



2-20-2014

The Grizzly, February 20, 2014

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Photo courtesy of College Communications

Director Beverly Redman and student actors pose on stage while they practice the spring musical, "Wonderful Town."

Ursinus to hold first musical combining three departments

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"Wonderful Town," a musical by Leonard Bernstein, will open at Ursinus on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The energetic and jazz-filled musical won five Tony Awards in 1953 when it opened, including the award for Best Musical. At Ursinus, the production marks the first collaboration between the theater, dance and music departments since they have all become academic majors.

"Wonderful Town" is based on the 1940 play "My Sister Eileen," which is based on a group of short stories by Ruth McKenney. The musical follows two sisters from Ohio, Ruth and Eileen Sherwood, who move to New York City in pursuit of the American dream. Ruth is an aspiring writer, while Eileen has dreams of acting. They

end up in bustling Greenwich Village, circa 1935, facing a wide array of exciting adventures.

"Musicals require a tremendous amount of coordination and collaboration between all parties involved," said Beverly Redman, the director of "Wonderful Town," who is working with musical director, Holly Hubbs, and choreographer, Karen Clemente. "It is a much more complex endeavor than directing a non-musical play."

While musical theater has been a part of the Ursinus community in the past, with direction from longtime theater director Joyce Henry and Redman, this production marks the first time that it has involved the theater, dance and music departments. The performance of "Wonderful Town" will use the pit space in the Lenfest Theater for the first time and will be the first large-scale Broadway

musical performed in the Kaleidescope Performing Arts Center.

The decision to produce "Wonderful Town" was made by all three departments. Redman has encountered Bernstein throughout her career. She performed his song cycle "I Hate Music," in college and directed his opera "Trouble in Tahiti" while in graduate school. Her self-proclaimed fondness for Bernstein influenced the choice.

"His work is challenging for many reasons, and I enjoy the challenge," she said.

Redman spoke to the merits of combining departments for the production. She said, "I hope that it brings future collaborations of all kinds, not just musical theater."

She also hopes that it fosters a

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Student senate assembled after Reimert party ban

Student group formed to increase student accountability

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On Feb. 7, the ban on social events at Reimert was lifted by Dean Debbie Nolan and the student affairs office.

The ban was lifted because of the solution that the student body and the USGA came up with together during the week and a half of the Reimert suspension.

On the night of Feb. 6, around 30 student leaders met to organize a governing group called the Ursinus Student Senate.

The group will organize the social community by creating effective policies and procedures, providing increased accountability and judicial advisement,

marketing stronger awareness of principles and expected behaviors and hopefully revamping the Event Directing program.

"This group, Ursinus Student Senate, stands ready to improve the social event climate by creating initiatives and structures that encourage student empowerment and responsibility," Nolan said in an email.

Right now, the Senate has about 35 members in it. Each Greek organization besides Upsilon Phi Delta, which has only three members, has a member on the Senate. Most athletic teams have a member except for the smaller ones that do not have a suite or house on campus that throws parties.

There are also four people who volunteered to join who are considered at-large and represent students who do not belong to an organization on campus. The

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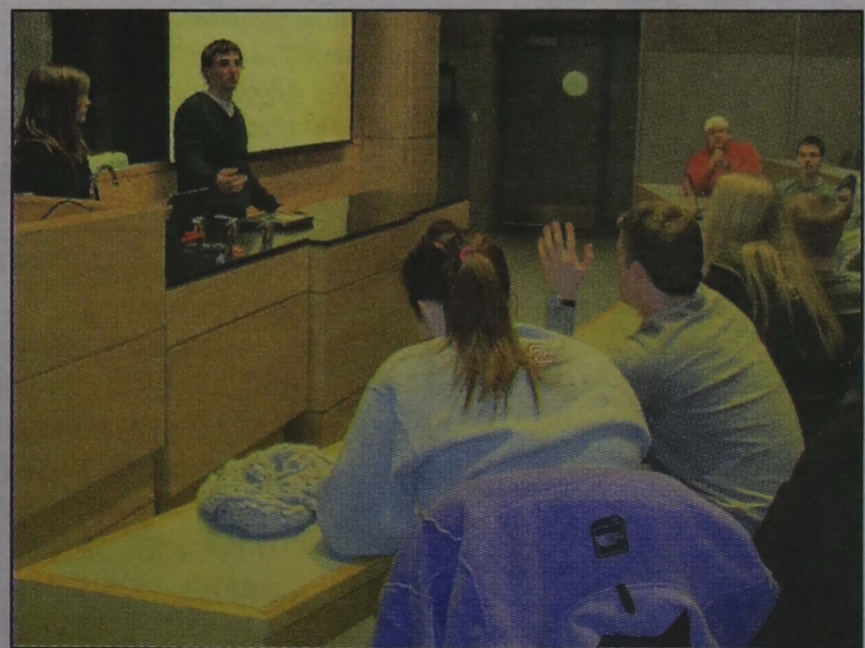


Photo courtesy of Leah Masiello

USGA student staff members, Maddie Zurn and Andrew Orlick lead the first meeting of the committee for partying on campus in Pfahler Auditorium last Wednesday, Feb. 12.

