lot of people don't really understand exactly what went on over there, they only get what the media tells them. Having



US Army Official Command Photo courtesy of Jane Helmick

someone come talk to us who was there and able to experience it is a golden opportunity," Helmick said.

His presentation will take place this evening beginning at 7 p.m. in Musser Auditorium in Pfahler Hall and is open to the campus and Collegeville community.

## Murphy-Stout interns at South London hospital

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Adrienne Murphy-Stout, a junior neuroscience and biology double major with a minor in biostatistics, interned through CAPA London's study abroad program this past fall.

The internship was in the clinical neuropathology department at King's College Hospital located in South London.

The internship focused mainly on doing analysis of Meningioma brain tumor tissues and was "project-based," said Murphy-Stout, "so every day I had to work toward a certain endpoint."

Upon arrival, Murphy-Stout learned how to accurately record different information about the tissue and spent most of her time thereafter examining immunohistochemical stains of the Meningioma brain tumors.

The physician under whom Murphy-Stout worked was analyzing certain aspects of biopsied Meningioma brain tumors to figure out "good classification and prognosis of the tumors" for the

hospital's patients.

Having no prior knowledge on the subject and processes, Murphy-Stout was trained and given literature to read in order to build a basic background understanding upon which to work.

Throughout the internship, Murphy-Stout also read published journal articles "to keep up with what was going on in the lab."

In addition to exercising her skills in analysis and research, Murphy-Stout improved her proficiency in microscopy and her ability to be meticulous, as she did a lot of cell counting in the laboratory.

In general, she improved her laboratory technique in cutting processed brain tissue, staining, and learning how to mount slides.

Murphy-Stout believes she developed skills "specific to a neuropathology laboratory." From her experience in chemistry classes, she knew how to "pipette and pour, but this was all slicing and dicing," she said.

Murphy-Stout believes that her experience in Ursinus science

classes and laboratories allowed her to feel comfortable in a laboratory, even if it was a completely different setting.

"When I walked into the lab I wasn't intimidated by vials and chemicals and the like," Murphy-Stout said. She was able to focus on learning how to operate unfamiliar machinery and computer programs.

"[The internship] did expose me to a whole new type of laboratory technique," she said.

The clinical neuropathology lab dealt with many ailments to the nervous system, so even though Murphy-Stout worked on one project, she was still able to witness parts of other projects.

"I was fortunate in the aspect that while I did have a specific task I was able to be exposed to so many other things," Murphy-Stout said.

She selected her internship based on her desire to gain "first-hand experience in a lab" and her interest in understanding what a combined MD-PhD program is like.

"It reinforced the idea that I



Courtesy of Sarah Bollert

Murphy-Stout in the clinical neuropathology department at King's College Hospital.

would like to go into medicine, but it kind of opened my eyes to how many different types of doctor you can be," Murphy-Stout said.

Murphy-Stout advises stu-

dents: "If you have an idea of something you want to do, explore that as much as possible to get a first-hand, holistic idea of what the career is. First-hand experience is invaluable."

# Kelly Herr competes in Special Olympics in Korea

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Those who frequent Wismer Dining Hall know Kelly Herr well.

Kelly has worked with Sodexo at Ursinus as a food service worker since August of 2008.

Herr is known as a friendly, hard working employee whose coworkers agree is a great addition to the Wismer dining staff.

Most students are familiar with her as the pleasant young woman who restocks plates, cups and silverware, brews coffee and cleans tables.

This past week, students may have noticed Herr's absence in the cafeteria.

This is because she has been in Korea for the Winter Games Special Olympics Test Events competing in alpine skiing.

Kelly has been participating in the Special Olympics since she was eight years old.

Now, at age 25, she continues to compete at county, state and international levels, allowing her to travel the world and live her dreams.

Currently, Herr trains and competes in swimming, power lifting, floor hockey, bowling and alpine skiing, and has won several medals.

Among these is a bronze medal in bench press, dead lift and combination from when she competed with the US Team in Shanghai, China in the 2007 Olympics.

"It was an amazing experience!" Herr said.

Kelly is one of almost 4 million developmentally and/or physically disabled athletes from 170 countries that comprise the participants of the Special Olympics.

