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Student entrepreneurs compete in the BEAR Innovation Competition

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A number of Ursinus students now have some cash on hand to turn their ideas into reality thanks to a campus competition. 2017 marked the fourth installment of the annual Be Entrepreneurial and ROAR (BEAR) Innovation Competition hosted by Ursinus’ U-Imagine Center. The competition provides cash prizes to winning teams and the opportunity to apply to Avenue V, a summer program that supports future venture development.

This year’s competition consisted of 27 teams, totaling up to 42 students, according to U-Imagine’s announcement via email. The top three winning teams would receive $3,500, $2,500, and $1,500. Additionally, other teams were recognized with the “Ready, Set, Go” prize, which was awarded to the team who was most prepared to start their venture. Registration for the competition ended on Feb. 17, 2017 and the finalists’ oral presentations were on Sunday, April 2, 2017.

First place went to senior Brian Thomas (Full disclosure: Thomas is the current editor-in-chief of The Grizzly) for “Beyond the Bars,” a nonprofit he helped start with a few friends. The organization teaches incarcerated and underserved youth in Philadelphia how to play and record music and the prize money will further get the project up and running.

“I was really surprised and honored to win, considering how many great pitches there were,” he said.

Second place went to sophomore Dominic Cohen for his product “Co-heat Energy.” Cohen had been pondering this project since his first year of high school. He developed a concept for a device that can be embedded in clothing that allows for the conversion of body heat to electricity.

“What if you could have some kind of charger that worked off of your own body?” Cohen said. “I focused on the area of thermal energy, shaping my innovation around the idea of body heat being used as energy.”

A three-person group consisting of juniors Alex Drum, Timothy Dowd, and Jonathan Gerhardt took the third-place prize. Their team is currently studying abroad in Australia, and pitched their idea to the judges via Skype. They worked on an emergency notification system to supplement 911 dispatchers.

The competition also featured a “Ready, Set, Go” special recognition prize for three teams with well-developed ideas on the verge of being rolled out. This prize was a new addition to the competition.

Sophomores Andrew McSwiggan and Johnathan Myers won funding for “Flow Hive,” an idea they have been developing since last year. They pitched their idea to the judges via Skype. Their idea is a water bottle that can generate electricity.

The Ursinus community had the opportunity to hear from one of the world’s most celebrated photojournalists last week.

On Thursday, April 6, award-winning photojournalist James Nachtwey, who’s work has been featured in The New York Times and Time magazine, gave a multimedia presentation of his work documenting wars, famine, and other critical social issues.

Over the years, Nachtwey has won numerous awards for his haunting photographs. He is a seven-time winner of the Magazine Photographer of the Year award, a five-time winner of the Robert Capa Gold Medal, and a two-time winner of the World Press Photo Award. In 2001, the Oscar-nominated documentary, “War Photographer,” showcased his life and his work.

Nachtwey studied politics and art history at Dartmouth College. He is a self-trained photographer who began as a newspaper photographer in New Mexico before moving to New York as a freelance magazine photographer. His first foreign assignment was covering the IRA hunger strike and civil unrest in Northern Ireland. Since then, he has covered wars, genocide, famines, the AIDS crisis, and the tuberculosis epidemic in countries all over the world. During 9/11 he took photographs both on the ground and from his New York apartment window.

He reflected on his work as a photographer during his speech saying, “[photographers] witness and experience injustice and cruelty, cowardice, corruption, suffering, greed, fear, envy, treachery, arrogance, and terror, but we also learn the value of integrity, tolerance, respect, loyalty, kindness, compassion, courage, trust, friendship, forgiveness. Things that, if we were lucky, our parents taught us and we spend the rest of our lives learning for ourselves.”

The presentation was held in the Lenfest Theater. In a campus-wide email, Dr. Louise Woodstock, who introduced Nachtwey at the event, thanked the Media and Communications Studies Department, the Art and Art History Departments, the Model UN, the Berman Museum, and the Arts and Lectures committee for helping make the event possible.

During her introduction to the presentation, Woodstock described Nachtwey as a “moral compass … [whose] visit to Ursinus is timely. He speaks to our Arts and Lectures theme of race, racism, and social injustice, as well as the intersectionality that characterizes our world.”

During the presentation, Nachtwey showed slides of his photographs and discussed his context. He also revealed that he wants to use his images to help dispel the notion that photographers do not aid in humanitarian crises.

“Press images are essential to help international relief organizations motivate donors so more food, medical supplies, and personnel can be brought in,” he said.

Nachtwey’s commitment to his work extends beyond that of a typical photographer. He has gone on several campaigns without an assignment to bring awareness to worldwide injustices. He said he went to Somalia to cover a famine, calling it “a matter of faith that people will care if journalists give them something to care about.”

The images were eventually published as a cover story in The New York Times Magazine.
How do student athletes manage both academics and athletics?

Jonny Cope
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As finals approach, student-athletes strive to balance sports and academics among other responsibilities.

“Between studying, practice and games, and social events on the weekends, there is not much downtime in my schedule,” said Ursinus College sophomore and three-sport athlete Gabby Manto.

At Ursinus College, much of the student body is actively involved in varsity athletics.

Just like most college students, Ursinus athletes learned early on in their careers that the college life is built on balance. Finding this balance can be tough for the more than 460,000 student athletes that compete in NCAA-sponsored competitions, as trying to find time for classes, athletics and the rest of the college experience is quite the challenge. Despite these daunting challenges, collegiate athletics is something that many Ursinus athletes cannot imagine living without.

“Time is the hardest part,” said junior men’s track and field captain Rick Gould. “There are sacrifices on both sides that sometimes need to be made for lack of time.”

