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The Grizzly, March 21, 2013

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Remembering Rachel Blunt

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Editors' Note: Rachel Blunt was agender and identified as neither a woman nor a man. As a result, all pronouns referring to Blunt in this article are gender-neutral.

Rachel Laura Blunt, a junior at Ursinus known as Chell, died on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 28. According to a campus-wide email from President Bobby Fong, the cause of death was suicide.

"I hope you all will remember Rachel for [hir] many talents, [hir] humor, [hir] quick mind and [hir] generosity to friends. The way [xe] died should not color the way [xe] lived, except to teach us," Martha Frase, Blunt's mother, wrote in a letter to friends and family on Facebook.

Faculty, staff members and friends described the way Blunt lived as unique and intense, a creative vibrancy that manifested itself in hir love for the arts. Blunt, who double majored in art and media and communication studies, had a passion for drawing, painting, acting and writing as well as a deep interest in film.

"Rachel was a true artist," Domenick Scudera, professor of theater, said. "[Xe] was always drawing, performing, creating in some way. [Xe] was outspoken and original. [Xe] made a lasting impression."

Faculty who knew Blunt linked hir creative expression with hir individuality.

"Chell was a talented and thoughtful painter with an original style and independent voice," Kay Healy, professor of art, said.

"[Chell] was a deep thinker and a beautiful writer who measured the value of ideas against [hir] own carefully considered conscience," Media and Communication Studies Professor Dr.



Blunt

Louise Woodstock said.

Nic Sanderson, a junior and a close friend of Blunt's, said Blunt took hir art beyond the classroom, often pursuing creative writing projects on hir Tumblr, challenging hirself to take on new musical instruments and sharing hir artwork with the world through the internet. Frase said Blunt's illustrations were commissioned for a novel last year.

Dr. Beverly Redman, chair of the theater and dance department, said Blunt's creative drive shined on stage.

"The first thought that comes to mind about Rachel is 'brave,'" Redman said, noting that Blunt auditioned for [hir] first play at Ursinus as a freshman. "The project would have required some daring, even if one were a senior,

because it was an all-woman production of 'The Merchant of Venice.'"

Despite the fact Blunt was "pretty green" as an actor, Redman said xe earned the part of the male lead, Bassanio.

"During rehearsal, [xe] felt comfortable enough to share with us that [xe] felt [hirself] to be bisexual and that the project made [hir] feel at home here at Ursinus because it dealt openly with the diversity of gender and sexuality identities in our world," Redman said.

Redman said Blunt continued to grow as both an actor developing hir craft and a person exploring hir identity when [xe] was cast as a feminist artist in a production of Maria Irene Fornes' play, "Fefu and Friends."

"Rachel had warmth in [hir] presence, a genuine sweetness that came through in [hir] performances," Redman said. "That is what I will remember."

Redman has been working with Blunt's family to establish a memorial prize in hir name. Redman said the Rachel Blunt Memorial Prize will be given annually to a graduating senior that, like Blunt, showed "exceptional participation in our theater program."

Professors said Blunt's passion for creativity and openness about hir developing identity translated into sincere enthusiasm and consideration in the classroom.

"[Chell] read carefully and critically, and brought great ideas to class discussions. One of the things I admired most about hir was the way xe passionately and respectfully advocated for hir point of view," Dr. Alice Leppert, professor of media and communication studies and film studies, said. "Xe was open, caring and friendly to hir fellow classmates, even in the midst of disagreements."

"From the start, hir intense curiosity showed through bright as day. Xe sat front and center in class, eager to add hir thoughts to discussion, and just as eager to listen to others," Dr. Tony Nadler, assistant professor of media and communication studies, said. "Chell was not only creative and sharp, but xe was kind. Xe was supportive and generous, with other students, and with me as hir instructor."

Many of Blunt's friends at Ursinus remarked on the same supportive generosity and hir inclination to befriend everyone, especially those who were different like [xe] was.

"[Xe] had a way of making friends with anyone [xe] met," Brendan Howseman, a junior

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Mental health resources

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Depression rates on college campuses are high. According to the American College Health Association, 30 percent of college students have "felt so depressed that it was difficult to function," and 6 percent have reported seriously considering suicide.

Many people experience the onset of depression symptoms during their college years. The National Institute of Mental Health reported that the risk of developing depression is higher in the college environment because students may "miss the support of their family, feel isolated or face new and sometimes difficult school work."

The queer community, both on campus and at large, is confronted by particularly high rates of suicide and depression. According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, 32 percent of LGBTQ individuals have attempted suicide by the age of 21, compared to 7 percent of heterosexual individuals in the same age group.

"In many cases, these forms of depression, these suicidal thoughts or actions, are caused by external factors," Jennifer Davis, a junior and an LGBTQA Connection associate at Ursinus, said. "The dominant, heteronormative, hetero-centric culture of our society constantly communicates to queer people that they are abnormal, unnatural and

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abominable. These messages are inescapable, and it should come as no surprise that the majority of queer people have had to battle depression or fight off suicidal thoughts or come to the conclusion that suicide in the solution to society's unfounded problems with the queer community."

Various organizations on and off of Ursinus' campus would like to remind students of the resources that are available to them if they or a friend are struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts.

The Wellness Center offers professional counseling services to students who are coping with grief or depression. The Wellness Center has three professional counselors on staff. Phyllis Osisek, the director of counseling services for the past 19 years, recommends coming to Wellness if you are "having difficulty with your normal day-to-day functioning."