She will be participating in the Special Olympics World Winter Games that will take place in 2013 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

The winter games include many events like alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding and speed skating. Kelly will be trying out for the giant slalom, slalom and super-G events.

"I will do my best and hope to bring home the gold," Herr said.



Courtesy of Jarrod Myers

Rick Lenker and Jarrod Myers, the directors of Dining Services at Ursinus College said, "Kelly gets very excited about the Special Olympics as well as the PA Special Olympics, and always brings her medals in to show the employees. Kelly's goal is to win all gold medals. As a staff, we are very excited for Kelly's opportunity to go to Korea to compete. We're all extremely eager for Kelly's return to see pictures and her medals and the stories that go along with them."

As Kelly continues on her quest to bring home the gold, the Ursinus community waits to celebrate her accomplishments and congratulate her when she returns.

# EV premieres "On the Edge"



Courtesy of Escape Velocity

Dancers Megan Giroux, Sarah Anne Rosner, Jacquelyn Berkowitz, Emily Short, Brittany Gogluizza and Katie Haldeman in a piece choreographed by Sarah Anne Rosner during last spring's performance.

Riley Pembroke  
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Escape Velocity, the student run dance company at Ursinus College that choreographs and produces each show they put on for the community, held their spring performance this past week in the Black Box Theater of the Kaleidoscope.

"The basics of Escape Velocity are to allow Ursinus College students the chance to perform, participate in behind the scenes work, and choreograph while making new friends and having fun. I think the most important part is to become a company and have fun along the way," said Katherine Haldeman, president of Escape Velocity.

Haldeman is currently a senior and has been in Escape Velocity since her sophomore year here at Ursinus.

"I have loved every second of it [Escape Velocity], and have made some of my closest friends because of all the time we spend together preparing for these performances, loading in for shows, and even talking about school work and life in general," Haldeman said.

Haldeman spoke about this week's show with great excitement.

"Escape Velocity's main goal is to give back to the community by providing student made art, which everyone will enjoy seeing. This spring show is a combination of styles of dance this year, with each piece choreographed by either a current student of Ursinus College or an

alumnus. Escape Velocity strives to allow every student on campus a chance to perform whether it is a contemporary movement, jazz, tap, ballet, or even hip hop. This semester, the performance is a little heavier on the contemporary side of dance, but there is still some hip hop and tap to keep the show light and the audience engaged, excited, and on the edge of their seats for what is coming next!" Haldeman said.

Escape Velocity performances took place this past week from Feb. 26 through Feb. 29 at 8:00 p.m. on campus.

General admission costs \$5 and student admission cost \$2.

The money raised from this spring's Escape Velocity show will send the dancers of Escape Velocity to ACDF, the American College Dance Festival, which will take place during spring break.

"Escape Velocity is so excited to have this opportunity to go to this prestigious dance festival; we will be leaving Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Escape Velocity will be spending the first half of break at Pennsylvania State University where we will be taking three classes a day, sitting in on lectures being held by famous dancers, and getting our choreography adjudicated by some of the top judges from all around the United States. This is an opportunity for us to grow as a company and learn from some of the greats in the dance world as well as other college dancers," Haldeman said.

# Word on the Street

with Brooke Mitchell

"What are you doing during Spring Break?"



Kelly Anderson  
Business & Economics, 2015  
Philadelphia, PA

"Jus relaxing and hanging out with my friends from home."



Ashley Benedict  
Psychology, 2015  
Clifton Heights, PA

"Hanging out with my family and friends."



Danielle Clennon  
Math, 2015  
Bethlehem, PA

"Going to Jaimaica with Bonner."

# Republicans need focus to win

Allen Weaver  
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Almost two months after the voting began in the race for the Republican nomination, a two man race has emerged (with apologies to Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul). It is down to Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum.

Unfortunately, for many Republicans, these are the choices with no alternatives to Romney—the longstanding frontrunner—in sight for now and for the future.

For those, who have clamored for the likes of Sarah Palin, Chris Christie, Mitch Daniels—or none of the above—tough luck. For the Republicans and others in America who want to beat President Obama? Ditto.