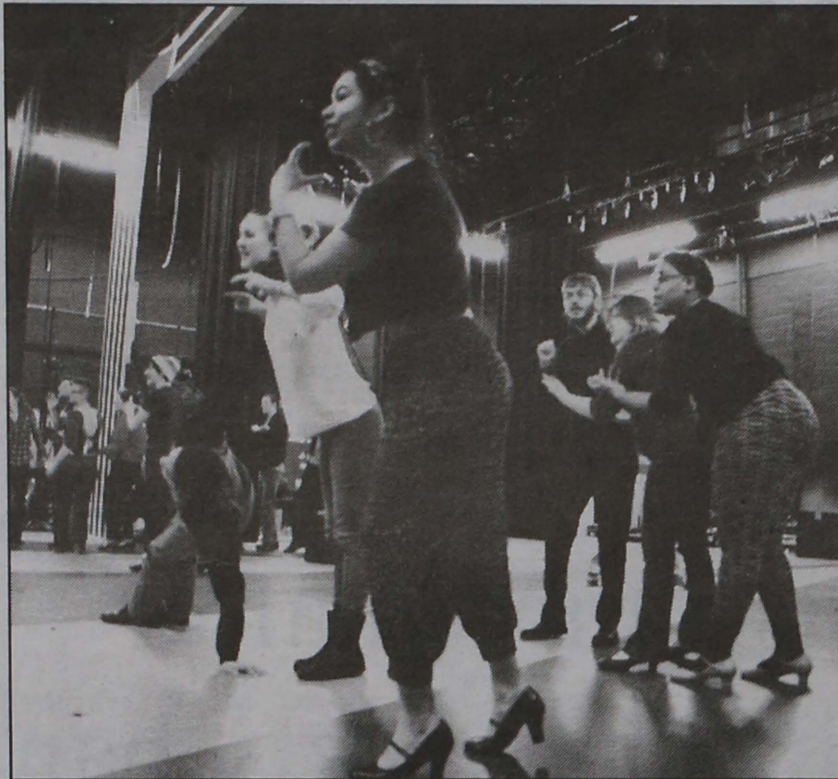


Photo by Heidi Jensen

Students practice the opening number in rehearsal for "Wonderful Town," the spring musical. The show opens on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

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sense of artistic curiosity in Ursinus students in these departments.

"I hope that people that have shied away from auditioning or taking performing arts classes because they just love musical theater will now join the party and

get involved in the performing arts on campus," Redman said.

Jordan Ostrum, a freshman who plays the role of Ruth and Eileen's landlord, Mr. Appopoulos, said it was a "chaotic musical, but in a good way." The large and diverse cast has been drawn together, into what Ostrum called a "family." He also addressed the virtues of the interdisciplinary approach to this play.

"It's exciting to that something so involved and epic is happening with this," Ostrum said. "It's definitely an educational process for all involved because musical acting is very different than acting in Chekhov or Shakespeare. It is much more overlaid and whimsical."

Clemente has choreographed the play with attention to cultural sincerity and historical accuracy. The play, set in the heart of the Great Depression, involves a wide array of music.

It will run from Feb. 26 through March 1 at 7:30 p.m. each night, with a 2 p.m. matinee show on Sunday, March 2.

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individual class presidents are included in the at-large group on the Senate. The student activities office was also given one rep for the Senate, who is Brian Green.

"The plan is that when the USGA elections are held in March, each class will be able to vote for two at large representative positions in the Senate," USGA president Jerry Gares said.

In the future, the Senate will become more democratic and expand slightly to have about 40 members, including the Greeks, the athletes, the at-large and the USGA student reps.

The Senate has two main jobs. One of these jobs is to meet weekly to talk about what happened the week before.

"The Senate would have the power to suspend party privileges for an organization," Gares said.

Madeline Zurn, chair of the Ursinus Student Senate, and Gares, are on an email with Res Life,

and some of the deans. The Director of Residence Life, Melissa Giess, will let them know what in general happened over the weekends and what specifically happened that they need to address.

Another job of the Senate is to vote if certain rules should be mandated. One rule that came up last week was about student IDs. Students need to start carrying IDs so campus officials can tell the difference between town residents and students.

If a person cannot show ID, the school assumes they are an unregistered guest and need to get off campus.

Gares said he hopes that in the long term, the Senate becomes a group that looks at a lot of different issues on campus besides just the social problems.

He believes that the Student Senate would be a great place to get student input for potential changes that are going on, such as redoing the Common Core Curriculum and moving Myrin's main entrance to the other side.

Professors determine class cancellations

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With frequent winter storms hitting the Ursinus campus this month, students are calling for classes to be cancelled. However, the campus does not typically close, and class cancellation occurs at professor discretion.

Due to the impending snow and ice last Thursday, Ursinus' administrative offices closed, but classes could still be held. Because Ursinus is a residential school with most of its students living on campus, professors are supposed to do all they can to make it to campus.

"Our faculty have had a tradition of completely committing to the residential liberal arts experience," Dean Terry Winegar, vice president of student affairs, said

in an email.

Winegar also said that Ursinus policy expects professors to hold a certain number of class hours and that time missed from a cancelled class must be made up.

Alice Leppert, a media and communications and film studies professor, has had to cancel classes due to severe weather this semester.

"We are expected to make up that class time somehow, which is always difficult because either you have to figure out a way to have an extra assignment or you have to figure out an extra day that you can try to make everyone come, which is a scheduling nightmare," Leppert said. "It's not that we don't want snow days. We're not mean, old ogres."

Leppert said that she cancels classes when there is no way she

can safely make it to campus.

"I'm from Minnesota, so if it's snowing a ton, I'm not that worried about driving in it, but if I get stuck, there's nothing I can do," Leppert said.

Leppert is also one of a few faculty members that took advantage of open dorm rooms and spent the night on campus.

"Once before, we had empty rooms in a residence hall, and housed dining staff during a blizzard," Winegar said in an email. "This is the first time that we have been able to accommodate more faculty and staff."