To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA) is a student-run group on campus that supports students struggling with any type of mental illness. TWLOHA is dedicated to "presenting hope and finding help for individuals struggling with depression, self-injury, drug addiction, suicide, and eating disorders." Kaitlyn Vanderlaan, a senior and founder of the Ursinus chapter of TWLOHA, said.

TWLOHA works to create an open forum where students can discuss the challenges they are facing, learn about available resources and build a sense of community on campus.

"We think that when people feel part of a community, they're less likely to turn to destructive behaviors," Vanderlaan said.

TWLOHA also offers on-campus workshops multiple times each year to help students who are concerned that one of their friends may be depressed or suicidal. Vanderlaan suggests that students listen to their friends and "recognize that whatever they're

feeling is valid, even though it may not seem like the end of the world to you."

Resident Advisors are trained in suicide prevention and are another good resource if you or a friend want to talk about how you are feeling.

"If a student is not comfortable talking to their own RA, any RA on campus would love to talk to them," Vanderlaan, who is also an RA, said. "Talking to a friend can be good, too, but it's important to remember that not everyone knows what to do in those situations."

Residence Life and Campus Safety are also available at all times to help students who are feeling depressed or suicidal.

If a student does not want to talk with anyone on campus, they should drive themselves to any hospital emergency room and explain how they are feeling.

There are also a variety of resources available specifically for queer students. The Ursinus College Allies and the LGBTQA Connection mentors are trained

to serve as resources for the queer community on campus. Fifty-two staff and faculty members as well as 44 students are currently registered as allies. Their names are posted on the LGBTQA Connection webpage and will be posted in the Residence Halls.

LGBTQA mentors are "self-identified queer students who expressed a particular interest in helping to create a more inclusive campus environment through education concerning, discussion of, and exposure to queer issues," Davis said.

If you or a friend is struggling with depression, the most important thing to remember is that you are not alone. There are a many people on and off campus who want to help you.

"I think that it's important for people not to be quiet," Vanderlaan said. "Address any suicidal concern in whatever manner that may be. Don't just assume that someone's fine, that it will just get better, or that it's not a big deal."

Diversity committee

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The Committee on Diversity will alter its composition and re-examine its mission as part of the strategic plan.

"The Strategic Plan calls for a slightly larger, more empowered diversity committee," Dr. Susanna Throop, the 2012-2013 chair of the Faculty Diversity Committee and assistant professor of history said. She said the committee wants representation from "people who are able to make things happen in a clear and direct way" through their influence with groups that receive funding.

"The current committee is a faculty committee, [which] means it has no dedicated budget," Throop said. "As you can imagine, that slows things down."

Throop said a misconception some students might have as a result is that the people on the committee are unconcerned with "on-the-ground efforts."

"The diversity committee has been small. It has been relatively un-empowered, and hopefully we're changing both of those things—most significantly, the empowerment piece of it. But there is a lot of deep care and concern about diversity among the members of the diversity committee," Throop said.

One of the first duties the new committee will be taking on is the development of a formal statement on diversity that will help to drive diversity programming moving forward. In addition to that, "coordination of diversity programming (both curricular and co-curricular) will be a priority," Dr. Joel Bish said in an email.

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Warning signs of depression:

- Feeling empty, hopeless, worthless, or sad
- Loss of interest in activities you used to enjoy
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Loss of appetite or eating too much
- Thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts

Symptoms of severe depression:

- Giving away belongings
- Talking of "going away" or "getting their affairs in order"
- Sudden changes in behavior, especially from a period of anxiety to calmness
- Disinterest in going out or spending time with friends
- Self-destructive behaviors, such as drinking heavily, using illegal drugs, or other reckless behaviors
- Talk about suicide or death
- Talk about feeling hopeless or not having a reason to live
- Talk about hurting themselves
- Talk about being a burden to others
- Assembling the means to take their own life (e.g., purchasing a firearm, buying large quantities of pills)

Resources if you or a friend is suicidal:

- **Ursinus Crisis Response Line: 610-409-3344**
This is a direct line to the Residence Director on duty. A Residence director is available to help 24/7.
- **Campus Safety: 610-409-333**
- **Kristin Brooks Hope Center: 1-800-SUICIDE**
You will be connected to a crisis center location, where a trained suicide prevention specialist can talk to you and help you find the resources you need.
- **Ursinus Wellness Center:** Open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment with a professional counselor, call 610-409-3100.
- **Dial 911 or drive to the closest hospital.** Explain how you are feeling to the medical professionals and they will get you the help you need.
- **Talk to an RA or anyone in Residence Life.** They are trained in suicide prevention and are always open to talk. Telling an RA or Residence Life about how you're feeling will never get you in trouble with the college.
- **Ursinus College Allies:** Faculty, staff and students who are trained to be resources to the LGBTQA community. Names of faculty and student allies are posted on the Ursinus website.

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double major in theater and history, said.

Howseman recounted how Blunt, one of his first friends at Ursinus, simply started a conversation with him one day in Wismer at the beginning of his freshman year and made his adjustment to college much easier.

"Chell was, to me, someone who didn't care what others thought about [hir], something I always admired," Howseman said. "The world could use more people like [hir]."

"Chell had unconditional positive regard for other human beings," Piper Rice, a junior and a close friend of Blunt's, said. "Xe was accepting in a way that most people wouldn't be."

In her letter, Frase said she hopes that, while honoring Blunt's life, those grieving [hir] loss can learn from this tragedy.

