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The Grizzly, February 13, 2014

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THE GRIZZLY

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF URSINUS COLLEGE

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

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VOLUME 38, ISSUE 14

Annual Job, Internship and Networking fair brings potential employers to the Ursinus campus



Photo courtesy of Steven M. Falk

Students check in at the Ursinus Job, Internship and Networking Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012.

International Medical Corps representative to speak this Wednesday

Jonathan Vander Lugt,
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Rabih Torbay, vice president of the International Medical Corps, is visiting Ursinus on Wednesday, Feb. 19 to speak about his experience in non-government organizations and about international relations work in the Middle East.

The talk, a part of Ursinus' Ambassador's Speaker Series, will take place in the Musser auditorium in Pfahler at 7 p.m.

Torbay has spoken at Ursinus and has served as an outside reader on a past Ursinus student's honors project.

He was invited by ambassador in residence and professor of international relations Joe Melrose in order to expose students to possible experiences that the non-profit sector has to offer.

"I assume that he'll be talking about the kind of work that the International Medical Corps does," Melrose said. "What that means is usually intervening in complex humanitarian situations, situations that can be caused by natural disaster and conflict."

Established in 1984, the International Medical Corps aims to "improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in underserved communities worldwide," as per its mission statement.

According to its 2011 annual report, the International Medical Corps works in more than 30



Rabih Torbay, Vice President for International Operations of International Medical Corps (IMC).

countries, focused mainly in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, including places with intense political climates such as Syria, Egypt, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Torbay had a leading role in the International Medical Corps' relief efforts in Iraq in 2003, and his experience working in these

environments could be eye-opening and useful to hear and see to Ursinus students, particularly those in the politics and international relations courses

"We have a number of students that have expressed a desire to do this kind of work after they graduate."

— Joe Melrose
Professor of international relations

of study. "We have a number of students that have expressed a desire to do this type of work after they graduate," Melrose said referring to crisis response, "and we have kids that are interested in the medical or health profession... Obviously, that's a big part of what IMC does."

Torbay's presentation will feature photographs with focus on

See Torbay on pg. 3

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and diversity of the employers every year."

One of the biggest goals of the fair is to offer a wide range of opportunities to students.

The fair expected 88 different booths to be present.

The entire Career and Professional Development Office, which includes both staff and student members, contributes to the event.

See Careers on pg. 2

Each year, Ursinus College hosts a Job, Internship and Networking Fair. This year, the fair was held on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 12-2 p.m.

The first formal job fair was held on Oct. 31, 2001 and featured 47 employers in Wismer's lower lounge. Since then, the fair has steadily improved and become a tradition at Ursinus.

The director of the fair is Carla Mollins Rinde. According to Rinde, invitations to the fair are sent to employers.

"We have many organizations who return year after year because they have so much success finding talented students here," Rinde said. "We do a lot of employer research and networking to increase the number, quality



Photo courtesy of Steven M. Falk

The Job, Internship and Networking Fair has nearly doubled in size since its premier in 2001.

Careers continued from pg. 1

Rinde said that the office begins planning for the next fair almost immediately after the fair concludes and they spend all year developing and strengthening the relationships between the college and the potential employers.

"Our associate director for employer relations, Sharon Hansen, works diligently all year long to identify and nurture relationships with potential employers and connect with alumni who are in the position to help," Rinde said. "There are many campus partners that help us make the event top notch."

The facilities staff works hard with sign set-up and breakdown. Food Services caters a great pre-fair luncheon for employer guests and faculty. Campus Safety, athletics and many others pitch in.

Although the fair is typically full of students donning their business attires, some students are more excited for the fair than others.

Sophomore Keith Larkin is an Ursinus student who is looking forward to this year's fair.

"I'm attending the job fair because I'm really looking to get some real world experience and beef up the resume," he said.

Another sophomore, Derrick Falletta, said that he was not planning on going to the fair.

"I have an internship already for the upcoming summer and you always hear about the job fair from upperclassmen that most companies aren't looking for sophomores at the fair," Falletta said. "I may end up going just to get my name out there, though."

Rinde believes that the importance of attending the job fair is immense.

"You can learn about jobs, companies, products and services and receive sound job advice from seasoned recruiters," she said. "It's a chance to think big."

History dept. holds Nazi regime lecture

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The Ursinus College history department is sponsoring the annual Maurice W. Armstrong lecture on Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the Berman Museum.

The lecture will be delivered by David Imhoof who is an associate professor and history chair at Susquehanna University.

His lecture is titled "The Rise and Fall of a Nazi Town- Göttingen, 1920-1960".

"The Nazi regime was only in power from 1933 to 1945," said Ross Doughty, chair of the history department. "He is taking the longitudinal view of cultural elements in the town of Göttingen, Germany which is a university town in Northern Germany."

Imhoof's lecture is going to be a summary of the last chapter of his book, "Becoming a Nazi Town: Culture and Politics in Göttingen during the Weimar and Nazi Eras," which was published in the fall last year.

The chapter is the conclusion of the book which reiterates his argument and also explains what happened in Göttingen.

There is a special emphasis on the culture of this university town after the war.

"His argument is that a lot of the cultural elements in German society that made Germans receptive to the Nazis were present even in the Weimer Republic," Doughty said. "People were in-

terested in things that made them more receptive to Nazis."