Besides staying in open dorm rooms, professors have been sleeping in their offices and holding online classes in order to avoid class cancellation.

Junior Colleen Fida had all three of her classes cancelled

last Thursday and Friday, but her Spanish classes were made up online.

"It was counterproductive in my opinion," Fida said. "It confused me even more because she tried to introduce new material to us."

Fida said her Spanish class was cancelled only when her professor nearly got into a car accident on her way to campus and had to turn around and head home.

"Maybe for one or two of the storms that we've had it was necessary to not cancel class, but for the most recent ones, I think that they should have played it safe," Fida said. "They shouldn't put pressure on professors... Safety should come first."

While classes are sometimes cancelled due to professor conferences, Leppert said those is-

ues are easily worked around because the conferences are planned months in advance and incorporated into the syllabus.

One of the only times that Ursinus closed the entire campus was during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Winegar said the looming power outage and risk of evacuation in heavy winds and rain led to the decision to close the school.

"Community emergency personnel advised that it might also be dangerous to be outside at all for that evacuation and that emergency personnel would be overly taxed and unable to assist us due to the catastrophic predictions," Winegar said in an email.

Closure of the campus, while a rare occasion that Ursinus tends to avoid, is possible, as last year's hurricane proves.

THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 15

The Grizzly is a weekly student-run publication that serves the Ursinus community. Views expressed in The Grizzly do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or college.

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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More than 300 students attend job fair this year

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This year, 301 students attended the Job, Internship and Networking Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The fair took place in the field house of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center from 12-2 p.m.

When students walked in, they checked in with their identification card and received a red plastic bag from Ursinus students working the fair. Inside was a booklet listing all of the opportunities available at the fair.

The stations usually included somewhere between one and three employers. Students in professional attire carried resumes and weaved in and out of the rows. They were afforded the opportunity to ask employers about the jobs offered, provide a resume and gain networking experience, especially with former Ursinus students.

"Over 30 alumni returned to campus to represent their employers at this year's fair," Carla Mollins Rinde, director of the Office of Career and Professional Development, said in an email.

The fair had a lot to offer, with opportunities available for people looking for many kinds of positions.

"The opportunities for which the employers recruit varies from year to year, and it is always a mix of internships and entry-level positions," Sharon Hansen, associate director for employer relations, said in an email.

One concern students have about the fair each year is the lack of national options. Kevin Hamilton, a junior and mathematics major at Ursinus College, attended the fair and noticed the employers all seemed to be local.

"For me it's okay (that companies offering jobs are local) because I live close, but I know for other people that's a problem," he said. "There were a lot more smaller companies, really local small companies that I'd never heard of."

Hansen said the fair can still be useful to students looking for jobs outside of Pennsylvania and New Jersey if they ask the right questions. The employers are willing to answer questions and give advice.



Photo courtesy Steven M. Falk

Students check in at the Job, Internship and Networking fair last Wednesday, Feb. 12. More than 30 alumni represented their employers at this year's fair.

"Students must begin with clearly defined and realistic expectations," Rinde said in an email.

Upon exiting the fair, students were requested to fill out a form about their experience.

"Students provided very positive comments on the evaluations they completed when leaving the fair," Rinde said in an email.

According to Rinde, one student wrote, "This was the first great step towards my job search."

Rinde said students attend the job fair for a variety of reasons.

Some students expressed confidence about their job fair experience in their exit responses, while others were less so.

One student wrote, "I need to prepare more," and another wrote, "It was good practice-I was glad to learn about how to talk to potential employers and use words to sell myself," according to Rinde.

Students also offered advice for others who plan to attend the

fair in the future. Rinde said student responses included advice about preparation, including, "Look online before coming and have questions prepared ahead of time," and, "Dress to impress and talk to everyone."

Rinde said in an email that though the fair might not result in immediate employment, it is a good networking opportunity, and helps students become aware of their options.

"All employers expect students to be professional, willing to initiate conversation and able to highlight their strengths," Rinde said in an email.

Career services encourages former Ursinus students to attend the fair and represent their employers after they graduate.

Rinde said students are able to prepare and gain positive experience from it.

"It is the student's responsibility to make the most of a career fair," Rinde said in an email.

Top stories from around the globe

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New levels of Boko Haram violence

Violence in Nigeria attributed to militants belonging to the Boko Haram Islamist sect led to the deaths of between 90 and 110 people, according to "The Telegraph." Dozens of civilians in a small village in the north-eastern section of the country, in the state of Borno, were killed due to their Christian faith.

The gunmen allegedly went door-to-door searching homes and slaughtered those found hiding, according to Nigerian Senator Ali Ndume. More than 1,700 East Africans have been killed by acts of terrorism by the Boko Haram since 2009.

Ukrainian protest amnesty approaches

The Ukrainian government is poised to offer amnesty to protesters charged with crimes related to rioting in the capital city, Kiev, over the past two months, according to the BBC.

The amnesty hinges on anti-government forces cooperating with police and ending their siege of government buildings, in addition to dismantling barricades built in the streets to facilitate resistance against the state security forces.

Anti-government forces have occupied the City Hall building, among others, for more than a month until Friday, when the government released 243 prisoners held on various charges stemming from rioting and fighting police officers.

Venezuelan opposition leader faces arrest

Leopoldo Lopez, a vocal

opponent of the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, signaled that he would personally lead a rally in Caracas, the country's capital, this Tuesday, reports "Reuter's News." Lopez faces charges of murder and terrorism in connection with deaths in the widespread protests in Venezuela in recent weeks.

Lopez said that the primary mission of the upcoming rally would be to deliver a petition to the local state prosecutor seeking the resignation of President Maduro.