"To everyone who loved [hir], [xe] knew this. Do not feel that you didn't do enough to tell [hir] or show [hir] because [xe] knew. [Hir] heart simply could not absorb the nutrients of that love. [Hir] brain chemistry could not enjoy the sensations of those feel-



Self-portrait/Rachel Blunt

ings. But [xe] could certainly give it back to others," Frase wrote. "Depression is a monstrous disease that steals our children, our brothers and sisters, our parents and our friends. If you know someone who is suffering, reach out in any way you can. Accept people who are different. Demand that we make our country's mental health system stronger. Keep each other safe."

At a Town Hall Meeting on March 13, student representatives

from the USGA announced that Blunt's artwork will be displayed at a student exhibition in the Ber- man later this semester. Fong said administrators are currently working with Blunt's family to schedule an on-campus memorial in the coming months.

Fong spoke at a memorial service for Blunt in [hir] home-state of West Virginia.

"Chell was loved deeply, but [xe] could not always believe that others were better for [hir] love. ... In [hir] depression, [xe] felt trapped like the mime in the invisible box, unable to feel happiness," Fong said. "Yet, I've been told by Chell's parents and friends that Ursinus was also the place of some of [hir] happiest times, when [xe] and [hir] friends were able to break through the invisible box so that despite [hir] struggles, [xe] did intermittently feel hope, and friendship, and sunlight on [hir] skin, and joy."

Online Tributes

Visit ursinusgrizzly.com for more tributes and memories of Chell, and to add your own in the comments section.

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Bish, a psychology professor, is in charge of overseeing Priority Four of the Strategic Plan, which addresses diversity.

Throop said the committee hopes to draft the statement in the next one or two years, although they still have yet to determine the best way to reflect the views of the entire Ursinus community.

Voting members of the current Faculty Committee on Diversity is composed of students, faculty and some support staff, including a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students (currently Paulette Patton), an appointed member of the support staff (currently Yvon Kennon) and the College Chaplain, Charles Rice. Assistant Dean and Director of Campus Safety Kim Taylor, who leads the LGBTQA Connection and serves as the college's Title IX Coordinator, actively participates in committee meetings but is not formally a member.

Throop, who studies religious difference and also teaches on gender and sexuality, said the committee regularly deals with more than race and ethnicity.

"Right now, some of the students are working with my support to create an online guide of resources for the faculty but for the campus as well," Throop said.

Sophomore Ian McShea is working on the resource guide, which should be available before the fall semester. He said it will help professors "add diversity education to their courses."

Throop said the Ursinus community is "highly aware" of issues of diversity in gender and sexual- ity.

"The community here is not only open to the queer community, but it has also been helpful in fostering a flourishing queer community," McShea said. "Most queer students feel safe on campus, and less pressured to hide their identities."

Throop said diversity in all its forms will continue to be important at Ursinus.

"We're in this transitional moment," Throop said. "Anyone who cares about diversity needs to get involved, speak up and jump in, because when you have a transitional moment, that's a moment of possible change."

Last Chance to Join the 2013-2014 Grizzly Staff!

The Grizzly is seeking applicants for the 2013-2014 editorial staff. Please send a brief **resume** and an **email of interest** to Grizzly Adviser Kirstie Hettinga by Thursday, March 21. Positions include:

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- * News Editor
- * Features Editor
- * Opinion Editor
- * Sports Editor
- * Photo Editor
- * Web Editor
- * Copy Editor
- * Layout Editor
- * Social Media Editor

Questions? Email khettinga@ursinus.edu

Top stories from around the globe

Vivek Reddy
vireddy@ursinus.edu

Teens convicted in rape case

According to CNN, two high school football players, Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, were found guilty of raping a 16-year-old girl in Steubenville, Ohio on Sunday, March 17. The crime was perpetrated in August of 2012 and the case has since gained worldwide attention through social media.

According to CNN, Judge Thomas Lipps announced his decision after four days of pre- siding over testimony. Mays and Richmond were tried as juveniles. They will face two years in juvenile hall for the incident, CNN reported.

New leadership in China

The BBC reported that Chi- nese President Xi Jinping and new Premier Li Keqiang have called for "great renaissance of the Chinese nation." Xi urged greater national unity and warned China's military to "improve the ability to win battles and ... protect national sovereignty and security," The BBC reported.

According to The BBC, Keqiang addressed the grow- ing inequality gap and promised to reform the government in Beijing, cut "extravagance" and shake up "vested interests." He also stressed the importance of improving relationships with the U.S.

France fears Mali could be a terror haven

The New York Times reported that Western and African officials are concerned that African sol- diers may not be able to wage a campaign against militants linked to Al Qaeda when the French leave. According to The Times, France and Chad have conducted the heaviest campaigns against militants in the north.

According to The Times, France said it plans to withdraw when the terror threat is dimin- ished. However, the U.N. Security Council will decide whether or not to authorize a peacekeep- ing force for the country.

Iran does not change nuclear policies

According to The Washington Post, harsh economic sanctions on Iran by the U.S. and Europe have not caused Iran to change its nuclear policies. It has been nine months since Iran was hit with the restrictions, The Post reported.

The U.S. and five other world powers offered concessions to Iran in exchange for the latter curtailing its own uranium- en- richment programs, but Iran has not accepted the proposal. The Iranian supreme leader's personal representative to the Revolutionary Guard corps said that Iran is "committed to resist arrogant powers," according to The Post.

Pope Francis calls for mercy

The Los Angeles Times re- ported that many pilgrims greet- ed Pope Francis as he told the crowd that "Great is the mercy of the Lord" and "Mercy makes the world less cold and a little more just." The Pope has yet to move into his new apartment.