As syndicated columnist George Will put it on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, "You cannot beat something with nothing. Santorum is something."

While Santorum may be something, he is quickly turning into something that people do not want. Although he surged recently, he is quickly fizzling after a so-so debate performance on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, with social issues playing a key role in his decline.

They are the major reason why Santorum will not win the nomination. While social issues have won him elections in the past and are an integral component of him personally, this is a much different animal.

This is the 2012 Republican nomination and race for the White House. People do not care about social issues in today's world. They pale in comparison to what voters are concerned about: the economy, jobs, health care, and President Obama's tenure and electability.

This is why Romney has long been considered the frontrunner.

If Santorum is really

interested in winning the nomination, he must realize that Americans are worried about the aforementioned concerns, rather than social issues and religious aspects of life.

Do social issues help Santorum to give off a more authentic persona than Romney? Probably, yes. But Romney's background fits better with the American present and their needs.

Although questions about Romney's Massachusetts health care law and personal principles linger, he gives the Republicans their best chance to beat President Obama.

However, his chances of actually beating the President will fall the longer the Republican nomination process goes on.

Many political pundits point to the 2008 Democratic nomination race between then-Senator Obama and Secretary

of State Hillary Clinton where Obama became a stronger candidate as the nomination process moved along. Obama wrapped up the nomination in June, 2008.

Neither Romney nor Santorum have the candidate strength that both Obama and Clinton possessed four years ago. The energy is not there. The "it" factor is not there.

This nomination process needs to end in a timely fashion if the Republicans or Romney want to win. The 2012 batch of Republicans simply cannot beat up on each other just as their 2008 Democratic counterparts did.

People who say that it would be a good thing if the Republican National Convention in late August is contested are sadly mistaken and there are reasons for it.

If the process were to end anywhere from late April

through early June, a fundraising advantage would be at hand with the nominee able to solely collect funds on the GOP side to further the push for the White House in November. Whether the nominee is Romney or Santorum, more likely Romney in this case, this would bode well for the Republican nominee.

Along the same lines, it would give the party time to rally around one candidate rather than alienating the portion of the Republican base that has been dissatisfied with Romney. The Republicans need to center around one candidate if they want to win.

However, this race has been volatile since things heated up last September. At this point, there is no end in sight with Super Tuesday upcoming, but the Republicans need to focus on the issues at hand and wrapping this race up sooner rather than later.

# International Trio dazzles students and faculty

Pearl Steinberg  
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Ursinus College hosted an informative and magnificently diverse concert in which renowned performers Ovidiu Marinescu, Sylvia Ahranjian, and Janet Ahlquist of the International Trio performed works by famous composers Tchaikovsky, Piazzolla, and Mendelssohn.

The performers leveled the playing field for music enthusiasts and musicians alike prior to each piece by explaining the history of the song as well as the composer's background to the audience.

The musicians were not only a pleasure to listen to, but also, a joy to watch as their performances elucidated a deep familiarity with one another. The well-timed and practiced musical synchronicity and non-verbal rapport allowed the audience to feel like they too were connected with the performers.

The Trio themselves consist of a violinist, cellist, and a pianist.

The combination of these three instruments had a wide range of musical depth and great potential for mesmerizing harmonies.

The first piece, by Tchaikovsky, utilized the entirety of this potential. The piece marched the audience through what was a sweet and somber story, with an intense crescendo from middle to end. The second song, entitled "Oblivion," was a seductive and powerful tango composed by Piazzolla.

Oblivion captured the audience more than the first piece. The alluring nature of the song caused some audience members to physically move closer to the source of the sound—trying to soak in as much of it as they could.

Finally, the last and most famous piece of the night was composed by Mendelssohn.

The cellist explained to the audience that people often assume any song written in D-minor is doomed for sadness, but Mendelssohn had a gift for putting "sparkle and joy" into his music no matter the key. He was

completely right.

The Mendelssohn piece was bouncy and fun. I could not help but tap my foot to the light-hearted music which became progressively faster. The final two notes of the song were in perfect unison, as were the trio's eyes, which did not leave each other during the final part of the song in order to get the timing just right.