American avalanches take more lives

A series of recent avalanches in the Western United States have killed multiple winter sports enthusiasts. The most recent, in Colorado, was the third deadly slide in less than a week, contributing to a death toll initiated in Utah and Oregon.

Heavy snows over the past two weeks have created unstable conditions but also lure skiers and snowboarders, who often seek out fresh snow in dangerous back-country terrain. The avalanche in Colorado followed prior massive snow slides that claimed the lives of a skier and a snowmobiler and injured others.

Plane missing in Nepal, 18 suspected dead

"The New York Times" reported that a Nepalese Airlines flight with 18 aboard went missing in the densely forested area of Western Nepal after taking off from Katmandu Sunday afternoon. The plane almost certainly crashed, and its passengers are not suspected to have survived.

The crash was likely due to the absence of de-icing equipment, which is considered essential by most pilots when flying in the mountainous areas for which the region is known. The people on board included army officers and a member of the Nepali Congress.



Photo by Heidi Jensen

Facilities works to remove snow from the pathway in front of Myrin on the morning of Feb. 3.

Heavy snowfall no match for facilities; Ursinus remains open

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It is no secret that this winter has brought a lot of snow to Ursinus. With each snowfall, there are hopes among the students for a snow day, but Ursinus' facilities services are on top of the removal process with the fall of the first snowflake.

Ursinus has been covered in snow this entire winter, but the campus remains open thanks to the facilities services and their snow removal plan. The efficiency of the crew is not without costs. Snow removal budgets are being passed in various areas.

For example, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has spent nearly \$9 million on snow removal. The department had only planned to spend \$3 million. Ursinus' winter utilities budget is feeling the strain of the snow as well.

"Each snowfall is different, so labor, equipment and ice melt costs vary with each storm," Andrew Feick, director of facilities and community relations, said. "This winter has been particularly challenging with snow coupled with extreme cold for much of it."

Ursinus has a well-thought-out snow removal plan that is executed with each snowstorm. Dave Bennett, grounds supervisor, is responsible for keeping an eye on incoming winter storms. He gathers information from several different sources and helps formulate a plan and expectations for an incoming winter storm.

Once the snow falls, priorities are given to different locations and pathways. All emergency roadways and pathways are the primary target and are cleared of the snow first. Secondly, the walkways, parking lots and primary driveways are cleared of snow.

Lastly, any alternate routes or secondary parking lots have their snow removed. Anti-icing and de-icing procedures are done when and where it is necessary around campus. Ursinus puts the safety of their students and faculty before all else. This is evident through the reoccurring emails warning students and faculty of icy and slippery conditions.

"The primary reason is to inform the community about campus conditions in hopes an informed community will be safer," Feick said about his emails. "The

hope is always to prevent an accident or injury."

To help accommodate students in the winter weather, there are spaces available on campus for faculty to spend the night. Whether it is avoiding the drive home or the drive back to campus in the morning after a heavy snow fall, faculty can sleep in an open dorm on campus.

Many of the dining staff have spent the night during this season just to be sure that our students will be able to eat the next day. This ensures that class and schedules can move on as planned. As a campus with over 95 percent students living on campus, having class during a snowstorm is the professor's call.

Ursinus has not had its campus closed entirely due to snow since 1996.

As taxing as this winter has been, it is most likely not over.

"We are, as is the entire region, nearly out of ice melting products, and there is no more to be had," Feick said.

Ursinus has been efficient in removing the snow from many storms on campus this winter. With more snow eminent, let's hope Ursinus facilities services keeps up the job well done.

Professors return to campus life

Teachers living in New Hall join dorm culture

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An aspect of the Ursinus community that is often emphasized is the close-knit relationships among students and professors. One of the programs that aids this bonding is the Faculty in Residence program.

In the program, faculty members and their families live on campus and interact with students, forming a more personal and extended bond.

The two professors who are in the program currently are Jenni-

fer Stevenson, assistant professor of psychology, and Garrett Hope, visiting assistant professor of music. Stevenson lives in New Hall and Hope lives in North Hall.

Stevenson said her time at a small, liberal arts college influenced her decision to live on campus and she wanted to further integrate herself into the school through participation in this program.

One of the difficulties of living on campus is that the professors are residing where they work. This could cause a problem in drawing the line between work and personal life, but Stevenson said the problem does not exist for her.

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Word on the Street

How do you think Michael Sam's coming out will affect American sports culture?

"I hope in a positive way. I hope he inspires other athletes to come out. Any team that passes up on a great defensive lineman is missing out."

—Keaton Sanders, 2015

"I think that it's awesome that he had the courage to come out before the draft. It opens doors for other athletes and I hope that it doesn't affect his draft because that would be awful."

—Nishant Chatarjee, 2016

"I think his coming out will make other gay athletes more willing to come out. It's getting a lot of publicity and I don't think that it's negative."

—Moiria Kisch, 2016

"I think that Michael Sam's coming out is another step toward equality in the U.S. He's breaking down barriers with the increasing number of states legalizing gay marriage and reducing ignorance of the gay community."

—Jon Livezy, 2017

"I think that more people in the NFL will be more comfortable with their sexuality."

—Dan Dehelian, 2015



Photo courtesy of Andrew Mackin

Jennifer Stevenson stands outside her faculty apartment where she and her family live in the basement of New Hall.

Faculty continued from pg. 4

"When I first moved in, it was a little bit more difficult than it is now," Stevenson said. "I want to have the experience of being on

campus." As students at a small liberal arts school, Ursinus students are generally used to building strong relationships with the professors in classrooms, labs, research and other areas of academics. Ste-

venson takes that initiative a step further.