The Weimer Republic was the government in Germany established after the First World War and was abolished with the takeover of the Nazi party.

The talk will include information about German opera in Göttingen and shooting clubs which kept people in military condition.

Imhoof also will explain that the people interested in shooting clubs were also people interested in joining the Nazi Party.

Ursinus was able to get Imhoof to come speak on campus because of his connection with Dean Winegar who is the vice president of academic affairs and dean of Ursinus College.

Imhoof and Winegar are friends from when Winegar was on the faculty at Susquehanna. They

were even bandmates in a faculty rock band.

Last year, Winegar mentioned to Doughty about his friend at Susquehanna who was a scholar in Nazi Germany and that he might be interested in coming down here to speak to the students.

This was good timing because of its similarity to the course that Doughty is teaching right now called Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

The lecture will be around 45 to 50 minutes followed by a short question and answer session.

Students from all majors are welcome to attend.

"His argument is that a lot of the cultural elements in German society that made Germans receptive to the Nazis were present even in the Weimer Republic."

— Ross Doughty
Chair of history department

ZBS group to perform in Valentine's Day improv workshop

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On Friday, Feb. 14, a group on campus called ZBS improv group will put on a Valentine's Day-inspired improv show.

The group has done multiple shows on campus but they have usually taken place during other events, such as Relay for Life or blood drives. This time, the group will have a standalone performance.

Cooper Bard, president or "head-banana" as the group calls him, said the group is currently focusing all of their efforts into the performance coming up.

He scheduled the event not realizing it was on Valentine's Day, but once realizing this, he decided to make it a Valentine's-themed show.

Improv is a unique kind of show, an event unlike any other Ursinus holds.

"Improv is a type of performance where the actors are inspired by suggestions from the audience," Bard said. "That is a big appeal of improv: both the skill required to make stories on the go and the fun of seeing your suggestions being used in a performance. The audience is not merely a passive observer but an active participant."

Bard's "co-bananas," or co-presidents, are Mary Kobor and Bethany Siehl. Both help Bard in planning events and practices. Both also assist Bard in advertising events, including the upcoming Valentine's Day show.

The upcoming event will begin with a workshop put on by the

group. During the workshop, the audience will get to see what a ZBS group practice is like.

The audience will be able to interact with the group and incorporate themselves into the workshop. After that, the group will begin their performance.

Kobor said she hopes the workshop will get more people interested and aware of the group and what they do.

"One thing we really hope comes out of this show is increased awareness about what we're doing," Kobor said. "I hope that this gets us some good exposure and that some new people dig it and get interested"

The group has been working hard to prepare for the event by doing skits at practices, incorporating random words or characters.

The group members make up comedy sketches that the rest of the group must go along with.

"I guess the goal is just for everyone to get faster at thinking on their feet and comfortable in front of an audience," Kobor said. "Improv is an amazing skill to have. It helps with giving presentations, telling stories and really just builds confidence."

After the Valentine's Day show, the group's next performance will be in March. They also hope to perform at Relay For Life again this year, as they did last year.

Bard said they are currently looking for on-campus events where they can perform because they would like to expand their variety of events they attend.

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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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RecycleMania returns to UC

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Ursinus will be participating in the national RecycleMania competition for the fifth straight year this spring semester.

According to the official RecycleMania website, RecycleMania is a tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities.

Over an 8-week period each spring, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week and are in turn ranked in various categories.

The categories are based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, as well as which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling.

Brandon Hoover is the Sustainability Program Coordinator on campus. It is his job to oversee our sustainability fellows program here at Ursinus. This means that Hoover has supervision over the Recycling and EcoRep Fellows who are working on RecycleMania.

The website states that national recognition is provided to the winning school in each category on the RecycleMania website and in a national press release.

Winning schools receive an award made out of recyclable materials, and win the right to host that category's special traveling trophy for the coming year. In 2010, Ursinus was one of eight national winners among 607 colleges across the U.S. The school

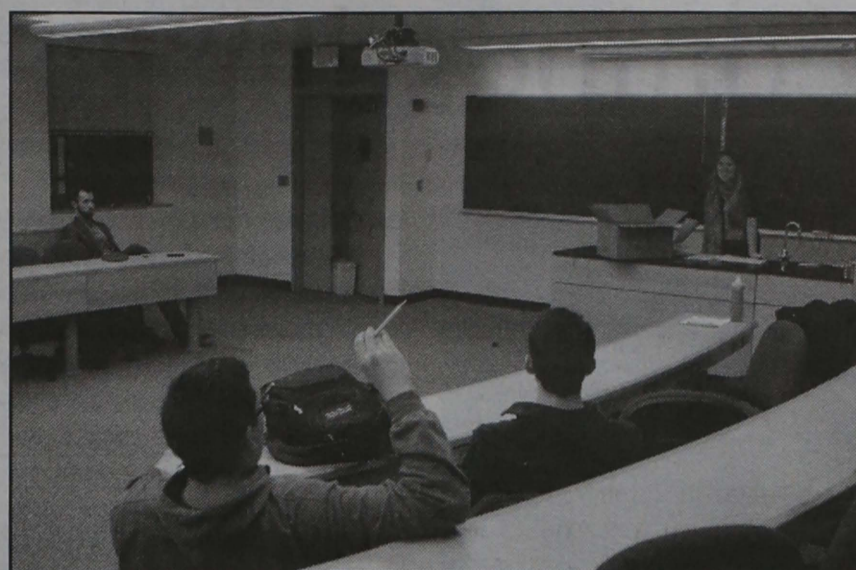


Photo courtesy of Charles Wacker
EcoRep Emma Danz brainstorms with a group of students about RecycleMania events.

led the bottles and cans category with 19.44 lbs recycled.