Francis had already endeared himself to many Catholics for his warm, engaging manner, and he may opt not to live in the papal suite, according to The LA Times. He will be installed as the Pope on Tuesday, March 19.



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Ball at the Bellevue offers fun for all

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Ursinus students are shining up their dancing shoes as they prepare for the annual Ball at the Bellevue event.

This year's Ball, which is sponsored by the Leadership Development and Student Activities Office, will be held on Friday, March 22. As in past years, for a \$5.00 ticket students will be provided with bus transportation and admission to the Ball held at the iconic Hyatt at the Bellevue on 200 South Broad St. The event also includes various hors d'oeuvres for all students and a cash bar for any students over 21 years of age.

This semi-formal event has been a part of Ursinus College tradition for several years. In actuality, the event started as a Sadie Hawkins dance, in which students that identified as women were expected to ask students that identify as men to be their dates.



Courtesy of Sara Hourwitz
Students get a picture before boarding the bus to the Ball last year.

When asked about this event, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Deborah Nolan said: "We have had obvious cultural changes that have made this practice not realistic, appropriate, or even fair to all constituents—and the event petered out."

After several years, Associate Dean of Students and Director

of Leadership Development and Student Activities, Todd McKinney began working with various class officers to recreate a similar formal dance event for the students. In 2010, the Campus Activities Board was able to sponsor the first Ball at the Bellevue.

Since its inception, the event has grown to be a very popular

event amongst students. Senior Kristin Cichowski, who will be attending this year's Ball, spoke highly of her past experiences at the Ball, saying: "I'm really looking forward to going this year. It's been a lot of fun in the past... I've always gone with a group of friends. It's nice to be able to take a break from work and all of the chaos that goes on, get dolled up, and go dancing for the night!"

Cichowski who is also an Ursinus College ambassador will be one of the individuals tasked with monitoring the buses and ensure order prior to the event. Since the event is now sponsored by the Student Activities Office, McKinney is able to utilize the student leaders of the Ambassadors to ensure a successful and safe evening for all.

For students such as Senior Stephanie Breitsman who have never attended the Ball at the Bellevue, they should look forward to a memorable night of dancing and beautiful company. Breits-

man said, "A lot of my friends have gone in the past, and they only tell me good things about the night. I've been considering going this year, and I think I am going to go, just because everyone seems to be getting really excited about it... I've seen more advertising for it this year than I have before—so maybe that will entice more of the freshman to attend."

Breitsman added: "I've heard that the Ball always tends to go just a bit longer than most people would like. But at the same time, it's a single night event. Why not go all out?" Newcomers to the event like Breitsman should prepare themselves for a full night of glamour, starting at eight and coming to a close at midnight.

This event appears to be heading toward success already. Students interested in signing up for the event are encouraged to purchase their tickets in the Leadership Development and Student Activities Office which is located in Lower Wismer.

Mock energy bills sent out

Megan Maccaroni
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The Ursinus Office of Sustainability recently began a Mock Energy Bill program for the Main Street houses. Last March, the mock energy bills for the month of December 2012 were sent to all residents of UC Main Street houses in an effort to make students aware of their energy use and the economics of their usage.

The mock bills, which are sent to the individuals of each house, show the house's electricity use in Kilowatts per hour, and also compare the house to the Main Street average house consumption. Some houses are built for natural gas use, and for the houses that apply, this usage is included on the bill and presented in CCFs, or 100 cubic feet of natural gas.

The bill adds the cost of all energy consumption together to present the students with a monthly total. It also offers a list of five energy saving tips at the bottom of the bill. The Office of

Sustainability plans to publish these bills on a monthly basis.

The idea behind the Mock Energy Bill came from UC's new Office of Sustainability Program Coordinator, Brandon Hoover. He explained that his personal experience as an undergrad motivated him to create this new initiative at Ursinus.

"When I was a student in undergrad, I lived on campus for a little while, and then spent about two years off campus. When I was on campus, I didn't think twice about my energy consumption, but the minute I moved off campus and started getting billed for it, I thought, 'Okay, this is something I should care about a little more,' even before I was environmentally conscious," said Hoover.

In order to implement this program, Hoover worked with the Office of Sustainability, Residence Life, and Facilities, who were all, according to Hoover, supportive of and enthusiastic about the idea.

Main Street Resident Director, Mike Mullin, said,

"The residential experience at Ursinus is a chance for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom, and here is a great example of that—students can experiment with their energy usage and see how using some simple energy-saving techniques can lower the cost of their bill each month."

The college receives energy bills from PECO on a monthly basis. After entering this data into a spreadsheet, Hoover takes all relevant information for the houses and designs the individual house mock bills.

Hoover said the purpose of these emails is "to educate and try and teach students about the impact and hopefully curb some behavior a little bit... I would love to see it, over the years and over the months, resulting in general trends of energy consumption being reduced in the Main Street housing."

Main Street residents can keep an eye out for the next bill in April, and more information about this on the Ursinus website.

Word on the Street

What do you think about Ball at the Bellevue?

"I've gone and it's fun, but drinks are really expensive. I'd like to go, but I don't have money for it." -Adam Rosenberg, Senior

"I think it's a great idea, but people need to learn more about it. I want to see pictures from last year. It could be cool. There needs to be more information. It has the potential to be bigger than it is." -Ronak Darji, Senior

"I'm excited. I've never been even though I'm a junior. I'm planning to go this year." -Jess Long, Junior

"I've never been but it's a good idea. It's a good opportunity for students." -Justin Tyle, Junior

"I think it's nice we get to go somewhere off campus and get dressed up." -Rebecca Hollenbach, Senior

"I think it's really fun! I went last year and my friends and I had a great time. If you haven't gone to Ball at the Bellevue yet, you should definitely go" -Sydney Rotman, Sophomore

UC students prepare for spring performance



Rosemary Clark/The Grizzly

Student performers rehearse *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, which kicks off Wednesday, March 20.