Stevenson often emails the student body, inviting the community into her home, whether it is to make cookies or for events for her daughter.

Stevenson welcomes students to New Hall, encouraging them to stop by even for a moment.

Stevenson said she thoroughly enjoys getting to know students who she typically would not have met outside of her department.

She said living on campus with students gives her a chance to really interact with all students, not just those who are in her classes.

During the 2013 Summer Fellows program, Stevenson and Hope alternated making dinner for participating students.

Stevenson said this was a good way to interact with the students but admits it was often chaotic to feed 40 students.

Students, both in and out of the departments to which the residing faculty members belong, find it helpful to have the professors as accessible resources and mentors.

"They're always available when you need them. If you ever really needed them, they'd come meet you."

— Marilyn Day
Sophomore

Marilyn Day, a sophomore neuroscience major, said she believes it is resourceful and helpful to have professors live on campus.

"They're always available when you need them," Day said. "If you ever really needed them, they'd come meet you. Also,

class is never cancelled, so you never have to make up a class."

Ursinus prides itself on a small student-to-professor ratio which allows students to build close relationships with their professors.

The Faculty in Residence program is just another way for Ursinus to ensure that close-knit environment between students and professors.

The availability of professors to students after hours, and again, the Faculty in Residence program allows professors to become more than just in-class teachers focused on a specific subject.

It allows them to become on-campus mentors to all students.



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Student response counts when hiring faculty

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Many departments are looking to hire new tenure-track professors for the 2014-2015 academic year. Campus-wide emails have been sent about presentations that potential professors are giving. Students are encouraged to go because their feedback is crucial in the decision-making process.

The politics, French and studio art departments are looking to add a new professor that will be on the tenure track. Each department has brought three candidates to campus to hold presentations to show the way they would teach a class. There are many steps before the three top candidates are brought to campus.

Ads are placed in professional journals to attract candidates. The

politics department had 200 to 300 applications for one position in the department. The French department had 165 applications, and the studio art department had 200 applications.

The current professors in each department view the applications and choose 10 to 15 applicants to interview over the phone or Skype.

"If we did not have dedicated administrative assistants, it would be almost impossible for us to carry out a search smoothly while we are still teaching our own courses," said Colette Trout, a professor in the French department.

After the Skype interview, the department narrows the search down to the three candidates, who are then brought to campus.

Rebecca Evans, the chair of

the politics department, said, "When the candidates are brought to campus, they meet professors in and out of the department, students in the department, a CIE coordinator, Dean Winegar and President Fong."

The studio art candidates also give critiques of student works.

Each candidate and possible new professor will be asked about how they teach CIE because they will each be teaching CIE at Ursinus. The professor must be able to teach courses not only in the department they are working for, but should also be able to teach interdisciplinary courses.

The liberal arts approach to education is also something that the committee asks the candidates about.

"We ask the candidates, 'what makes you want to teach at Ursi-

nus?'" Evans said. "Small class size is just one piece of the answer that professors want to hear from candidates. They want to know what a liberal arts education means to them."

Each candidate gives a presentation that the whole school is invited to. Each student at the presentation is provided with a slip where they can answer questions and share their opinion on the candidate.

Students that are majoring or minoring in the department are invited to lunches to talk informally with the candidate.

"We ask the students how engaging and interactive the professor was and how their informal conversations went," Evans said.

Student feedback is crucial in making the final decision.

"Students majoring or minor-

ing should care about who we hire," Evans said. "The professor that is hired will be a piece of a small department. "Students are more influenced by the faculty member, since they are taking classes with them," Evans said. Students will be working with professors and using them as mentors during their time at Ursinus."

Following each candidate's presentation and meeting with faculty and students, the members of the hiring committee discuss who they want to hire.

After going over the student forms and debriefing over all of the visits, the current professors choose who they want to hire. The committee then tells the dean who they would like to hire. If the dean approves, the department sends an offer to the candidate.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Poetry Workshop with Anna Maria Hong in Myrin Library, 6:30 p.m.	Shabbat dinner, Hillel house, 7 p.m.	Free practice GRE, LSAT, MCAT Exams, Pfahler hall, 11 a.m.	AIRBAND Production Team Meeting, Bear's Den, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Michael Twitty: 'Slave Cook to Activist: Finding My Calling in the Past and Present,' Musser auditorium, 7 p.m.		Math for Liberal Arts Poster Presentation, Pfahler, 12 p.m.
Chemistry seminar with Dr. Guy Crosby, Musser auditorium, 7 p.m.			Heefner Organ Recital with Katherine Dienes-Williams, 4 p.m.			"Wonderful Town" opening night, Lenfest Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Supply chain is our biggest food risk

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The Montgomery County Health Department's evaluation of Upper and Lower Wismer on Dec. 3 and its findings pose little or no direct threat to the health of students.

While I have little formal food science training, I come from a long line of purveyors of meat and provisions and I understand the greatest potential for disease, contamination or foodborne illness is during the manufacturer's and distributor's stages of processing and handling.

Feb. 6's "Sanitation issues reappear in Wismer" mentions insects and unsanitary or unclean surfaces, which are all the unavoidable consequences of running a food establishment designed to serve so many customers. This is not just an Ursinus issue.

Muhlenberg College, in its October 2013 inspection, had

several violations, including "refrigerated drawers at the Chef's Table require cleaning to remove grease," "a gap between the catering receiving door which should be secured to prevent the entrance of insects and rodents" and "the floor in the production walk-in cooler requires cleaning to remove litter and food debris," according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's website.