"It is such a fun competition and a great way to talk about recycling on campus, so Ursinus will participate as long as the national competition continues," Hoover said. "We heard about it and signed up four or five years ago."

Ursinus sophomore Zach Trauger is one of two student leaders with RecycleMania. He believes that Ursinus has great potential in the competition.

"We are such a close knit community," Trauger said. "This is a great opportunity for us to make a difference in the environment."

Hoover said that Ursinus has had a good showing in the competition every year, but believes we can do better.

The competition is sponsored by various non-profit organizations and big named companies across the country.

Coca-Cola and the Keep America Beautiful organization are among the list of support-

ers of the cause. With a network of more than 1,200 affiliate and participating organizations including state recycling organizations, Keep America Beautiful works with millions of volunteers to take action in their communities. Also, as many may know, The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest beverage company. It also has the world's largest beverage distribution system.

Besides getting involved in the competitiveness of the competition, Hoover believes this is another great way for the college to educate its students and faculty.

"While it is a competition between schools, it is primarily a way to educate the campus of existing recycling efforts, and encourage everyone to recycle or compost the waste they generate," Hoover said. "At the end of the day, we want to divert the most waste as possible from landfills or incinerators. And, since it's a competition, who doesn't want to win?"

attending students, and she thinks that students who choose to interact and develop a rapport with Torbay—someone who is well-connected in his field—following his speech will gain an additional level of insight and benefit.

"One of the things that I think is really exciting for students to do is not just to hear about somebody who has achieved a lot of professional success and hear what they've done, but to connect with them on a personal level," Evans said.

"(Students) have a chance to

talk with him to find out how he decided to do what he's doing," she said. "It gives students ideas about how they might pursue all kinds of different things... When he shares in his talk and afterwards in one-on-one settings, he can explain how things happened in his life and the kind of serendipity he had."



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Top stories from around the globe

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Vigilantes take on Mexican cartels

According to the BBC, armed vigilantes, determined to wrestle control of the rural Mexican state of Michoacan from the hands of drug cartels, advanced towards the city of Apatzingan, long known as home base to the infamous Knights Templar criminal organization. Supported by the Mexican government, the vigilantes conducted checkpoints and house-to-house searches looking for key leaders of the organized crime ring. The Knights Templar are reputed to be responsible for all of the drug trafficking in the region, in addition to killings, kidnappings and frequent extortion from local business owners.

Switzerland tightens borders

The mountainous European republic of Switzerland has decided after an extremely close vote to further restrict immigration into the country. "The Wall Street Journal" reports that 50.3 percent of the country cast ballots in favor of creating quotas for the amount of foreign workers that can enter the country. The legislation was in response to mass immigration from less-affluent countries. The new law could cause some friction with the E.U., which dictates that all member nations must allow the citizens of other member nations to freely immigrate if they are able to find work. The Swiss' economy allowed them to avoid much of the 2008 recession but has led to more than 640,000 E.U. residents immigrating to the small country.

Conviction in record insider trading case

Former SAC Capital portfolio

manager Matthew Martoma was convicted in federal court of insider trading in the largest of such cases ever and faces seven to 10 years in prison according to the "New York Times." Martoma is the eight employee of SAC Capital to be convicted of insider trading, and despite SAC paying a record \$1.8 billion fine regarding the charges, no criminal wrongdoing has ever been proven in connection with its owner, Steven A. Cohen. Although he remains a free man, Cohen has been stripped of his rights to manage the assets of others, leaving SAC Capital a firm centered on managing and expanding Cohen's personal \$9 billion fortune.

Iranian ships near US waters

A pair of Iranian naval vessels, a destroyer and a helicopter carrier bearing supplies, have charted a course that will bring them within close proximity of U.S. shores for the first time, reports the BBC. International observers suspect this is part of an effort to expand its international influence and respond to U.S. moves to maintain a presence in the Gulf, including the stationing of the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, across the Gulf from Iran. Ships from any nation are free to travel in international waters, so conflict between the Iranian warship and the United States Navy is unlikely.

Instability in Istanbul

Reuters reported Turkish police clashed with protesters in Istanbul this week amid riots caused by increased government control of the Internet. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has been criticized repeatedly for anti-democratic actions in the past year, and many Turks claim Erdogan has increased his ability to censor political opponents in response to allegations of corruption that have continued to erode his claims of legitimate rule. The new law allows the Turkish government to block access to web pages within hours of being published.

Torbay continued from pg. 1

the Syrian crisis, the Philippines, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and not only offer politics and IR-interested students useful information, but give "students who are interested in global affairs as a general topic of interest—not a major—something new to learn about," politics chair Rebecca Evans said.

Evans said she looks forward to Torbay's style of intertwining stories and pictures to trigger questions and discussion among

Students bring composting to Lower

Sustainability program offers composting, recycling options

Caitlin Tillson
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Lower Wismer has undergone many noticeable changes, and most of them are a result of a new sustainability program to increase compostable materials in the dining hall.

