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Local Christmas house brings students cheer

Students find solace in the light display during a hectic finals season

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On a small street just off 9th Avenue, colorful lights dance across a rooftop, lighting up the night sky and drawing the eyes of passersby.

This very sight pulled Ursinus students Chloe Sheraden and Skye Gailing down the little street on their way home from Thanksgiving break last year.

“We saw their really bright Christmas lights and decorations and decided to check it out” said Sheraden.

What they found was a house and yard completely covered in Christmas decorations and flashing lights, with a sign out on the curb telling visitors to tune to radio station 92.3. The station played Christmas music while the lights flashed in correspondence with the music.

The house belongs to Jean and Kimberly Krack, a couple who have lived in Collegeville since 1998. Jean Krack, the architect of the light display, has been fascinated with these decorated houses since childhood. When the couple lived in the San Francisco Bay area raising their two sons, he inspired a challenge for the best light display among his neighbors, with the entire cul-de-sac lighting up the neighborhood.

For the moving lights, Jean Krack was inspired by a light show in the tunnel between terminals B and C at the Chicago O’Hare Airport.

“As I was walking down the stairway to the tunnel I first heard this really interesting music then as I got to the bottom I saw how the entire tunnel had all these lights that motioned from one end to the other. The idea struck me that maybe we could figure out how to do that with the street lights,” said Krack.

While the streetlight idea did not pan out, Krack now uses that same concept in the light show at his house. Through his inquiries into such displays, he was put in contact with a company in Kansas City that does commercial displays, and were interested in offering their equipment for residential displays.

Krack explains that in 2002 he “bought several of their controllers, radio transmitter[s] and some pre-programmed songs. Back then I also had three big trees [now removed] in the front yard. But the moving lights just didn’t work out as I thought.”

Jean and Kimberly Krack’s festive lights display is referred to as the Christmas house by some students.

UCARE Giving Tree brings joy and gifts to local children

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Ursinus students helped provide Christmas gifts for children in the ALCAMO Family Center after-school program during the annual Giving Tree gift drive the college held last week. The gifts, which are purchased by Ursinus students based on tags that give the child’s name and age, are given to the children during an on-campus holiday party that occurred on Saturday Dec. 2.

ALCAMO, which stands for Accion Comunnal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County, is a nonprofit that provides educational programs and social services for families in Norristown PA. Turek spoke about the mission of ALCAMO and their after-school program. She said, “ALCAMO Family Center…provides educational programs, social services, and health access to members of the community. The children at ALCAMO’s after-school program range in age from 5 to 14 years old (kindergarten through 8th grade). The majority of families who participate in the program have moved to this area from Latin America, and their primary language spoken at home is Spanish.”

According to Katie Turek, the assistant director of UCARE, the Giving Tree tradition began in 2010. “I honestly do not know where the idea initially came from,” she said, “but I imagine it was a combination of student initiative and community interest in partnering [with] the program. Ursinus students have volunteered as tutors and mentors with the ALCAMO after-school program for many years, and this project is one way we have been able to show our appreciation and support of the program in a different way.”

Setting up the Giving Tree and sending out emails to notify stu-
Lights continued from pg. 1

Aden, Gailing, and friends coordinate lighting with music is an art form that can delight those who love light. "I love light as a technical masterpiece that is the work of others," said Gailing. "I love the way the lights play with the music." When approached for comment on the popularity of the house amongst some Ursinus students, owners of the house Jean and Kimberly Krack were delighted. "We are thrilled that you and fellow students enjoy the display. We never considered that it could be a respite during those final grueling weeks before Christmas break," said Kimberly Krack.

Krack starts working on setting up the display in October, and works on the display every weekend, Veteran’s day, and the day after Thanksgiving, which is when it opens. The display runs through Jan. 1. According to Sheraden, she goes “about 2-3 times a week, depending on mood and schedule.” I usually try to go with friends, but I am a lot busier than last year, so I have been going less. I always try to bring people who need a boost or those who haven’t seen it yet, so the times a week I go definitely vary.”