Jon Vander Lugt

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Students and community members in the mood for an unorthodox comedy about some of life's biggest questions can look no further than the Ursinus Theater and Dance Program's production of Jane Wagner's *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. The production will be performed at 7:30 p.m. in the Blackbox Theater in the Kaleidoscope from Wednesday, March 20 through Saturday, March 23, on

which there will also be a 2 p.m. showing.

The play's director, Professor Domenick Scudera said that this production is different from previous ones that have been performed this year. "It's a smaller scale show," Scudera said. He also said it was deliberately chosen to complement the much larger-scale recent productions on campus, particularly the rowdy and well-received production of *Noises Off* from earlier in the semester.

Although the play has at least a dozen characters, it was written for one actor. Scudera said, "I've always wondered, 'Would it work well for a full production?' I didn't know if it had ever been done with multiple actors."

Scudera was actually able to contact Wagner through Twitter, and he asked her if the play had ever previously been done with

multiple actors. Once she said that it has, he got the ball rolling.

"It's different than anything I've ever done," senior Carly Siegler said. "[One expects] a play to be scenes occurring between multiple people creating one linear story," Siegler said.

"[Scudera] decided to dissect each character into one actor, which I found very interesting," junior Grace Duffy, an actress in the play, said. "It's very different because there's not a lot of dialogue. I feel like what we talk about is very interesting, even though it's one person at a time."

Duffy said that the monologue-heavy nature of the play is difficult to not only memorize, but also to entertain viewers in the ways that plays typically do, given its relative absence of dialogue. Both Duffy and Siegler think that despite the play's unusual characteristics, it's very

relevant to not only the college experience, but for people in general.

"It appeals to students because after all of this college stuff, we're pushed into the real world to figure out what we are and what our life means," Duffy said.

Scudera had a similar opinion about the play, and said that students can relate a lot of what they're learning or have learned in CIE to the plot. The main questions that the plot explores are "What is the universe? How do we fit in it? How should we live our lives?" Scudera said.

"It's told in a very funny way," Scudera said. "The characters are searching for the answers to these questions and they're fumbling around and making mistakes and learning from them."

Students can reserve tickets online for \$2 each. The price for general admission is \$5.

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Accessibility workshop for disabled museum goers

Melissa Kopel

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A workshop for integrating arts for those with disabilities will take place in the Berman Museum of Art on Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24. The workshop is called "Workshop With Art Beyond Sight: Arts Access for Vision-Impaired," and it will include two organizations: Art Beyond Sight and ARTZ/Artists for Alzheimer's.

Educators, artists, therapists, caretakers, and the general public will gather with the similar interest of helping to bring art into the lives of people with disabilities.

The first is a workshop led by Nina Levent of Art Beyond Sight

from 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Levent uses "verbal description" to engage the visually impaired with art.

ABS is coordinated by founder Elisabeth Salzhauer Axel's program, Art Education for the Blind. The organization was founded when Axel's grandmother, who had been an artist and art-lover, began losing her sight.

She and her grandmother grew frustrated by the lack of services for visually impaired and disabled people that museums offered. Axel said, "As a museum educator, I also knew that we could find ways to bring art to blind people, and that learning about, appreciating, and creating art would improve and enrich the

lives of blind people as it does for sighted people."

ABS now allows those who are blind or visually impaired to experience the visual arts. Their mission is to create change in communities by collaborating with museum educators, artists, and other community members. Workshops encourage art's accessibility, facilitate arts discussion, and explore multi-sensory art for people of many abilities.

Likewise, Artists for Alzheimers, or ARTZ, whose mission is to "enhance the cultural and creative life of people living with dementia, enable them to express their inner-selves, and lessen the stigma that often accompanies a diagnosis," will lead workshops

at the Berman.

This second workshop is led by the Associate Director of ARTZ, Marian Brown and will take place from 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

ARTZ is associated with the I'm Still Here Foundation. This program collaborates with artists and cultural institutions to share and educate about the arts. ARTZ has collaborated with the Louvre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Big Apple Circus, and the Tribeca Film Institute to work with those with Alzheimer's.

After hosting more than 400 community events, the organization has brought over 10,000 people with Alzheimer's or dementia

access to the arts.

During the workshops, Berman Museum exhibitions will become a space that allows accessible tours. Guests of all abilities will be able to engage in the arts using many of their senses. According to the organization's website, the events aim to "[provide] a forum for ongoing interdisciplinary dialogues among researchers and practitioners, and locally, museum professionals and educators, parents, artists, and art lovers to create vehicles for change in their communities."