Ursinus College sophomore, Jen Davis, said, "While the Tchaikovsky pieces highlighted the skill of the violinist, and Piazzolla's tango demonstrated the singularity and intertwining of the violin's and cello's voices, I enjoyed the Mendelssohn piece most of all. These exceptional musicians played a magnificent concert, and I love to see such talent brought to the Ursinus College campus."

Daniel Ori Schwartz, junior at Ursinus College, said, "Oh my goodness, I think I had an epiphany while listening to climax of the second movement in Mendelssohn's piece! Hearing this concert has definitely

inspired me to explore classical composition further and maybe even write my own song!"

Over all, the musicians were received extremely well. Students, professors, faculty, and Collegeville community

members all came together to enjoy what surely will be an unforgettable performance.

## SUDOKU

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Puzzle by websudoku.com



# Senior Spotlight: Al Desiderio, Men's Track

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Al Desiderio, senior exercise and sports science major from Philadelphia PA, has had a quite the run during his collegiate track career to say the least.

After doubling as conference champion in the 55 and 200 meter dashes during his freshman indoor season, Desiderio followed up with repeats in both events during his sophomore indoor season, coming within one hundredth of a second of breaking the Ursinus 200 meter dash record.

However, due to numerous injuries Desiderio took a year off from track in 2010-2011 and returned for his final season, hoping to pick up where he left off.

"After not racing for almost two years I felt a little out of place at first. As I practiced and competed several times I fell right back into the swing of things. For the time that I was healthy, I felt as ready as I was several years ago when I competed in champs," Desiderio said.

Throughout the season Desiderio has worked hard trying to keep healthy, all while qualifying for Centennial Conference Championships in the 60 and 200 meter dashes.

On Saturday Desiderio arrived

at the Floy Lewes Bakes Field house with one thing in mind: reclaiming gold in the dash events he dominated just a few years ago.

In the preliminaries on Saturday, Desiderio was clocked at 7.12 in the 60 meter dash, tying the school record, and qualifying for the championship heat in the process.

Shortly afterward, the senior exercise and sports science major would anchor the gold medal hopeful 4X200 meter relay team.

"Being the anchor I get to see where our team is heading into the final lap and from there I am the one who has to position us to the front. When I got the baton I saw we were in third place but not too far behind. I thought in my head was all I have to do is pass the kid in front of me first. I would worry about catching up to first place after that," Desiderio said.

Unfortunately for the senior sprinter, this turned out to be his last event of the day.

Injuries once again plagued the talented runner during the race.

"As I was ready to pass him about 100m into the last leg, I pulled up a little because I felt the pain in my hamstring. From there I figured I was already hurt and probably wouldn't be able to

run again that day so I continued to finish the race rather than just stop and save myself. From there I just ran as hard as I could to get at least get second place," Desiderio said.

Hamstring injuries are nothing new for the All Centennial Conference wide receiver and return specialist.

Desiderio has fought to keep healthy during his four year career in football and track and field.

Despite the injuries and bitter ending, Desiderio wouldn't consider his indoor track season a waste.

"I was just happy to be able to compete and run again. I know I would like to have competed more in the indoor champs and help my team more, but I did as much as I could to get healthy," said Desiderio.

Luckily for Desiderio, his track career is not completely finished. Outdoor track is right around the corner and he has his sights set on a few goals.

"Going into the outdoor season I would like to get back to running healthy as my first priority. This will require appropriate rest and rehab along with training. I had goals this year of reclaiming medals from the events I had run in previous years but I



Courtesy of Alison Bayless

was hampered by injuries. These guys [the men's track team] work so hard every day and I just want to be out there with them helping anyway I can," Desiderio said.

## Spring Break in Florida for Bears' Baseball

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Spring is just around the corner, and that can only mean one thing, baseball season. Ursinus College's baseball team will begin their season this year with a similar goal as last year's: win a Centennial Conference Championship.

The Bears have several factors in their favor for this goal, including a team trip to Florida to prepare for the season, as well as the return of almost all the starters from last year's team.