Both Sheraden and Gailing highly suggest visiting the house for a nice break during the stress of the final weeks of classes and to bring some Christmas joy. "I make sure everyone knows about the house and [should go] to it if they need relief from the stressors of college," said Gailing. "When approached for comment on the popularity of the house amongst some Ursinus students, owners of the house Jean and Kimberly Krack were delighted. "We are thrilled that you and fellow students enjoy the display. We never considered that it could be a respite during those final grueling weeks before Christmas break," said Kimberly Krack."

For those interested in visiting the display, Jean Krack mentions that “the lights run from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. If it is raining or just recently rained, the show might not be on due to [the fact that] all that electric and water don’t mix and circuits get blown.” He added, "Be kind and don’t play the music loud. Glen Farms is a quarter circle so people do not need to turn around in our neighbor’s driveways.”

Said Gailing, “I definitely suggest others should go. It’s such as magical site so close to campus!”

The Ursinus College National Council is inviting alumni to participate in the national Wreaths Across America day by laying wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 16 as part of their Bears Give Back initiative. This is the first time the National Council will participate in the annual wreath laying event held by Wreaths Across America. The charity provides volunteers with wreaths to lay across the gravestones of veterans. This year, the D.C. chapter is holding the wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where over 400,000 soldiers and families lay at rest. All wreaths have been donated to the organization from sponsors worldwide. Since Arlington National Cemetery is a private location, the laurels will be protected from any vandalism from the outside. The wreath laying’s purpose is to commemorate, give back to, and include all fallen veterans. Therefore, the Wreaths Across America association asks each person participating to pause and thank the veteran they stand over.

On the day of the event, a truck will enter the site with all the wreaths and their sponsors. The event will be televised live via Wreaths Across America’s Facebook page. It is open to the public and there will be a limited number of tickets available at the entrance of the cemetery. This event is being held in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America 2017 national commerative wreath laying ceremony held by the National Council in conjunction with Wreaths Across America, honors veterans

Wreaths adorning veterans’ graves in Arlington National Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Sharing the story of the miracle of Chanukkah

Hillel student president, Jonathan Guba, retells the miraculous story of the Maccabees and Jewish dedication to religious life.

Johnny Myers jomyers@ursinus.edu

This week, Grizzly writer Johnathan Myers sat down with Jonathan Guba ’19, president of Hillel, the organization dedicated to Jewish life on campus, in order to hear the story of Chanukkah. Chanukkah, which pays tribute to a miracle that occurred in 165 BCE, is a Babbinic holiday because, according to myjewishlearning.com, the events it commemorates occurred after the period of the Hebrew Bible. The story of the Maccabees, therefore, is not recorded in the Torah. It is recorded in the Catholic Bible, but the practice of Chanukkah as a Jewish tradition was practiced before its recording. According to Religious Studies scholar Dr. Steven H. Werlin, the Chanukkah story was frequently passed down by oral tradition. It was told by parents and grandparents to children and the details would change slightly with each telling. In the spirit of that oral tradition, Guba retold the story for the Grizzly. Below is a direct transcript of Guba talking the story, edited lightly for clarity.

The story of Chanukkah [begins] a couple thousand years ago. There were a bunch of people, the Israelites, that were living [in Judea] which was a

Alumni invited to wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery

The event, held by the National Council in conjunction with Wreaths Across America, honors veterans and includes special guests connected to the university. The event will take place on Saturday, December 16th. The event is open to the public and those interested in participating are encouraged to contact the Hillel office for more information.

The event will feature a special wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, which will include representatives from Ursinus College and the National Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a reception at the National Council headquarters in Virginia. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Hillel representatives and learn more about the organization's commitment to Jewish life on college campuses.

Lauren Preiss
Hillel Student Life Coordinator
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Sponsoring organizations include the National Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the American Jewish Committee, and the Jewish Federations of North America. The event is supported by a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America-

See Chanukkah on pg. 3

Wreaths adorning veterans’ graves in Arlington National Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

See Wreath on pg. 3

Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

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the wreaths enclosed inside it. There will then be a ceremony to commemorate the fallen at 8:15 a.m. in front of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, close to Arlington’s main gates. This will consist of a brief reflection on why the volunteers are there, what they hope to accomplish, and how to go about the process of laying the wreaths on the graves. Once the speeches are over, participants will proceed to the multiple truckloads of wreaths and begin decorating the cemetery with the wreaths.