Composting is a way of transforming raw materials, like food waste, and turning it into compost, which is a renewable resource.

At Ursinus, food waste is ground up, drained of water and sent to a local composting facility called ArbOrganic Acres. Food waste includes food preparation scraps, all leftover food waste, paper napkins and boats.

Composting and recycling are

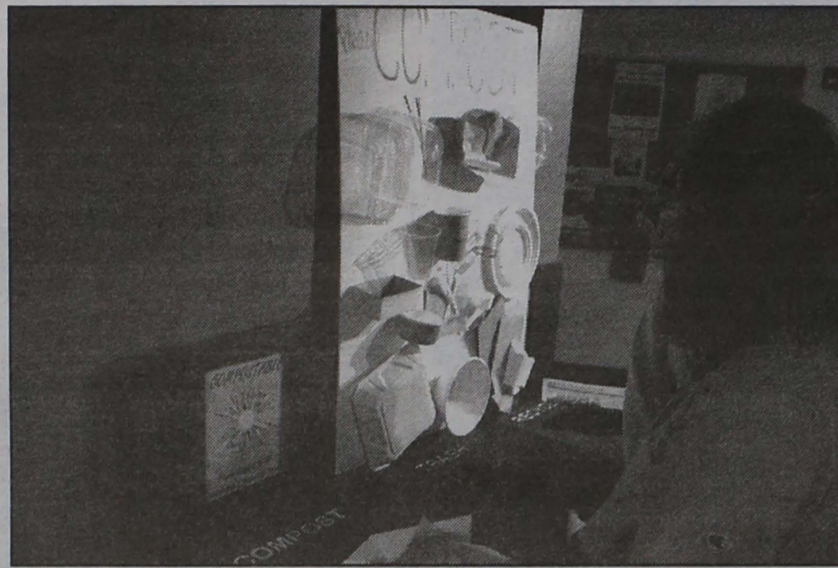


Photo courtesy of Ryan Kiehart

Students use the new compost, trash and recycling containers in Lower Wismer.

both effective methods of waste reduction, but one is more beneficial for the environment than the other.

“Think of it this way: Composting requires less machinery and building space than recycling,” Brandon Hoover, coordinator of Ursinus’ sustainability program, said. “It is a more natural process. Commercial compos-

ters tend to speed up that natural process without much extra effort.”

If you are choosing between recycling or composting your plastic cup, Hoover votes for composting.

He also said that composting can be a little more expensive, but he hopes that it will save the college money in the long run as

the program continues to expand.

While composting is more expensive than recycling, the college’s decision to install categorized waste receptacles in Lower Wismer was made with the environment in mind.

“Research shows that when waste bins for various waste streams are located together, or in very close proximity, patrons are more likely to dispose of their waste in the proper container,” Hoover said.

Hoover said that the new composting bins and posters have been an effective measure in increasing campus participation in composting.

“The volume of composting has gone up,” he said. “It is too

soon to draw any significant conclusions based on data. In my observation, people are beginning to use the bins properly, but we still need to do some education. Not everyone grows up composting

their waste, so it is very new to many people.”

Despite being a first-time composter, sophomore Kelly Cohen found that the posters displayed alongside

the bins made it pretty simple.

“I don’t really know what the process of composting involves, but I like that there is a guide for what can be composted,” Cohen said. “It helps students to get involved even if they don’t know

“In my observation, people are beginning to use the bins properly, but we still need to do some education. Not everyone grows up composting their waste, so it is very new to many people.”

— Brandon Hoover
Coordinator of sustainability program

See Compost on pg. 5

Wismer music open to input

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Beginning last semester, the Wismer dining staff began playing music at every meal hour. Assortments of tunes, old and new, cut through the rabble and occasionally inspire singing and dancing.

Students have had mixed reviews of the song selection. For instance, while some join enthusiastically in on the “Y.M.C.A.,” others scoff at it, calling it a “trite wedding dance tune,” among other things. Regardless, the music has elicited responses from many Wismer diners.

During a recent meal, Eric Clapton’s acoustic slow jam “Tears in Heaven” played followed by power ballads. One Direction also made an appearance, with their chart-topping, harmonious pop song “What Makes

You Beautiful” making heads bob. Many musical soundtracks have been played, including—to the delight of some and despair of others—ABBA’s songs in “Mamma Mia” and Phil Collins’ songs from the animated “Tarzan” film.

“We’re incredibly responsive to people. If they ask us to play something, we’ll play it. If they ask us to turn it down, we’ll turn it down.”

— Rick Lanker
Associate food services director

There has also been a noticeable motif of classic Motown hits, such as “My Girl” and other recognizable numbers.

Despite this apparent grab bag of tracks, students have expressed

a desire for a bit more diversity. While the standard numbers on the Wismer playlist transcend most popular genres, the individual songs themselves are repeated.

Brian Cox, former member of the popular campus band More Than Alive, agreed and said, “There definitely could be a bit more variety, but it’s good.”

Other students have expressed a wish to hear classical music and lesser known musicals.

With all the differing requests, students should be delighted to know that they can submit their own playlists. Rick Lanker, associate food services director, encouraged students to submit but lamented that “many don’t.” He said that they “want a PG-rated,

See Wismer on pg. 5

Word on the Street

Are you going to the Career Fair?
Why or why not?