All are invited to attend, but advanced registration is required for Saturday's event. Those who are interested can register online.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Bonner Leader Information Sessions, in Pflahler 209, 4:30-5:30 p.m.	Career Services Mock Interview, in Career Services Office, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Washington, D.C. Bus Trip, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.	Workshop with ARTZ: Arts Access for Those Living with Dementia, in Berman Museum, 12:30-4:30 p.m.	John Culhane: Legal Rights of Same-sex Couples, in Kaleidoscope Lenfest Theater, 4:30-6 p.m.	History Armstrong Lecture: 'In Search of the Marshal's Lost Crusade,' in the Berman Museum, 4:30-6 p.m.	TAPalaloosa, in Olin Plaza, 12-1 p.m.
Performance of 'The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe,' in Kaleidoscope Blackbox Studio Theater, 7:30 p.m.	Music at Noon Recital Hour, in Bomberger Auditorium, 12-1 p.m.	UC Thrift Shop: Clothing Swap for a Cause, in Wismer Lower Lounge, 4-6:30 p.m.	The Third Annual Stairs Challenge, all day	Passover Seder, in Unity House, 5-7:30 p.m.	Free Piloxing Class, in Helfferich Dance Studio, 8-9 p.m.	President's Forum, in Wismer Main Lobby, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
						Career Services Walk-In Wednesday, in Career Services

New president promises improvement

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The spring semester is coming to an end, and a new group of student government officers are taking command.

March 15, 2013 marked the first day in office for Ursinus' new president, Junior Jerry Gares and the rest of the executive board. Gares will be replacing Senior Lauren DiCairano.

Despite the upcoming change, many students are unaware that student government is vital to the Ursinus community and that our new representatives will have a huge influence on the way our school is run.

Fortunately, the incoming president seems to be off to a strong start. He has several plans

to address student issues, such as the recent conflict over the TV stations available on campus.

Gares will work with the ESPN/TV committee, taking careful note of their campus-wide surveys. The results from these surveys will help Gares and the committee work towards a resolution that will satisfy sports hungry students as well as the constrained budget.

This is just one of Gares' goals for improving campus life for Ursinus students. Another great idea that will positively impact the student body is the board's idea of creating a Dining Services committee.

Gares and the board hopes to form a committee of students to review Dining Services. The group will make recommendations to improve food services in

both Upper and Lower Wismer. This will help initiate meaningful discussion between the students and administration and make sure that both parties are on the same page.

Many people are not happy with the new hours in Zack's and Wismer, but I think the new president will evaluate some of these issues. The restrictive schedule in both the evening and lunch hours are extremely limiting for many students, especially student athletes. Any sort of dialog between Dining Services and student representatives is sure to lead to some improvements.

Looking beyond student comfort, his bigger ideas includes creating an alumni pairing program that would match current students with alumni in the field the student wants to enter.

This should not only improve networking opportunities for students at Ursinus, but also forge stronger bonds with the alumni base.

But of all his proposals, my favorite is an effort to reduce the amount of school emails we receive. As everyone knows, the number of emails students receive on a daily basis is excessive. It's an issue that I think needs to be solved, and Gares has an extraordinary idea.

He hopes to create an easy, accessible calendar for everyone where events can be posted by a multitude of groups. Gares is going to discuss this issue with the new executive board in the near future. In doing so, he hopes to streamline and improve the campus' communications.

I think this will also eliminate

all of the problems that students have with their inboxes being overloaded so often. I know my inbox gets full very fast, permanently cutting off emails that I have no way of recovering. Gares has mentioned that there is a committee working on these very issues, and that he hopes to get everyone working together to look for solutions.

These were just a few examples of Gares' ideas, but I am sure there will be others that will make Ursinus a better community over the next year and after he graduates.

As the new president of the student government, I believe Gares will have a major impact on the Ursinus community and become a president we can all be proud of.

"Tomb Raider" separates itself from the competition

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"Tomb Raider" (2013 - Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC) is the fifth game in the "Tomb Raider" series by developer Crystal Dynamics, but marks the first entry in a new continuity for the series' main character, Lara Croft.

Sporting the appropriate tagline, "A Survivor is Born," "Tomb Raider" 2013 details the origins of a 21-year-old Croft as she becomes an effective explorer and survivor.

Having recently graduated from college, an inexperienced Croft joins the crew of the *Endurance* in search of the lost Japanese kingdom of Yamatai.

The crew becomes shipwrecked on a mysterious island, home to dangerous wildlife, crazed cultists, and dark secrets. Faced with these threats, Croft struggles to come to terms with taking the lives of those who endanger her friends and crew.

Coupled with "Tomb Raider" 2013's portrayal of realistic emotions and issues of morality is an appropriate redesign for Croft's

character.

Previously as much of a sex symbol as a character with her two handguns, short shorts, bare midriff and frequently exaggerated breasts, Croft has been transformed into a realistic and respectable female character, a rarity in video games.

"Forget everything you knew about 'Tomb Raider'," Head of Crystal Dynamics, Darrell Gallagher said in an interview with online-publication Kotaku. "This is an origins story that creates Lara Croft and takes her on a character defining journey like no other."

British actress Camilla Luddington takes over the voice of Croft and does a respectable job making Croft a relatable and realistic character. While many critics and fans complain about Luddington's frequent cries and whimpers of exertion, pain, or fear in her portrayal of Croft and her struggles, I found these noises to be appropriate given Crystal Dynamics' intentions of creating a lead that is less a character and more a realistic human being.

Unfortunately, the creation

of such an authentic character is feat unfortunately limited to her and her alone. The game's other characters, such as Croft's best friend and camerawoman, Sam, and Dr. James Whitman, a celebrity archeologist desperate to make a big discovery, do little to distinguish themselves as more than mere plot devices.

"Tomb Raider" 2013 is the first game in the lucrative franchise to bear a rating of "M" for mature. While much of the action is standard fare for a "T" rating, the game's exceptionally violent game over screens stand out as extremely shocking.

For failing to safely leap over a gap or dispatch an enemy, players are punished with scenes of young Croft falling to her death, becoming impaled, or meeting some other grisly demise. These scenes seemed excessive and not worth limiting its audience with a mature rating.