"It’s a large endeavor with thousands of wreaths and thousands of people."

—Lisa Bogdanski
Associate Directors of Alumni Relations

Lisa Bogdanski, Associate Director of Alumni Relations and event coordinator, strongly encourages alumni to participate in both the event and the National Council. She said, “[Council members] are champions and local spokespersons for Ursinus College. They serve as hosts at events that build greater understanding and appreciation for the college and they help to develop a culture of giving.”

She also described how the wreath-laying event fulfills the mission of the college’s national council. She said, “The National Council is all about volunteering and giving back, so this day will provide a lot of success for the committee. It’s a large endeavor with thousands of wreaths and thousands of people.”

Bogdanski went on to explain how Bobby Fong was to engage alumni and parents in the life of the college. To achieve this goal, President Fong asked Associate Vice President for Advancement Jill Marsteller and her Advancement staff to establish the Ursinus College National Council.

The council was founded in 2012 and it has nine sectors located in California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The Council’s Regional Club in Washington D.C., will participate in National Wreaths Across America Day.

The National Council is eager to be a part of this event, and anyone who wishes to donate or participate is strongly encouraged to do so. For any questions regarding the Council, contact Lisa Bogdanski at ucalumni@ursinus.edu. To ask Wreaths Across America for more information, contact Wayne Hanson, the Location Coordinator, at (877) 385-9504 or check out their website at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Hillel house, the center of Jewish life on campus, will host candle lightings for Chanukkah.

Chanukkah continued from pg. 2

part of the Ptolemaic Empire, [Ruler of the Seleucid Empire] Antiochus III [conquered the Judean region of the Ptolemaic Empire]. Antiochus III followed the Greek / Hellenistic religion, and at first [Jewish traditions were respected, but then his son, Antiochus IV] . . . decided that [this] was heresy, and went into ancient Israel to stop [them] and implement his own religion.

When he got there, he desecrated the temple [and] he killed the people who were openly practicing Judaism. Eventually, it [became] sort of an ultimatum that you converted to the Hellenistic traditions, or you were killed. A bunch of ancient Israelites went into the mountains and formed a resistance led by the Maccabees, headed by Judah Maccabee and his father Mattathias Maccabee. These Maccabees formed a small rebellion, and in the first miracle of Chanukkah, beat back the massive army of the Greco-Syrians.

After a long war of mostly guerilla tactics, the Maccabees came out as the victors of the conflicts, and were able to go back to the temple. When they got back, they found that the temple was desecrated. The Greco-Syrians had brought unkosher animals, pigs, through the temple, and had destroyed the vials of oil that were used to light the Menorah, the eternal fire that’s supposed to signify God’s presence. When they [searched] the temple, they found that there was only one [vial] of this sacred oil left, which was only enough for one day of light. They were out of options. They lit the Menorah for that one day. The process of refining more oil was an eight-day long process [involving] finding the olives [and] distilling them, to make [the sacred] oil. So, they [began] the refining process, and [while undergoing that process] the oil that they found in the temple [miraculously] lasted for the entirety of the eight days, which is why Chanukkah is eight days long . . . and [why] the word Chanukkah means dedication.

Ursinus Hillel will be decorating the Hillel House (33 6th Ave) for Chanukkah and will be holding candle lightings at the Hillel house during the days, December 12-15, of Chanukkah that fall within the semester. Students who are interested in participating can contact joguba@ursinus.edu.
Ursinus students celebrate the holidays

UC students and student organizations share their cultures’ holiday traditions

Ana DerSimonian
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As winter rolls in, its long dark days are brightened by the celebration of the many diverse holidays that make up the holiday season. Ursinus College shares in that celebration. Students of many different cultures call the Ursinus campus home for the beginning of the holiday season, each commemorating their own unique traditions. Some of these students and student organizations have shared their traditions for the upcoming holidays with “The Grizzly.”