The 2012 Ursinus College Baseball Season kicks off this weekend, when the team departs for spring training. This trip is no leisurely vacation though, as the team will travel to Ft. Pierce, Florida, where they will play ten

games in seven days. The trip is not only a way for the team to better themselves for baseball, but it's also a way for them to come together as a team.

"The trip can tell you a lot about the team for the upcoming season. It can tell us how they will take wins and losses. It [the trip] will also bring the team closer together, and is a good way to start the season," Head Coach Thomas said.

In Thomas's twenty-third and final season coaching at Ursinus College, the Bears will look to make another playoff run, one in which they will hopefully come out on top.

This year's team has many key players returning to take the field for the Bears, graduating just two seniors from the 2011 team.

The pitching rotation lost no

"The trip can tell you a lot about the team for the upcoming season. It can tell us how they will take wins and losses. It [the trip] will also bring the team closer together, and is a good way to start the season."

— Brain Thomas  
Head Baseball Coach

players. Team Captain Nate Schnell, who is coming off of injury, will look to contribute greatly to the team in his final season at Ursinus College, and he will likely fill the role of staff ace. Senior left hander Steve Christakos, will also likely see key starts for the Bears.

The Bears have a strong defense in the field, with consider-

able depth at each position.

Ben Gresh, a senior center-fielder and team captain, who was named first team All-Centennial Conference last year, will help to lead the team offensively and defensively.

Fellow captains, Brandon Sullivan, shortstop, Rich Guthridge, first base, and Lou Argentine, second base, will also look to help the Bears in their search for a Centennial Conference title.

"All the teams in the conference this year are competitive. On any given day, any team can win. We hope to stay competitive in the conference throughout the season, and to get hot when the time is right. Ultimately we would like to win the championship, and that is a strong possibility with the potential we hold," Coach Thomas said.

Despite a slow start last season, the Bears were able to pick it up enough in the middle of the season, to qualify for the conference playoffs. The team would go on to finish fourth overall in the Centennial Conference.

This year the Bears will look to do the same, only with a slightly different outcome.

Losing only two seniors from last year, the Bears look poised and ready to attain this goal.

Although the pre-season coach's poll has ranked Ursinus sixth in the Centennial Conference, Coach Thomas believes that the team can supersede expectations.

"[This team] holds all the potential and talent to surprise several teams and earn their way to the top," Coach Thomas said.

# Championship Weekend Recap

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It was a busy weekend for Ursinus College Athletics, as the winter sports seasons were wrapped up around the Centennial Conference. Three Ursinus College programs took to their respective meets to cap off the 2011-2012 campaigns.

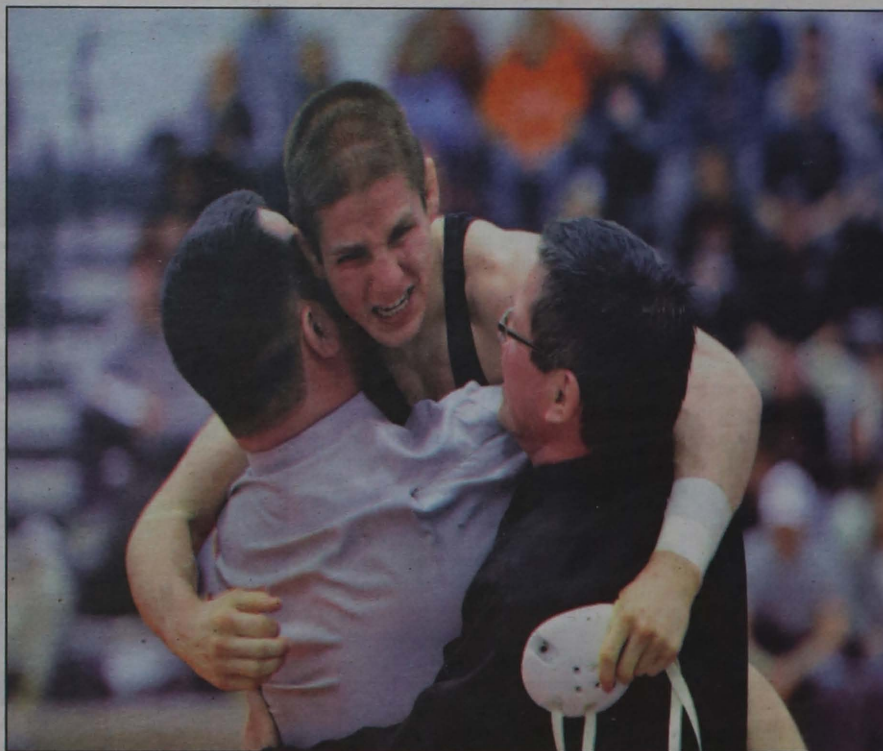
The Wrestling team traveled to Gettysburg College and both the Men's and Women's Track and Field teams stayed in Collegeville for their respective championship meets; held in the Floy Lewes Bakes Field House.