For good reason, "Tomb Raider" 2013 is often compared to the critically acclaimed "Uncharted" series. Platforming in both games is very similar, with climbable surfaces often clearly marked by different colors or textures so

that players quickly learn to look for where to go next, while the third-person perspective is also almost identical between the two games.

Combat is also largely the same with the exception of a slightly different arsenal, such as Croft's trusty bow. However, "Tomb Raider" lacks blind-firing, the ability to shoot from behind cover without the character raising their head to aim, from the hip, without raising one's weapon outstretched and properly aimed, or while jumping or climbing. These missing abilities struck me as odd considering how established they are by other games in the genre.

However, "Tomb Raider" does set itself apart from "Uncharted" in a number of key areas.

While I would consider the "Uncharted" series to have much more combat than exploration, I would say the exact opposite for "Tomb Raider." To put it bluntly, the body count of "Tomb Raider" seemed much lower than an "Uncharted" game overall, a factor that lent greatly to its authenticity.

Additionally, "Tomb Raider" featured much more of an open world than "Uncharted" games, which are much more linear in design. "Tomb Raider" has various bonus tombs to discover off the beaten path filled with treasure (experience points and in-game currency), greatly adding to the game's replay value.

But what really sets these rival games most apart is the disparity between their tones. That is, whereas "Uncharted's" main character Nathan Drake will often laugh or joke in the face of danger, Croft is not at all enjoying herself; she is alone, terrified and fighting for her very survival at every turn. It's this decision by the developer that, above all else, sets it apart from the pack.

"Tomb Raider" is an impressive reboot. Crystal Dynamics has transformed Croft into a believable and relatable character, one that players will genuinely learn to care for. The game ended on a note that rang "sequel," and I'll be looking forward to the future exploits of the young archeologist, adventuress, and now, survivor.

Men's lacrosse hot entering CC play

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Many spring sports have started to compete already and have had some early success. One of those teams is the UC men's lacrosse team.

The 2013 season is promising one looking at their hot start. They are currently 4-0, having defeated teams such as Messiah, Widener, Richard Stockton and Montclair State.

Head coach Jamie Steele is looking forward to what his team can do this year.

"This group has a chance to compete for the playoffs" Steele said. "We could make some noise if we got there."

One of the reasons for this is because of the team's "great leaders" that Steele mentions.

"Wytch Rigger is the captain, the only captain" Steele said. "Everyone looks to him for inspiration."

Rigger, the senior long stick from Decatur, Ga., has started sporadically the past few seasons, but looks to come into a zone this season as the team's lone captain.

"Our expectations are to make the centennial conference playoffs" Rigger said. "And to put ourselves in a position to win the centennial conference."

This team has a lot of strengths that both Coach Steele and Rigger said will lead them to their ultimate goal. The Bears are led in attack by sophomore Mark Stratton, who tallied 42 points, including 25 goals, and defensively by freshman goalkeeper Brian Neff, who recently won Centennial co-defender of the week during the week of March 3.

"In years past I would have to try and get an edge from the players" Steele said. "This team has it all of the time. They are a very close-knit group that care about each other a lot."

Led by the likes of Stratton and Neff, the balance of the team is evident. Playing against the likes of Dickinson and Gettysburg, both of whom are nationally ranked, will force balance to be a strong suit.

"I would say our strength is our balance" Rigger said. "We have a lot of guys who can take over a game and it give us opportunities to win those games in a lot of different ways."

The other side of the spectrum would be some of the team's weaknesses.

"Our youth and inexperience" said Steele. "Mistakes that come from just being young."

While Steele believes youth and inexperience could hurt the Bears, not all share that view.



Courtesy of Athletic Communications

Sophomore Mark Stratton looks to build on a solid freshman season that earned him All-Centennial honors.

"I wouldn't call it a weakness," Rigger said. "But we are a very young team with most of our starters being freshmen and sophomores."

With the hot start to the 2013 season, it is just natural to ask if preseason prep was any different than in years past.

"We worked with a company called 'The Program,'" Steele said. "It's made up of former Navy officers, Marines, British Intelligence Agents and other former military personnel. They

worked with the team on leadership and team building exercises, and this year unlike last year the team was able to complete the task which I feel gave them a bunch of confidence."

"My ultimate goal for this team is for them to play more consistently with the same energy level they've been playing with so far" Steele said. "We do that, we're going to make some noise. It is going to be challenging but we have the talent and capability to beat anyone in a one game situ-

ation."

"I would like to say without my assistant coaches Gary Mercadante, Dave Page and Logan Duffy" Steele said. "We wouldn't be where we are without them. They do a great job for us."

The UC men's lacrosse team will try to continue their hot start when they open up Centennial Conference play on Saturday at Swarthmore. Faceoff is slated for 3 p.m.

Women's lacrosse looks to build off spring trip

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The Ursinus women's lacrosse team started its season off down in Florida over spring break. Starting off their season 0-2 was not how they wanted to start. However, they quickly bounced back and recorded a huge win over Widener College last Wednesday, 14-5.

"The most encouraging sign from our trip to Florida was having a lot of our younger girls really step up," senior captain Megan Horney said. "It was great to see a lot of freshmen taking on important roles, playing with confidence, and adding a lot of depth to our team."

Now looking to have a successful rest of the season, there are a few players to keep an eye on. Some key players to look of-

fensively are sophomore Kitty Dawson, who was an All-Centennial honorable mention selection last season, along with freshman Devin Brakel, and juniors Nicole Kovacs and Amber Moyer.

Though losing three of the team's leading scorers from last season's squad, hopes for the season are still high having Dawson, returning attacker Dawson who totaled 32 goals last season, and the incoming freshman.