On Friday, Dec. 8, Sankofa Umoja Nia will be celebrating Kwanzaa with the Africana studies department. According to history.com, Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Maulana Karenga as a means to bring together the African American community. The holiday was created in response to a series of riots that occurred in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1965 that protested police brutality. At its heart, Kwanzaa is a celebration of African heritage, and is honored from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. A candle is lit on each day of Kwanzaa and throughout the holiday people are supposed to light a menorah to be kept burning every night. Yet, there was only enough oil to keep the menorah burning one night. A miracle occurred and the oil lasted eight nights, enough time for the people to find a fresh supply of oil.

The website explained that “[them] is celebrated by lighting the menorah, eating traditional foods, and exchanging gifts.

Kwanzaa lasts for eight days, and on each day, a candle on the menorah is lit. It is customary to play with dreidels and to eat food fried in oil.

Nareen Babian, a freshman at Ursinus, celebrates Armenian Christmas, which takes place on Jan. 6.

“Armenian churches usually have church bazaars during the winter season where there is a lot of Armenian food. It is a good way to spend time with loved ones and to see family and friends,” Babian said.

According to Babian, Armenian Christmas is celebrated on Jan. 6 because it is the day of the “realization that Jesus was God’s son.”

According to encyclopaedia.com, this tradition falls on the same day as Epiphany, a Western Christian tradition that celebrates the three wise men’s first visit to Jesus which symbolizes the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, this day celebrates Jesus’ baptism as an adult, which began his ministry and revealed him as the son of God. Armenian Christmas follows the Eastern Orthodox tradition.

Babian also celebrates Christmas on Dec. 25, but on Jan. 6, she receives Armenian gifts, such as ornaments, necklaces with her Armenian initials, and Armenian fruits.

Babian said, “It’s a good way to keep in touch with my heritage.”

The South East Asian Student Association (SASA) celebrates the Chinese New Year, which is one of the biggest holidays in many Asian countries. President of SASA, senior Luna Kang, and junior Linwei Jiang, in charge of SASA’s public relations, explained that their popular holiday is on Jan. 1 in the Chinese lunar calendar. In the U.S., which follows the sun-based Gregorian calendar, Chinese New Year takes place on Feb. 16.

“Families get together and celebrate a year of hard work and to wish for a successful coming year.” — Linwei Jiang

Public Relations Chair for SASA

Photo courtesy of Sydney Cope

Prepare your stomach for the holidays

The Grizzly editors share their favorite family recipes from the holiday season

Lefse Recipe
Courtney DuChene
In large pot bring to a boil the following ingredients--stir to combine.
- 10 cups water
- ½ pound margarine
- 12 ounce can of evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- Butter, sugar and cinnamon for topping

Once ingredients have come to a boil and are all combined remove from heat and stir in 10 cups of potato flakes.

Cool mixture in a covered container overnight.

For this next part I recommend that you divide up the potato mixture into fourths and mix small batches as you go. If you do it all at once the dough tends to get wet and sticky and hard to work with.

For each 1/4" of the potato mixture mix (with hands) in 1 1/2 cups of flour (just to combine; don’t over work). Divide mixture into balls—they should be about 1/3" cup each. Dust the outside with flour and set on place in cool spot.

Dough should be soft but not to sticky—if it is sticky you may need to add more flour (this will make the lefse tougher after it is cooked).

Rolling
Use a well floured pastry cloth covered board. (I usually initially spread out about 1/4" cup of flour evenly around the board and work it in the pastry cloth).

Start with about two tablespoons of flour on middle of the board.

Take a ball of dough, flatten out like when you start pizza dough, and make into a round, thick disk—about 5" by 3/4".

Making your first roll

Each time you flip you need to fluff up the flour on the pastry cloth and flip and start the process over.

Each ball should roll a lefse to a 12" diameter.

Roll lightly out from the center of the lefse. Roll about five strokes, then pick up the lefse with the turner and fluff up the flower on the cloth with a butter knife.

Flip lefse over and do five more rolls out from the center and then pick up and flip.

Each time you flip you need to fluff up the flour on the pastry cloth and flip and start the process over.

When cookies are cool, frost with Chocolate Icing.

Chocolate Icing
3 cups confectionary sugar (powdered sugar) with 3 or 4 tablespoons cocoa; add 1 teaspoon vanilla, 2 or 4 tablespoons milk until thin enough to spread. Let dry and enjoy!