“Probably, mainly because now I have a resume and am a sophomore with a year of media experience.”
—Elle Portuch, 2016

“I am because I know that a representative from CHOP (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia) is usually there and I’ve spoken with them before.” —Meagan Gatley, 2014

“No, because I went the two years before and there’s nothing there for MCS majors. It’s great for the sciences.” —Briana Walker, 2015

“I’ll go because my adviser recommended a firm for an internship that will be there.”
—Dean DerSimonian, 2016

“I’m not sure. I’m not sure what day it’s on but I would like to go because I think it’s a pretty good idea.” —Serena Mease, 2016

TLI reps to visit Hong Kong

Two students, professor to lead workshops

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The Teaching and Learning Initiative is a student consultancy program that allows students and professors to work together on creating the optimal learning environment.

The program is an idea that's been practiced at various universities around the country, including Bryn Mawr and Haverford. TLI has been on the Ursinus campus since 2010 and has had success in bringing students and professors together with the student consultancy program.

Dr. Meredith Goldsmith is the director of TLI at Ursinus and she often leads workshops or open discussions for professors and faculty members to discuss pedagogical issues. Dr. Elizabeth Ho is an English professor at Ursinus who is currently teaching at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, China. Hong Kong is changing their educational system from a British style to a more American

style. With Ho currently at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, she saw the opportunity to bring TLI, especially the student consultancy program, to Lingnan.

The TLI program of Ursinus will be sponsoring Goldsmith as well as two students that are currently in the TLI program to be sent to Lingnan University to initiate their program. Christine Saraco, a junior English major, and Codey Young, a senior sociology and philosophy double major, will be heading to Hong Kong for one week, from March 1 through March 9.

"We'll be giving presentations on what we do and don't do as student consultants," Saraco said.

Goldsmith, Saraco and Young will take part in "student instructing, leading workshops, observing classes and meeting with faculty and students individually," Young said.

Saraco said, "We'll be identifying students that would be good candidates for the program and then training them on what to do, like taking good notes and speaking with professors."

Saraco and Young helped edit the handbook of Ursinus' TLI program, but neither of them have ever been a part of some-

thing similar to this. With the assistance of Goldsmith and Ho, both students are confident that the presentations and seminars will go smoothly, but they still anticipate difficulties during their week in Hong Kong.

"The biggest difficulty I would anticipate is a language barrier," Young said.

Saraco and Young both have no experience in the Chinese language, but "Most of the students we will be interacting with are studying English and instruction at the school is in English as well so I doubt interaction will be difficult to navigate," Young said.

Saraco said she is worried about "cultural differences and how authority is viewed (at Lingnan University)." Saraco said there are comfortable relationships between students and professors here in the U.S., but she is unsure on how that dynamic operates in Hong Kong.

Both students are appreciative towards Ursinus, Goldsmith and Ho for allowing this opportunity to happen.

The TLI and student feedback is something that has become important to them, so they are excited to bring the program to a foreign place.



Photos from a campus-wide email sent by Reese McKnight (Above) Kale Drost and Steve Medeiros pose by the snow dinosaur they crafted with Jenny Phillips. They were one of the winners of the snow sculpture contest. (Below) Another snow sculpture winner by Blaise Laramée with help from Andrew Tran.



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Wisner continued from pg. 4

not explicit medley of songs."

"It's not a science," Lanker said. "We're incredibly responsive to people. If they ask us to play something, we'll play it. If they ask us to turn it down, we'll turn it down."

He repeatedly urged people to bring in music, adding more and more selections to the Wisner

repertoire.

Lanker said that the music has had a positive impact, making the vibe in Wisner more social, easy going and relaxed. The music in Wisner is quickly becoming a regular aspect of the Ursinus culture. It also has made it a nicer work environment for the employees, who can be seen singing along as well.

It all started last year when renovations were made to Wisner. They included a sound

system intended for addressing audiences and for various meetings. The practical public address system also included an input for music.

Students who wish to contribute their own mixes should burn music to a CD and give them either directly to Lanker or whoever is swiping student IDs during that particular meal. They are eager to get more submissions, and students can expect to hear their playlists soon after they give it.

much about it."

Sophomore Tamas Budner said, "I love that they're doing it and I like that they have items attached that are compostable, but it still is a tad confusing, which I think lends people to just throwing things away."

"Though the composting thing is a good idea, most of us don't know what belongs where," sophomore Shouli Tung said. She also said that the triangular hole for the trash compartment is chal-

lenging to use.

The paper straws, along with Zack's compostable cups, utensils, clam shells, etc., make it possible to just drop your unfinished meal and drink in the compost bin without taking the time to separate what goes where—you just toss it all in.

Even more importantly, the compostable products are helping us to be a greener campus. The straws kind of taste like cardboard, but it is a small sacrifice to make in our effort to be a better campus.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
CIE on the Road with Ursinus professor Kelly Sorensen, 6:30-7:30 p.m.	ZBS improv workshop in the Blackbox theater, 7:45 p.m.		U-Innovate! deadline for entries, 11:59 p.m.	Grizzly meeting, Ritter, 6:30 p.m.	"The Rise and Fall of a Nazi Town-Gottingen, 1920-1960," Berman museum, 4:30 p.m.	Ambassador's Speaker Series: Rabih Torbay, Musser auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
Poetry workshop with Anna Maria Hong, 6:30 p.m. in Myrin library	Valentine's Day improv show, Blackbox theater, 8:30 p.m.					President's forum, Wisner main lobby, 12:30 p.m.