Riley Pembroke will also have an impact on the team this season between the posts. The Bears were without the junior goalkeeper due to injury in Clearwater. But now that she's back in the fold, the Bears D hopes to become a force.

However, the two players Head Coach Katie Hagan looks to day in and day out are seniors Chatburn and Horney.

"Chatburn and Horney are doing a great job. On the field, Liz [Chatburn] is our emotional leader. She's one of the toughest players on the team and she pushes her teammates every day," Hagen said. "Megan [Horney] has been injured for much of the pre-season but what she brings to the team is invaluable. She has learned so much from watching every day and she is like another coach on the sidelines for us."

This season the centennial conference is competitive as always. In order for the 2013 Bears to stand out amongst the other teams in the conference, they must bring a high level of intensity to practice each day and close the gap between themselves and the conference elite squads.

"There are so many good teams on any given day, different teams can come out on top. Our

expectation for this season is to take it one game at a time and focus on what we need to do to be successful in that game. We are embracing living in the moment," Horney said. "Putting in the work and effort on the field by treating every practice like it's a game will help us emerge as conference front runners."

Chatburn, a senior co-captain, also has high expectations for the Bears this season.

"I personally hope to have a lot of fun and of course win as much as possible. Playing lacrosse is something that I love and I love spending time with my teammates. To me enjoying my last season is the most important thing, especially since I missed most of my junior season due to an injury. This feels like a last final season to prove myself and to have fun working hard to do so,"

Chatburn said.

In recent years, the Centennial Conference has been dominated by the dynamic duo of Gettysburg and Franklin & Marshall. In order for the Bears to have a successful conference season and challenge the conference elites, they will need to put in hard work at practice.

"One of our main goals this season is to close the gap between our team and our conference front runners," Horney said. Historically, the same teams always take the top spots in the conference. We are working to shake things up and emerge as leaders in the Centennial Conference."

Check out the Upcoming UC Athletics Schedule on page 8 to find out when the women's lacrosse team takes the field next.

Gymnastics team heads to nationals

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For the first time in five seasons, the Ursinus gymnastics team heads to the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships as just that, a team.

The squad secured a bid to the national meet with a third place finish and a score of 185.725 at the ECAC Championships two weekends ago.

Head Coach Jeff Schepers is proud of his group for achieving their goal and living up to the team's motto for the season: "The drought is over. Let the reign begin."

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to make nationals and they made it. I'm extremely proud of them," Schepers said.

The Bears head into the national meet trending upward and have a lot of momentum riding in their direction. The Bears have scored at least 185 points in each of their past two meets.

One group of gymnasts that is especially ecstatic about reaching nationals as a team are the members of the senior class: Johanna Warren, Stephanie Schmidt, and Erica Schnebel. Though the trio has had success individually, they had not been apart of a team that went to the national meet. Not until now.

"We are so excited that we get to end our careers at nationals with our entire team. Jo, Erica, and I have made it through four years together and we are all happy that our last meet will be a team effort at nationals," Schmidt



Courtesy of Athletic Communications

Junior Monica Durham and the rest of the Bears squad look to make their mark and record a season high score at the NCGA national meet this Friday and Saturday in Whitewater, Wisconsin

said. Every year it's been our goal and we've gotten close, but this year we really united as a team and pulled it together. It feels awesome."

The seniors themselves are not the only ones proud of the group for finally making it to nationals as a team. Coach Schepers is just

as proud.

"I'm very proud of the senior class. They've had their share of ups and downs whether it's injuries and personal problems, but they've made it," Schepers said. "Being the first class to make it five years, they feel like they've broken the mold and opened the

flood gates for the future.

The Bears last reached the NCGA Championships during both the 06-07 and 07-08 campaigns where they finished second and fourth respectively. Schepers is optimistic that this years squad can match or better those two squads.

"This team has had to work harder to make it," Schepers said. "We were deeper then, but they pulled it through and I cannot be more excited for the girls because making nationals as a team is a big deal."

The Bears go to Whitewater, WI led by junior Monica Durham, the reigning national champion on the vault, who Schepers believes is better now than she was when she was crowned the queen of vault one year ago. However, Durham is not the only one the longtime coach of the Bears expects to have a big weekend at nationals, specifically noting sophomore Kristin Aichele, Schmidt, and Warren.

"The way I figure, I expect to come back to campus with 8-10 all-americans," Schepers said. Needless to say, the coach expects big things.

According to Schepers, the Bears would have finished fourth as a team if they had actually qualified one at nationals last season. Though the Bears had enough girls competing at each event, they were not technically a team. This year, that will not be a problem.

"We want to leave it all on the floor, with no regrets. We want to show everyone that we are there because we are good, because we deserve to be there," Schnebel said.

"We want to come home knowing we represented Ursinus College, Ursinus Gymnastics, and ourselves in the most competitive and positive manner. We are Ursinus Bears and we will represent the College to our best abilities."

Upcoming UC Athletics Schedule

3/23
Men's Track and Field
Golden Ram Open
@ West Chester, TBA

3/23
Baseball
vs. Richard Stockton, DH
12:30 p.m.

3/23
Softball
@ Dickinson
1 p.m.

3/23-24
Gymnastics
NCGA Nationals
@ Whitewater, WI
12 p.m.

3/23
Women's Track and Field
Golden Ram Open
@ West Chester, TBA

3/23
Women's Lacrosse
@ Swarthmore
12 p.m.

3/23
Men's Lacrosse
@ Swarthmore
3 p.m.