Italian Chocolate Chip Cookies
Emily Jolly
4 cups of flour
2 eggs
4 teaspoons Baking powder
1/2 cup oil
1 cup sugar
1 cup milk
1/2 cup cocoa
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon (rounded)
1 cup mini chocolate chips and/or
1/2 tsp cloves
1 cup nuts (chopped)
1/2 teaspoon all spice
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon salt
Directions:
Mix all dry ingredients together. Beat eggs, then add oil, milk and vanilla. Gradually add dry ingredients and mix well. Add chocolate chips (and nuts). Mix well.

Roll into balls and bake in 400 degree oven for 12 minutes (I usually chill batter for an hour or so to make it easier to handle). When cookies are cool, frost with Chocolate Icing.

Peanut Blossoms
Emily Jolly
1 3/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup peanut butter
1 egg
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
48 chocolate kisses

Directions:
Cream shortening and peanut butter with sugars. Add egg and mix well; add milk and vanilla. Add dry ingredients. Shape dough into balls using a rounded teaspoon for each. Roll balls in sugar; place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degree for 10-12 minutes. Top each cookie immediately with a Hershey Kiss and let chocolate set up.

Directions:
Mix well.

Add chocolate chips (and nuts). Mix well.

Roll into balls and bake in 400 degree oven for 12 minutes (I usually chill batter for an hour or so to make it easier to handle). When cookies are cool, frost with Chocolate Icing.

Chocolate Icing
3 cups confectionary sugar (powdered sugar) with 3 or 4 tablespoons cocoa; add 1 teaspoon vanilla, 2 or 4 tablespoons milk until thin enough to spread. Let dry and enjoy!

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Happening on Campus

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Happy Holidays vs. Merry Christmas

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As the holidays and winter vacations begin, liberal agenda-pushing Starbucks coffee shops and CVS pharmacies become bloody battlegrounds for the supposed ‘War on Christmas.’ ‘Tis the season for the annual debate: “Happy Holidays” or “Merry Christmas?” These words have become political. No longer are these statements about wishing others a happy end-of-December season. It is a screening test for Democrats and Republicans. Employees at convenience stores are mandated by their managers to say “Happy Holidays” to avoid offending anyone. Meanwhile, customers who prefer “Merry Christmas” insist on their favored phrase, making a point to push Christmas as the only holiday that Americans celebrate. This ‘War on Christmas’ is a reaction to our country’s growing diversity in religion, culture, and politics. A diversity that Americans have not always viewed positively or championed vocally.

In my opinion, it is in everyone’s interest if we adopt “Happy Holidays” and refute “Merry Christmas” under professional and social conversation. To strangers who may not celebrate Christmas, it is an important sign of respect to use “Happy Holidays.” The season is not for taunting political views, but for celebrating holidays, spending time with family, and welcoming in the new year.

A core tenant of our government is the separation of Church and State. This principle is important for many Americans - it’s the foundation of our political governance. This country was founded, in part, on religious independence. That is, the freedom to celebrate any religion we decide for ourselves, without the interference or mandate of the government. This protects religious independence and autonomy. “Happy Holidays” is an appropriate, approachable way to wish another person benevolence during the holiday season without infringing on political and religious rights.

Sophomore Andrew McSwigan spoke about the issue from his perspective. “I mean, fundamentally speaking as a Jewish person, I’m geared towards ‘Happy Holidays.’ That’s what I’ve been saying my whole life. I also appreciate that it’s more inclusive to those who celebrate other holidays. With that, personally speaking, I’m not going to feel any bad intent if someone said ‘Merry Christmas’ to me, because I appreciate where that’s coming from, even if the phrase is not being expressed as inclusively as it could be.”

I initiated a discussion with a table I frequent in Wismer, asking what people tend to say during the holiday season. Most agreed that it’s important to respect other people’s beliefs. However, some of them also admitted to a preference for “Merry Christmas.” They argued that most people in America do in fact celebrate Christmas regardless of religious belief. So, for most of the people they interact with, it’s not a problem to use “Merry Christmas.” They know which friends do or don’t celebrate Christmas and tailor their greetings accordingly, otherwise “Merry Christmas” is the default.