## Wrestling

On Saturday, the Wrestling team capped off what had been an absolutely stellar 2011-2012 season, with a second place finish in the Centennial Conference championships. The team finished the afternoon with a total of 73.5 points, just five and a half points behind the conference champion Johns Hopkins Blue Jays.

Entering the afternoon Ursinus was favored heavily to come away with what would have been a 10<sup>th</sup> Centennial Conference team championship, and the Bears took their title hopes right down to the wire as they had competitors in each of the last two matches to be contested.

A team title was not to be for the Bears, however for one deserving senior the day would be a stepping stone for one more tournament in an already illustrious career.



Courtesy of Bill Racich

Blank, shown with wrestling coaches Pat Curry (left) and Bill Racich (right), celebrates his championship victory in the 133 pound weight class. Blank was named the Chris Clifford Award winner, as the wrestler with the most career points in the Centennial conference tournament

133 pounder Alex Blank captured a conference title in his weight class with a string of three victories on the afternoon, including a 5-2 championship match victory over Mike Tancredi of McDaniel. With the victory Blank claimed an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

## Women's T&F

The Lady Bears headed into Saturday's conference championship meet with overall team title aspirations. These aspirations were in no way misguided, as the team returned a bevy of place winners from a 2011 team that placed second at the Centennial

Conference outdoor championships.

Sadly for Ursinus, a number of Saturday's events did not go according to plan for Ursinus who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the team competition, finishing the afternoon with 87 points.

Two athletes finished the meet with gold medals in hand as junior Celina Sooksatan won a

Centennial Conference Championship in the high jump, with a leap of 1.57 meters.

Additionally, junior Amanda Laurito capped off another successful season with a victory in the 60 meter dash with a time of 7.92 seconds, and a second place finish in both the 200 meter dash and as a part of the 4X200 meter relay team.

Joining Laurito on the 4X200 meter relay team was sophomore Victoria Goodenough, freshman Jessica Matusky, and junior Carina Doyle. Goodenough would also claim a second place finish in the 60 meter high hurdles with a time of 9.10 seconds.

## Men's T&F

Saturday was a tough day both on the track and in the field for Chris Bayless' men's team. The Bears finished fifth overall with a total of 51 points, the team's lowest total since 2004.

Freshman Darius Jones highlighted the afternoon for Ursinus picking up a pair of silver medals. Jones finished second in the high jump with a lead of 1.85 meters, while also helping the 4X200 meter relay team (along with Lance Jones, Yhosua Gomes, and Al Desiderio) to a second place finish.

Senior Andrew Carr finished third in the shot put with a throw of 14.59 meters. Freshman Marquis Wilson and sophomore Brain Clancy finished in seventh and eighth place respectively in the shot put as well.

# Upcoming UC Sports Schedule

2/29  
Gymnastics  
vs. Eastern Michigan  
6 p.m.

3/1  
Women's Lacrosse  
vs. Eastern  
4 p.m.

3/3  
Men's Lacrosse  
@ Messiah  
4 p.m.

3/5  
Baseball  
vs. La Roche  
@ Fort Pierce, Fla

2/29  
Men's Lacrosse  
vs. Widener  
4 p.m.

3/3  
Baseball  
vs. Martin Luther  
@ Fort Pierce, Fla

3/4  
Baseball  
vs. Penn State-Behrend  
@ Fort Pierce, Fla

3/5  
Softball  
vs. La Roche  
@ Myrtle Beach, SC