I can hear many of my classmates making this an issue of money and suggesting that the college does not allot enough resources to food service. The fact of the matter is that the University of Pennsylvania, a nearby school with one of the largest endowments in the world, still has numerous cited health inspection violations.

The Philadelphia Department of Health and Office of Food Protection's inspection of Penn Cafe stated, "Food safety certified person does not require em-

ployees to have a doctor's note when returning back to work after suspected foodborne illness," "food safety certified person did not demonstrate accurate knowledge of foodborne illness," "food employees observed donning single use gloves without a prior hand wash," "potentially hazardous foods were held above 41 degrees" and a "construction site nearby is not properly contained which caused notable dust and particles from the construction area on food counters."

In the end, while interesting for the purposes of comparison, health violation statistics and data are relatively meaningless. The supply side of food production is the main source of foodborne illness.

On Jan. 18, an Illinois sliced ham distributor recalled approximately 67,113 pounds of sliced spiral ham products due to concerns about possible listeria exposure, according to the United States Department of

Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service. I am sure many people remember a similar outbreak of listeria in cantaloupe a few years ago.

Food suppliers even concede that they play the most significant role in the spread of foodborne illness. In a May 4, 2012 article in the "The National Provisioner," internal industry commentators said that in 2012, the USDA "announced a series of prevention-based policy measures that will better protect consumers from foodborne illness in meat and poultry products."

"These measures will significantly improve the ability of both plants and USDA to trace contaminated food materials in the supply chain, to act against contaminated products sooner, and to establish the effectiveness of food safety systems," the article stated.

"The additional safeguards we are announcing today will improve our ability to prevent

foodborne illness by strengthening our food safety infrastructure," USDA under secretary for food safety Elisabeth Hagen said in the article. "Together, these measures will provide us with more tools to protect our food supply, resulting in stronger public health protections for consumers."

While I have spent this article defending the actions of Upper and Lower Wismer, I would like to close by saying the employees and students who make food service possible are to be commended for their hard work on a daily basis.

But they can take a little constructive criticism, like being told to wear proper hair-restraints—a complaint found during the most recent inspection.



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Michael Sam shouldn't need a press conference

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If you were to do any sort of research on the situation involving Michael Sam, you would likely find what seems to be universal support from his community at Missouri, the National Football League and the nation at large. Granted, there is going to be the Westboro Baptist Church protest or some sort of anti-gay zealot organization ranting about how the world is going to hell in a handbasket.

For the most part though, support seems to be at every turn for Michael Sam, and it should be. Sam is only 24-years-old and has decided to come out while a part of a culture that is anything but liberal on the subject of homosexuality.

A recent "Sports Illustrated" article by Pete Thamel and Thayer Evans gathered input from current NFL coaches and scouts on how they think things will transpire for Sam. The sources, who spoke under condition of anonymity, gave a rather

candid account of how the NFL is not ready for its first openly gay player.

It is worth noting that there has not been any player or coach who has veraciously spoken out against Sam's lifestyle. As the "SI" article argued, though, the discrimination and arduous journey Sam is likely to face will be much more subtle. It will likely be a battle against some of the other men in the locker room, who are either too immature or too fearful of being teammates with a gay man to accept Sam as a peer.

Having been in football locker rooms for almost a decade, I understand that chemistry is of the utmost importance.

I also understand that if I were ever on a team that would have chemistry affected by a teammate's sexual orientation, that team would be destined for failure.

One of the many issues I have, and many others have, is the hypocrisy of the NFL fans, executives, players and coaches who are against Sam.

The Philadelphia Eagles organization and fan base forgave Michael Vick after he was convicted of running dog-fighting rings.

Ray Lewis is one of the most celebrated athletes in NFL history and is now a primetime analyst on Sundays. Lewis, in January 2000, was also involved in a double murder, for which he was indicted. Not surprisingly, the charges were dismissed, and Lewis was named Super Bowl MVP the following year. Lewis was not allowed to say he was going to Disney World, if it is any consolation.

The list of NFL players who have been involved in criminal activity and substance abuse related controversy goes on and on, yet in most cases, fans and organizations feel alright turning a blind eye.

I am not arguing against forgiveness. I understand people make mistakes. I just cannot fathom how or why Michael Sam must fight for acceptance when criminals don't face such an intensive process.

Many would argue that organizations want to shy away from the media circus involving Sam, which is a valid argument that begs an interesting question: When did the media attention surrounding criminal activity become more appealing than the coverage of Michael Sam?

One of the best things to come out of the entire situation has been the flood of support for Sam. Among the most notable examples are Sam's former teammates at Missouri, who knew of his orientation before the season and supported him. Similarly, current and former NFL players, executives and coaches as well as fans have all voiced how inspirational Sam is and how much courage he possesses. These are great things, things that show progress and acceptance on a new platform in the fight for gay rights.

Unfortunately the NFL and professional sports in general will be extremely difficult to change as a whole.

In a recent Pew Research poll of LGBT individuals, profes-

sional sports leagues were among organizations considered to be most unfriendly towards the LGBT community. The only organization that was considered less friendly was the Republican party.

Michael Sam did something that required an amazing amount of stoicism and courage. He has pushed the topic of acceptance into an arena that was more than comfortable ignoring the subject. For me though, it seems somewhat bittersweet.

I do not hope for a day when all gay athletes can be open about their orientation and accepted—I hope for a day that they do not have to hold a press conference to explain their orientation, a day when every athlete can play their sport and not feel the need to announce how they live their lives.

An individual's sexual orientation is not my business and not your business. Why in the world should athletes, or anyone for that matter, have to deal with scrutiny and judgment for their romantic life?