I find some parts of this argument good and bad. It’s good to understand which friends celebrate which holiday, and what to say to each friend, based on what they prefer. However, it’s erroneous to think that everyone in this country celebrates Christmas. Diversity is our strength; it’s the reality we live in, but it’s a reality that sometimes is ignored or even just unnoticed. This is why it’s important to say “Happy Holidays” - because of the invisible level of diversity around us. I cannot speak for others on their preference, nor can I imagine the small yet accumulating annoyance of receiving a “Merry Christmas” as someone who doesn’t celebrate the holiday. However, I believe it’s important for us to be aware of our words going into this holiday season in order to respect and include everyone as we enjoy the multitude of celebrations.

The Grizz’s Holiday Polls

The Ursinus community shared their opinions on holiday topics by participating in polls posted on our various social media accounts. Here are the results:

- When is the appropriate time for holiday music to begin playing?
  - Never: 11%
  - After Halloween: 12%
  - The week of Christmas: 23%
  - After Thanksgiving: 54%

- What is the best holiday pie?
  - Apple Pie: 32%
  - Pumpkin Pie: 36%
  - Pecan Pie: 10%
  - Chocolate Créme Pie: 10%
  - Shoe Fly Pie: 6%
  - Cherry Pie: 6%

- What is the best holiday movie?
  - Home Alone: 31%
  - A Christmas Story: 31%
  - The Nightmare Before Christmas: 9%
  - Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: 13%
  - How the Grinch Stole Christmas: 9%
  - The Polar Express: 7%
know how hard the transition is from high school to college. I feel as though some of the upper-classmen have taken me under their wing and it has definitely helped me a lot and given me more confidence in my academics and athletics. I am eager to see what the rest of the season holds... I have never [swum] faster in [a] season than I have thus far. I think that the team’s performance is phenomenal, I never expected to see such fast swimming so early in the season.”

Baker, already a ten-time Centennial Conference champion, thinks the team could reach new heights this year.

“I think that so far this season we have been stronger than ever before. We came back from the summer hungry and ready to keep our Centennial title. We have been thrown tough practices, but they have only made us stronger. I came into this season ready to race, but also ready to keep improving my strokes as much as I can in hopes to get faster. I have been happy with my in-season times so far, and I am excited for our mid-season taper in December... we will put all of our training to the test as we race for the Centennial Crown once again, swim personal bests, and get as many girls as possible into the DIII National meet.”

“The teams this year have been impressing Coach Feinberg since day one of practice.

Said Feinberg “A majority of both teams came back in terrific shape [which has] allowed us to set bigger goals... [I am] really happy with [the] work ethic, attention to detail and the culture they have created.”

David Mendelsohn
damendelsohn@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus College men’s basketball team has taken the Centennial Conference (CC) by storm with a 4-2 record to start the season. They took their first conference loss on Nov. 30 in a game against Franklin and Marshall College (F&M).

Assistant Coach Justin Klingman believes last year’s playoff exit has motivated the team to take their games to the next level this year.

“I think the loss to Swarthmore in the CC Semi-final game [last year] motivated our guys to have a really focused and productive offseason. Our guys brought that continued focus to our preseason. Although we dropped our opening game [this year], the team’s commitment to getting better and pushing each other every day in practice has had much to do with our success in the past three games.”

Senior co-captain Brian Rafferty leads the team and the CC in assists with 5.7 assists per game. Said Rafferty, “I would attribute the early success to all of the work we put in during the off-season and preseason. We have all been playing pickup and working out together since late May of last spring, so we were able to keep that chemistry going coming off of last year... The biggest surprise this season to me is just how deep we are. We have 10-11 guys who could see [significant] playing time throughout the course of the year. I think it is the deepest team we have ever had since I have been here.”

Through the first six games, 10 of the players have averaged over five minutes played per game, and eight average over ten minutes. Four of them are averaging double-figures in points: Eric Williams Jr. (18.3 ppg), Zach Quattro (17.8), Ryan McTarnney (15.8), and Shane Stark (13.2), with Remi Janicot trailing not far behind with his average of 9.2 points per contest.

Sophomore Shane Stark was surprised by the team’s scoring abilities. The Bears are scoring a whopping 89 points per game, placing them second in the Conference.