Smartphones make communication a chore

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As a smartphone owner, you are sometimes hit with the revelation that a massive technological leap has landed right in your pocket. Consider the magnitude of this invention. You carry your music, books, videos, Internet access and more, and it doesn't weigh a single pound.

These inventions have completely changed the lives of the working class and youth culture alike, altering relationships by the millions. Our connections with work, school and play have all been revised, including connections with other people.

Now think of this: you are an 1800s pioneer of the American West and you have just received a letter from good friend. "Good friend, how are you," etc. Now imagine you fold this handwritten letter in half, slip it in your pocket and say, "I'll get back to that." None of that seems very likely. Your friend took the time

to compile a conversation, write a letter and send it, but you have stuck it on the back burner.

There is something so precious about a handwritten letter and something so dry and uneventfully blasé about receiving a phone call or text message. That is because in the 1800s people could only converse locally. Now everyone in our lives is eagerly waiting to send our phones clattering across the tabletop.

There is something so precious about a handwritten letter and something so dry and uneventfully blasé about receiving a phone call or a text message.

Handy? Maybe, but ultimately it erodes the fascination of the human experience. Contact used to be a commodity. The possibility to be contacted at all times makes us reconsider relation-

ships as an interruption of other important things we are doing. Essentially, phones overexpose and dry out the value of discourse.

Let's imagine another situation: You, two strangers and one bus stop. There are two breathing, thinking people who have landed in the same era as you. They hold mutual understandings about your world and experiences, and what do you do?

Probably check Facebook, maybe scratch an email or several. Phones pull back the curtain on what we really value and cherish. Apparently, we value ourselves.

Phones are a hub donned with our content, customized to our specific needs, and this largely feels solipsistic, not introspective.

This inward focus spreads like a yawn. If one person unsheathes a phone, chances are you are going to rotate your thumbs, follow suit and get out that phone.

The great paradox is that

the invention keeping us connected ultimately segregates us. It makes talking with others frightening, routine or outrightly mundane. We do not ignore any and all phone contact, but rather we treat it as something to deal with, something to get through, not something we enjoy.

At some point in one's educational career, one has wondered why an assigned reading is so gosh darn long.

But it doesn't just change our connection with people—it changes our relationship to information as well.

Admit it: At some point in one's educational career, one has wondered why an assigned reading is so gosh darn long. Well, that's because the brain becomes branded with information only after a timed exposure. When it's dinnertime, don't eat a cracker—

eat a full course. Smartphones inspire one to do quick fact checks a la "information snacks" that are helpful in the moment but dissolve in our memories shortly after ingestion.

Another dose of honesty: what an incredible thing phones are. They are tight with high pixel density. They offer utilitarian diversity and raw entertainment value. Just bear in mind the insidiousness of such a vast amount of content at your fingertips.

Next time you're in the proximity of another person, consider your phone a trap. One door closes, another opens. Sleep your phone, save some battery and spare the human relation in the process.



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The endgame of piracy is product placement

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I remember them all: the guy at breakfast who didn't subscribe to HBO and couldn't wait for the latest episodes of "Game of Thrones" to come out on DVD, the friend who bootlegs video games and then buys only the ones he likes, the professor who was exasperated that his CIE class thought it was wrong to illegally download music.

Intrusive, omnipresent product placement is where Hollywood and other blockbuster entertainment is headed if—or when—people stop paying for media.

I usually bite my tongue when others discuss their piracy. In fairness to both camps, the economics are murky. While it is unreasonable to assume that each illegal download would have translated into a sale, it is equally unreasonable to say that piracy

has not hurt big media's bottom line.

How you feel about big media is a different story, of course, but there are still great reasons to pay for your entertainment.

Intrusive, omnipresent product placement is where Hollywood and other blockbuster entertainment will find shelter if—or when—people stop paying for media.

Everyone who has pirated the "Seinfeld" episode "The Junior Mint" still received the advertising message baked into the plot. Better yet, the pirates had actively sought out and enjoyed what was effectively a 30-minute promotion.

It is hard to sell traditional advertising when DVRs zip through commercial breaks, but nobody can fast-forward through the background, the dialog or the plot itself. Product placers will buy that exposure, even if the audience is pirating the content.

In that world, all movies are like "Castaway." Brands are key characters. Companies litter the background of each frame.

Maybe you think you wouldn't mind that world, if it got you free, big-budget entertainment. The trouble is that brands would inevitably dictate what kinds of stories can be told.

There is no natural way to incorporate product placement into the fabric of Westeros.

"Game of Thrones," for example, takes place in a fantasy world that cannot be mapped onto our own. There is no natural way to incorporate product placement into the fabric of Westeros. "Game of Thrones" also happens to be the most-pirated TV show, according to TorrentFreak.

The show's director said the high rate of piracy bestows "much-needed 'cultural buzz,'" according to "The Sydney Morning Herald." Jeff Bewkes, the CEO of Time Warner, HBO's parent company, told "Ad Week" that piracy "leads to more paying subs" and being the most-pirated

show is "better than an Emmy."