Record-breaking career for UC swimmer

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Malena Lair Ferrari, standout swimmer and student in the exercise and sports sciences department, had a very different upbringing from many of her peers at Ursinus.

Growing up, there were often three different languages being spoken in Lair Ferrari's house, English, Spanish from her mother and German from her father.

"I learned English through the neighborhood friends and pre-K," Lair Ferrari said. "But it's always funny to watch friends listen to our family speak because honestly you don't know what language you'll get until the word has been spoken, and many times you'll get all three languages in one sentence."

While Lair Ferrari did grow up in America, and her two siblings were born in America, at home, English was not the primary lan-

guage. "If you ask my friends that know me pretty well, they will say that sometimes I need to stop mid-sentence or rephrase what I am saying because at that moment I can't think of the word in English," Lair Ferrari said.

The current Bethesda, Md. resident was born in Argentina. She came to Ursinus from a very small school, which she was a quality she wanted again when searching for a college.

"When I came to visit the school in the middle of the summer when no one was here, I ran into campus safety and a cleaning staff who both spoke so passionately about the school and its students," said Lair Ferrari. "I wanted to be part of a community where everyone, top to bottom, was proud to be part of it."

Looking back at her career at Ursinus she has no regrets. The women's swim team had an in-

credible season this year finishing undefeated for the first time in Ursinus history.

"We have really risen to the challenge this year, and I am so proud of this team," Lair Ferrari said. "I think one of the meets that I will never forget will be the win against Gettysburg."

Lair Ferrari has contributed immensely to the Ursinus women's swimming program over her four years.

She has won five individual conference championships and led three relays to conference championships. Two of those relay championships are conference records.

She has broken five individual school records, four relay school records, three individual pool records and five out of the five pool relay records.

"She just has an outstanding work ethic and expects the same of everybody around her," swimming head coach Mark Feinberg

said. "She is very passionate about swimming and passionate about success."

Lair Ferrari is extremely flexible when it comes to her swimming capabilities. She can swim every stroke and is always ready to be put in the line-up wherever she is.

"If she was allowed, she could swim in seven different events and place in the top three in all," Feinberg said. "This is the most talent I have seen in a women's swimmer in the nine years I have been here."

While her collegiate swimming career is coming to an end, she has a few things she would like to achieve.

"I am not 100 percent sure yet what I will do after graduation," Lair Ferrari said. "I ultimately want to go to grad school to get a doctorate in physical therapy, but I am going to take at least a year off."



Photo by Heidi Jensen
Senior member of the swim team, Malena Lair Ferrari.

In that year off, she hopes to move to Argentina and train with the Argentine national swim team.

"I'm not fully ready to stop swimming, yet," Lair Ferrari said. "Hopefully during my stay in Argentina, I will have the opportunity to teach English and to get some clinical hours done for PT."

Large freshman class will help baseball bounce back

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Though the Ursinus Bears' 2013 baseball season was full of growing pains for first-year head coach Stan Exeter, he and his squad are heading into the spring of 2014 with plenty of new faces, experienced old ones and renewed hopes.

The first thing that Exeter, the 2010 Centennial Conference Coach of the Year in his second year after coming over from Swarthmore, said was different between last year's 7-27 team and this year's was depth.

Exeter's recruiting class this year consists of a staggering 24 freshmen.

"We ran out of bodies last year," Exeter said. "We didn't have enough position players. We had pitchers playing different positions, rather than just concentrating on pitching. There were guys that got their first at-bats as seniors because they were pitch-

ers for the first three years. We got depth. That's what we went after."

"I think depth is our biggest strength (this year)," senior Josh Schnell said. "Every person has something to contribute and each individual fits into our system... We have a lot of depth at all positions now and everybody is back and healthy."

In order to find that depth, Exeter hit the recruiting trail looking for tall, strong, versatile athletes. The problem with that is that tall, strong, versatile baseball players are often playing at the Division I or II levels, or in pro systems, and as a result, Exeter uses his "model ballplayer" as more of a guide than requirement.

"I think it's relative," Exeter said of the difficulty he faces in finding athletes for Division III ball. "You're going to have to go for the athlete first. If there's a 5'8" kid and a 6'2" kid and they're equal, you take the 6'2" kid. But if the 5'8" kid's better,

you go with him. It's a pretty simple approach."

Exeter said that his team figures to lean heavily on the backs of his seniors to lead his enormous freshman class, namely Schnell, Ralph Aurora and his two senior pitchers, Steve Berardi and Chris Ryder.

"Ralph is a grinder," Exeter said. "He's a great guy to watch practice. He's one of the people on this team that people should just stop and watch how he prepares himself."

"Josh is the same way," he said. "He really made a commitment to making himself not just bigger, but more flexible. He's a little faster, and his hands are a little quicker than last year."

Schnell was second among returnees with a .292 batting average and third with his .400 on-base percentage, and he was one of only two Bears to hit a home run last year. His comments about his responsibilities as an upper-classman echo Exeter's.

"They all bring something to the table," Schnell said of the team's freshmen. "It's our job (as seniors) to lead by example and do some one-on-one coaching. With this many kids, it's tough for our coaches to give each person individual attention, making it our responsibility to help them out any way we can."

"Both of our senior pitchers (Ryder and Berardi) are just bulldogs on the mound," Exeter said. "There are a lot of examples outside of sheer talent that these guys bring. Sometimes it's good for the young guys just to stop and watch them prepare."

Ryder led the team's returning pitchers in ERA and strikeouts per nine innings in 2013, registering a 3.89 earned run average and striking out 8.7 batters per nine in his hybrid starter-reliever role.