“I knew before the season we were a great offensive team, but I didn’t realize we would be scoring so much every game,” said Stark. Another testament to how well the team shares the ball is their assists per game totals. They average 20.3 assists per game, leading the CC.

Stark leads the team and is behind only Gettysburg’s Matt England in rebounding this year in CC ranks. He is proud of the team’s unselfish attitude.

Said Stark, “[We] have great chemistry that we have on and off the court. No one on our team is selfish, and we all love to share the ball to score.”

Another big factor in the team’s success has been their elite level of ball control. Junior guard Zach Muredda leads the CC in assist-to-turnover ratio, and the Bears have four men in the top seven in that category: Muredda, Williams Jr., Matt Williams, and Rafferty.

After a tough loss to open the season against Staten Island College on Nov. 17 in the Rinso-Marquette Tournament, the team really bounced back.

“We didn’t play with the energy we needed, but we learned from it,” said Muredda. “Learn from it, they did. The very next day on Nov. 18 against New Rochelle, the team dropped 111 points in the 26-point victory, on the back of junior Eric Williams Jr. Williams Jr. scored 37 points in the game, dropping 12 of his scoring in the first half against New Rochelle.”

Williams Jr.’s teammates were impressed with his performance, calling it one of the most impressive performances of the year.

Said Muredda, “Eric Williams [Jr.] breaking the CC record with 12 threes [while making it look] easy [was awesome to watch].”

Coach Klingman was also impressed by the results.

“Our record setting performance against New Rochelle was a nice confidence booster for our team after dropping our opening game. [Williams Jr.’s] 12 made threes were impressive to say the least. Our offense is predicated on ball movement and making plays for others, so once [he] got going our guys continued to feed the hot hand.”

Coach Klingman also commented on the team’s ball control and unselfish attitude.

“Ultimately, we have a very unselfish team and that was the case against New Rochelle.”

The team had 29 assists in the contest, the highest thus far this season.

The team rattled off two two victories against Haverford College and Widener College, scoring over 95 points.

The Bears had their next big test on Nov. 30 when they hosted F&M in a highly-anticipated game. Despite 25 points from Zach Quattro and a 14-point second-half lead, the Bears couldn’t stop F&M’s Conference points leader, Brandon Federici from finally getting hot down the stretch, driving the Bears, 77-69.

The team proved that they learned from the loss, again, when they came out Saturday and defeated Muhlenberg College in overtime, 83-77.

The whole team has high hopes for the rest of the season.

Said Coach Klingman, “We’re going to continue to work on being a tougher team defensively. Our guys are really excited and definitely up for the challenge in taking on F&M, McDaniel and Swarthmore. We as a team tend not to focus on the result of a game, but more importantly on executing a game plan, playing with passion, and playing together. Believe if we do those things, the result of the game will take care of itself... Obviously, every team in the conference aspires to win the CC Championship. Our hope as a coaching staff is that we are playing our best basketball in February; we fully expect to be in the playoff hunt come late February.”

Stark agrees that the team is prepared to continue their success for the rest of the year.

“We are taking it one day at a time and focusing on getting better every day. We are going into [each] game with the mentality to win and that’s what we expect to do,” said Stark.

Scores as of Monday, December 4, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Track and Field</th>
<th>Cross Country</th>
<th>M. B-Ball (3-1)</th>
<th>W. B-Ball (2-3)</th>
<th>M. Swimming (4-2)</th>
<th>W. Swimming (6-0)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 11:</td>
<td>November 26:</td>
<td>November 30:</td>
<td>November 28:</td>
<td>November 30:</td>
<td>December 1:</td>
<td>December 2:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th of 15 (61.0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diplomat Open (@ Big Spring HS-Neville, Pa.)</td>
<td>NCAA Mideast Regional</td>
<td>Franklin and Marshall Coll:</td>
<td>Ursinus:</td>
<td>Bryn Mawr Coll:</td>
<td>#25 Swarthmore Coll:</td>
<td>Swarthmore Coll:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results and recap can be found on the Ursinus Athletics website</td>
<td>(@ Big Spring HS-Neville, Pa.)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men: 22nd of 51</td>
<td>Women: 32nd of 49</td>
<td>December 2 (OT):</td>
<td>December 2:</td>
<td>December 2:</td>
<td>December 2:</td>
<td>December 2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>53</td>
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The women’s swim team continued their 35-meet CC winning streak with their win against Swarthmore on Dec. 2.