If media bosses stop viewing piracy in that light, there will be no more shows like "Game of Thrones." Conglomerates will choose instead to cash in on their large illicit audience—larger than the paying group for "Thrones"—through product placement. Great shows will stall at the pitch stage because they have no advertising potential.

Granted, I am imagining an extreme where piracy dominates legal forms of media consumption. What's wrong with piracy as it stands now, in moderation?

In short, pirates are asking other people to pay for their media. You may not think that illegal downloading hurts the bottom line for big corporations, but then you're asserting that those corporations are still making plenty of money. Where does the money come from if you are not paying?

Piracy is more like stealing from those who pay for content than it is stealing from content creators. If everyone bought in, if everyone agreed to pay for

media, digital distribution would allow prices to drop.

For instance, Valve's Steam service offers video games for dirt cheap. Games that first retailed for \$60 go on sale for less than five dollars on Steam. On Christmas Day 2013, Steam users received a free copy of "Left 4 Dead 2."

Steam replaces physical copies, used game sales and casual piracy with the promise that game developers and publishers can make just as much money by dropping the price and moving more copies.

Piracy is more like stealing from those who pay for content than it is stealing from content creators.

College students can make the media landscape a better place by paying for content. From fending off product placement to easing prices for our parents, peers and neighbors, we have solid reasons to buy in.

Men's lacrosse boasts strong senior class

Centennial Conference will provide difficult challenge

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The Ursinus men's lacrosse team has high hopes in their 2014 season as they look to build on a 55 overall record last season and 55 record in the Centennial Conference.

The team is bringing back a lot of experience behind the leadership of seven seniors.

Ursinus lacrosse hopes to pick up where they left off last season with a three-game winning streak. In his fifth year as the head coach, Donnie Steele has very high expectations for the team that is bring-

ing back most of their starters. He also has aspirations for the freshman class brought in this year.

The Centennial Conference is one of the toughest conferences in all of Division III lacrosse, but this has not scared the Bears in this upcoming season.

"I expect the team to work extremely hard towards winning a Centennial Conference championship," senior captain Shawn Caven said. The team has made it clear that it looks to not only make the conference playoffs, but win the entire tournament.

Ursinus lacrosse has already had a head start in building up this team through the games they played during the fall-ball season.

"We had a successful, fun, and productive off-season," senior captain Nile Thompson said. "We

put in a lot of hard work and we look forward to the season where we hope to reap the benefits of our dedication to each other and the Ursinus men's lacrosse program."

The Bears look to put this hard work in full effect as they begin their 2014 venture.

Thompson also has high hopes for the freshman class.

"Several (freshmen) will contribute immediately, which is no surprise as this is the deepest our team has been talent-wise since I have been here," Thompson said. "Specifically, Zach Jones, Brock D'Annuzio, Conor Fitzgerald and Alex Manderack impressed in the off-season during fall-ball."

This strong class is no surprise since Steele, in his five years at Ursinus, has made it a point to bring in more young talent each year to push the upperclassmen.

He said, however, that they will have a bit more of a challenge ahead of them because of the depth on the roster.

With a Centennial Conference title in their sights for this season, the men know they will have to perform well on the big stage week in and week out.

Two notable games that the team is looking forward to are against defending conference champs, Dickinson and Washington College, who served Ursinus one of its only five losses last season.

The Bears open their 2014 campaign on March 1 at Messiah College. The team will then be home the following week for its season home opener against Widener.

Ursinus does not begin its conference play until week eight of the season, when the team will

travel to face off against Franklin & Marshall.

Steele understands the potential that this group of experienced players has and he has made sure to keep the message simple and clear for his team.

The team will face challenges around every corner. Three conference opponents, have been ranked in the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association's preseason poll.

Gettysburg sits at 20th, Washington at 9th, and Dickinson at 7th. Although preseason rankings mean little to most teams, they show how difficult the conference is compete in.

"We need to focus on the process and let the outcome take care of itself," Steele said. "Forget what the scoreboard says and just go out and play the play. If we do that, we will be dangerous."

All-American football player announces he is gay

Michael Sam will likely be first openly gay player in NFL

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On Sunday, Feb. 9, All-American football player Michael Sam announced that he is gay. Sam, a senior at the University of Missouri, plays defensive line and is expected to be an early-round draft pick in the upcoming NFL draft.

Sam made the announcement on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" and also said that he informed his teammates in August prior to the season.

Assuming Sam is drafted in May, he will be the first openly

gay player in the NFL.

In the interview, Sam said his teammates "took it great."

"(Sam's teammates) rallied around me," Sam said. "They supported me. I couldn't ask for better teammates".

There has been an outpour of support for Sam, from current and former players to the first and second families of the United States.

On Monday, President Obama's official Twitter account congratulated Sam on "leading the way." The sentiment was shared by Michelle Obama as well, calling Sam an inspiration.

Vice President Biden and the second lady also applauded Sam as well as the entire Missouri football program.

One of the reasons for the praise Sam has been receiving is the timing of the announcement. It is a dubious time for a player

like Sam, considering he has not been drafted yet.

The media frenzy surrounding Sam, as well as his choice to publicly come out, could potentially cause NFL organizations to hesitate when considering the player.

Many organizations tend to shy away from players who bring an excessive amount of media attention.