Elsewhere on the diamond for the Bears, sophomore first baseman Chris Jablonski is the team's best returning hitter based on 2013, and he figures to be a big

part of what the Bears do at the plate. He was the only player to bat over .300 and slug over .400 in 2013, with .319 and .412 in each category, respectively.

Despite the team's youth and poor record in 2013, Exeter does not think that the playoffs are entirely out of reach for this year's team.

"I think we just got tired last year, and we couldn't peak at the right time," Exeter said. "We're going to be a very young team. There are going to be ebbs and flows this season no matter what."

"If we peak and continue to trend upward throughout the year, and do manage to sneak into the playoffs, a lot of things can happen," Exeter said. "I've seen teams make that run, even though they're quite young. That's what we have to try to do."

The Bears' first home game is on March 4 against Arcadia. Their conference slate will begin on March 29 with a home doubleheader against Gettysburg.

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

Women's swimming	Men's swimming	Wrestling	Men's basketball	Women's basketball
2/21-23 Centennial Conference Championships @ Franklin & Marshall	2/21-23 Centennial Conference Championships @ Franklin & Marshall	2/22- Conference Championships in Helfferich Gymnasium	2/22- @Muhlenberg at 8 p.m.	2/22- @ Muhlenberg at 2 p.m.

Winter sports end regular season on high note

Wrestling undefeated in conference, basketball teams win final home game

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Ursinus wrestling finished a perfect regular season on Saturday, defeating Washington & Lee 41-3 and Muhlenberg 59-0. The Bears improved to 16-0 overall and 8-0 in the Centennial.

Against Washington & Lee, Ursinus picked up wins from freshman Alex Kramer at 141, junior Richard Jasinski at 149, sophomore Anthony Carlo at 165, juniors Daniel Manganaro and Christian Psomas at 197 and freshman Matan Peleg at 285.

Muhlenberg contested just two bouts. Junior Christopher Donaldson at 125 and freshman Derek Arnold at 149 posted wins for the Bears.

Ursinus will host the Centennial Conference wrestling championship on Saturday.

Gymnastics

Women's gymnastics team placed fourth at the Shelli Conway Towson Invitational, where it competed alongside three Division I squads.

Ursinus finished with a team score of 183.775. The Bears were best on the vault, scoring 46.675, followed by the beam with 45.875, the bars with 45.750 and the floor exercise with 45.475, according to the Ursinus athletics website.

"Competing against Division I teams can be intimidating at times, but it is an awesome experience," junior Kristin Aichele said. She was named East Coast Athletic Conference Specialist of the Week for her Feb. 8 performance against West Chester.

At that meet, Aichele earned a 9.775 on the vault as well as the beam, season highs for her that also topped the Ursinus record for an individual vault and contributed to breaking the team record for beam.

Aichele said she thinks the Bears have a chance to place in the top three of the ECAC and move on to nationals as a team. The team's next meet is Saturday at Rutgers, against three more DI programs.

Men's basketball



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images Inc

Senior Ryan Adams goes up for a dunk in a game against Washington College on Feb. 15. Bears won 89-76.

Sophomore guard Malik Draper scored 27 points as the Ursinus men's basketball team won its final home game of the season, beating Washington College 89-76.

Senior forward Ryan Adams had 22 points, while fellow seniors Jesse Krasna and Pat Vasturia contributed 13 and 12, respectively.

The Bears fell behind by three

early in the second half before putting together a 13-0 run to take a 49-39 lead, according to the Ursinus athletics website. Washington came back to lead 58-56 with 10:12 remaining, but Draper answered with a three-ball to give Ursinus the lead for good, according to the Ursinus athletics website.

"Coach wanted us to focus on keeping them on the perimeter and forcing them to settle for threes," Vasturia said, "and I

thought we did a pretty good job of that."

The Bears will be at Muhlenberg on Saturday for their last contest of the season.

Women's basketball

Ursinus women's basketball won its fifth straight game on Saturday, topping Washington College 67-61 in Helfferich to move to 8-8 in the Centennial and 11-11

overall.

Sophomore forward for the Bears and Centennial Conference player of the week for Feb. 9 Jessica Porada scored a career-high 31 points and added nine rebounds as Ursinus kept its Centennial playoff hopes alive.

Before the game, Ursinus honored seniors Diamond Lewis and Devin Butchko. Lewis scored 10 points and grabbed four boards.

On Saturday, the Bears finish out the regular season at Muhlenberg.

Men's track and field

Ursinus men's track and field took fifth at the Ursinus Open on Friday with 60 points. Wesley won the men's side of the meet with a score of 116.5.

Junior Marquis Wilson placed first in the shot put for the Bears, while senior Brian Clancy finished third.

The Ursinus 4x400-meter relay team, which consisted of Erich Keyser, Skyler McCormick, Richard Schulz and Darius Jones, broke the school record for that event on their way to finishing second at the meet. Jones also demonstrated prowess in the field events, taking first in the high jump.

Sophomore Andrew Mackin took second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:00.20.

Women's track and field

Ursinus women's track and field tied with Millersville for second at the Ursinus Open on Friday with a total of 89 points. The Stockton women scored 136 to win the meet.

Senior Victoria Goodenough finished first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.16. Goodenough and freshmen Erin Farrell, Chloe Johnson-Hyde and Amber Stiegerwalt took second in the 4x200-meter relay.

The Bears also finished second in the 4x400-meter relay behind Goodenough, Farrell, sophomore Kristen Prijs and senior Emily Lamb.

In shot put, senior Amanda Birnbrauer placed second for Ursinus.