UC’s swim teams make waves

David Mendelsohn
damendelsohn@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus men and women’s swim teams have kicked off their respective seasons swimmingly. The men are 4-2 after a pair of tough losses to Gettysburg College and Swarthmore College, while the women remain the portrait of success in the Centennial Conference with a 6-0 record.

Said senior co-captain Carl Christoph, “I think our season is off to a really good start. The first half has been good. We have had a lot of wins, which is nice to see out there. People are swimming well, they’re swimming hard and fast,” Christoph said.

Men’s co-captain Colin McNamara says that the team has really impressed this year.

He said, “The whole team has really stepped up. We have been doing a great job of getting behind each other which is essential . . . keeping our momentum going. From the beginning of the year, this team has been bringing the energy and turning that energy into some great swims. We are fighting all the way to the wall and these meets often come down to those split second finishes.”

However, the season hasn’t been completely smooth sailing for the men’s team. The men took their first loss on Nov. 18 to Gettysburg in a tight affair, 147-115. This did not discourage the team, or the coaching staff.

Said Coach Feinberg, “I’m really proud of the effort our men’s team put forth not only in the meet, but in the weeks leading up to that big test. Gettysburg has a few athletes that will compete well on the national stage. I think what we showed was depth and the ability to compete with their elite athletes. We had our best meet of the year. The only thing I would change is to [have won] those touch outs. Every close race except one went their way. Those are the races we need to win in February. If they keep working this hard, that’s exactly what will happen.”

McNamara said, “Personally, I’m thrilled at how we swam with Gettysburg. I knew it was going to be a great meet and it did not fail to deliver. We swam out of our minds, and they just had a little bit more. To go toe-to-toe with such a Conference powerhouse sends a message to the whole Centennial that Ursinus men’s swimming is no joke. You really can’t be mad when you take [a] top team in the conference to the brink.”

Junior Clara Baker of the women’s team praised the work of the men’s team this year.

Said Baker, “I think that the men came even hungrier than us, as they continued to move up in the ranks of the Conference last year. They have been hanging right with the tough competition and it is very impressive to watch the way they race with such enthusiasm, grace and determination. I believe that they are very close to joining us on top [of the Centennial Conference].”

McNamara says the men are certain to have their work cut out for them the rest of the way.

“The Centennial Conference has a lot of talent. I don’t see a single meet on the schedule that will be a walk in the park. I think keeping this momentum going is going to be something that we have to work to do. I know we can do it, but keeping the initial momentum going all season isn’t always easy,” said McNamara.

Christoph agreed, “We have some big meets coming up in the second semester. [Franklin and Marshall] is always a close meet for us. We are always back-and-forth with them and are close in points . . . Washington College is also always a big challenge for us. It’s always right before we start our taper at the end of the season and they always seem ready, while we tend to beat down and ready for a rest as well. The team come together and cheer each other on.”

Baker agreed, “We have been training very vigorously and were very excited for the Gettysburg meet. We were full of energy for each other’s swims which really gave us a leg up, and we realized early that we had the upper hand. It felt natural as we out-touched them in the pool and we are looking forward to our future dual meets.”

Thomas is very happy with how her first collegiate season has gone.

“I feel like my first season is going very well. The team supports the freshmen so much because they

See Swimming on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sat. Cont.</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball: 6 p.m.:</td>
<td>@ #12 Swarthmore Coll.</td>
<td>M&amp;W Swimming: 4 p.m.: Golden Ram Classic (@West Chester, Pa.)</td>
<td>M&amp;W Swimming: 9 a.m.: Golden Ram Classic (@West Chester, Pa.)</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball: 1 p.m.: vs. Muhlenberg Coll.</td>
<td>Finals Week Begins</td>
<td>December 19:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball: 8 p.m.:</td>
<td>@Swarthmore Coll.</td>
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<td>Women’s Basketball: 2 p.m.: vs. Immaculata U</td>
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<td>Men’s Basketball: 3 p.m.: @Scranton U</td>
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