On the flip side though, just as many organizations may be excited to welcome the first openly gay player, and the extra attention he would bring.

Sam's choice to come out as gay at this point in his football career is one of the reasons for the ubiquitous praise he has received.

Even with the list of accolades from his time in college, Sam is by no means guaranteed a spot on an NFL roster.

The defensive lineman is con-

sidered a "tweener" in many NFL defensive schemes, meaning his size is too small for defensive line and too big to play linebacker.

The subject of gay players in professional sports has been controversial, especially in the NFL. During Media Day for Super Bowl XLVII in 2013, San Francisco 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver made anti-gay remarks during a radio interview.

Culliver's comments sparked Kwame Harris, a former 49er and openly gay man, to speak out against his former teammate's actions.

The NFL released a statement on its website, stating, "We admire Michael Sam's honesty and courage. Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014."

The statement comes as no surprise, especially considering Roger Goodell, the NFL commissioner, has publicly supported his brother, Michael Goodell, who is an openly gay man.

To add to the controversy, a Minnesota Vikings special teams coach is under review after reportedly using homophobic slurs throughout the season.

In a culture that is heavily secretive when it comes to locker room functions, the general public can only wonder how things will transpire if Sam finds himself on a professional team.

When asked about what team he would like to play for, Sam told ESPN that he wants to play for whatever team will draft him.

"It is what it is, I'm happy with who I am," Sam said. "I am Michael Sam, I'm a college graduate, I'm African-American, and I'm gay."

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

Women's swimming	Men's swimming	Wrestling	Men's basketball	Women's basketball
2/21- Centennial Conference Championships	2/21- Centennial Conference Championships	2/15- Tri-meet @ Muhlenberg against Muhlenberg and Washington and Lee	2/15- versus Washington at 3 p.m. 2/19- @ Haverford at 8 p.m.	2/15- versus Washington at 1 p.m. 2/19- @Haverford at 6 p.m.

Winter sports regular season coming to close

Women's swimming, wrestling sit atop conference. Women's basketball fighting for postseason

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On Saturday, Feb. 8, the women's swim team defeated Bryn Mawr to finish a perfect season in dual meets. The Bears took down Bryn Mawr with a final score of 115-83.

With their win on Saturday, the team improved to 11-0, with seven of its wins coming against Centennial opponents.

The team is now focused on the Centennial Championships, which will take place Friday, Feb. 21-23 in Lancaster, Pa. at the Kunkel Aquatic Center of Franklin & Marshall.

Quite a few swimmers did exceptionally well on Saturday, including sophomores Briana Mullan and Corinne Capodanno.

Mullan placed second in the 50-yard freestyle, while Capodanno won the 200-yard individual medley.

Both women were a part of the winning 200-yard medley relay team that opened the day for the Bears.

Wrestling

The men of the mat had another dominant day on Saturday, as they defeated both NYU and McDaniel. The wins improved UC's Centennial record to 6-0.

Some of the familiar faces contributed on Saturday, including junior Chris Donaldson with a win at 125, sophomore Anthony Carlo at 165 and senior Elisha Gaylor at 141.

The Bears are currently ranked 22nd on D3wrestle.com and will head to Muhlenberg this Saturday to finish regular season matches against Washington & Lee and Muhlenberg. Centennial championships will be the following week.

If the team can take the win this weekend, they will head into championships without a loss, and heavily favored over the rest of the conference.

Women's basketball

The women of the hardwood defeated Dickinson on Saturday with a score of 60-47. The win was the team's third win in a row



Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications

(Above) The women of the UC swim team pose after their victory over Bryn Mawr in the Centennial Conference on Feb. 8. They are undefeated this season 11-0.

(Below) Junior Kristin Aichele on the beam in a match against West Chester on Jan. 14. Bears lost 186.750-179.400L.

Stylish Images Inc; David Morgan-Stylish Images Inc



and keeps playoff hopes alive for the Bears.

Sophomore forward Jessica Porada, who has had an exceptional season thus far, had a double-double against the Red Devils with 20 points and 17 rebounds.

Senior guard Diamond Lewis also had an impressive day, scoring 17 points and assisting five times.

The next few games will be extremely important for the team. With only a few games left, the Bears will have to keep winning against conference opponents if they hope to see a postseason.

Men's basketball

The men's team dropped a heartbreaker to conference powerhouse Dickinson on Saturday, falling 81-76.

The Bears were within a basket with 44 seconds remaining, but a Red Devil three-pointer finished off the Bears.

The loss left the team with an overall record of 3-18 and a record of 1-13 in the conference.

Seniors Ryan Adams and Pat Vasturia had 20 and 13 points apiece, while sophomore guard Malik Draper dropped 15.

The team will have their final home games of the season in the coming week against Franklin & Marshall on Feb. 12 and Washington on Feb. 15.

Gymnastics

The women of the gymnastics team lost a close contest against West Chester on Saturday. The final score was 190.575 to 184.525.

Although the team lost the dual meet, it was a record breaking day for the Bears.

Junior Kristin Aichele had an impressive outing, scoring 9.775 on the vault. The score not only got her the win, it was enough to take the UC record.

A collective record was also broken during the meet. On the beam, the team scored 47.825, breaking a record of 47.8 that has stood for nearly 10 years.

UC will face Towson in another dual meet this Saturday.