If you can’t find Gould sprinting down the track and clearing hurdles with ease, it is probably because he is in the classroom. As a psychology major who hopes to eventually take his own athletic and academic experiences into a career as a sports psychologist, Gould came to Ursinus College in the classroom. In his senior year, Gould is in the track and field team in the winter and spring.

Athletics are built into the culture at Ursinus College, as the school officially sponsors 23 varsity athletics programs that compete in the NCAA’s Division III. The school offers 12 varsity sports for women, including the highly successful swimming and field hockey programs. As for the men, the school has 11 varsity programs, led by the lacrosse team, which is constantly ranked among the nation’s best. Both the men’s and women’s athletic teams compete in the Centennial Conference, which is regarded as one of the most competitive athletic conferences in all of Division III.

“My favorite part about being on the lacrosse team is the family that is forged,” said sophomore lacrosse standout Peter DeSimone. “You’re facing tough competition in one of the best Division III lacrosse conferences in America.”

Despite having to make sacrifices in order to be successful on and off the field, the athletes I spoke with seem to enjoy the daily grind. Athletics has helped to create memories and experiences that will long outlive their athletic careers.

“Being on not one, but two teams allows me to have two instant groups of friends who share the love of the sport with me,” said Manto.

Manto, who is currently signing it out on the softball team, spends her fall and winter with Coach Carl Blickle as a member of the women’s cross country and track and field teams.

“Athletics played a large role in my decision to look at the school,” said Manto. “It (Ursinus) offered my intended major in a liberal arts setting and allowed me to participate in three sports.”

Manto is one of many Ursinus athletes who heard about and were drawn to the school through athletics.

“The first time I heard about Ursinus College was when Coach Page called me and told me where he was from,” said DeSimone. “He sold me on the education I would be able to get at Ursinus, as well as the possibility to compete and play in a really good lacrosse program.”

Relationships with coaches or teammates has helped many athletes make their decision to attend Ursinus, forging a relationship over the grind that is the life of a student-athlete.

“I was recruited to run at Ursinus, which was a big factor, but also the people I met here when I visited [helped me decide on Ursinus],” said Gould. “If it weren’t for track, I probably would have never known about Ursinus.”

Stories like DeSimone’s and Gould’s help to show that the commitment to varsity athletics is one that is conducive to success. Ursinus College athletes have to make a great deal of sacrifice. In order to succeed on and off the field, student-athletes must find the balance point between sports, academics and social life, but this sacrifice does not come without reward, as the ability to compete with their best friends and see their hard work payoff is worth the sacrifice.

Letters to the Editor

Contact the editor at grizzly@ursinus.edu.

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Student Commons planning advances

Since the announcement of the Student Commons construction, the Student Commons Task Force has made progress on initial plans

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The Student Commons Task Force met with architects last Monday to continue its review of preliminary sketches for the upcoming UC Student Commons.

Debbie Nolan, vice president of student affairs and dean of students, and Annette Parker, vice president for finance and administration, are co-chairs of the Student Commons Task Force.

The UC Student Commons, formerly known as “the Hub,” will feature a coffee shop for students and a conference space for community meetings. Dean Nolan said Keigwin Hall may be attached to Corson, and the campus bookstore will be moved to Unity House’s location.

Because of traffic patterns on Main Street and the residential location of Hobson Hall, the Borough of Collegeville did not allot permits for “the Hub” and the project was moved elsewhere on campus, according to Nolan.

“It would be beneficial to think about the spine of campus as the primary activity area and the way people move through the campus from a pedestrian perspective,” Parker said. “In front of BWC, in front of Wismer and behind Olin—the main spine of campus is a great opportunity for us to consider how to distribute food so that students would have alternative options. After the focus groups in the fall, the architects asked themselves, ‘What if we distribute food along the spine instead of centralizing at Wismer?’ That’s where this idea of making a student social space came from.”

The Student Commons Task Force’s main focus is the conception and programming of the coffeehouse. The committee will provide advice in its final proposal to the board of trustees on May 12.

When President Blomberg announced the UC Student Commons at a Feb. 8 student senate meeting, The Grizzly reported that some students raised concerns that the humanities and arts were being left behind, pointing towards the IDC as a major development for the science community on campus.

However, Nolan and Parker made sure there was a cross balance of disciplines among the faculty members on the committee.

Faculty were chosen to represent arts and other interdisciplinary departments on campus, including theater professor Dominic Scudera, music professor Holly Hubbs, English and creative writing professor Jon Volkmer, biology professor Robert Dawley, and Associate Athletic Director Erin Strobbe. Nolan and Parker split the committee into two groups that focus on envisioning how food and performance are integrated into the coffeehouse.

“W

Scudera hopes that the second floor of the coffeehouse will provide new student programming for the college in the evenings.

“It will be a small, intimate venue for (potentially) live music acts, comedy improvisation, poetry readings, game nights—plus space for student visual art exhibitions,” Scudera wrote in an email. “We hope that this space can become a vibrant environment where students can go for entertainment, food, and refreshments.”

—Dominic Scudera
Professor of Theater

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James Nachtwey presents his work and shares his experiences as a photojournalist in Lenfest Theater last Thursday.

Journalist continued from pg. 1

created massive international support and led to the largest International Red Cross campaign since World War II. A head of delegation from the International Red Cross told Nachtwey that the story helped save 1.5 million lives.

Ursinus sophomore Sam Rosenthal was attracted to the event because of his belief in the power of images and documentary photography.

“I feel like images carry a certain aura and have the ability to capture reality in a way that words really can’t,” he said.

During the presentation, Rosenthal saw many images he found powerful.

“My mind just keeps seeing the one with the boy with scars on his face, the ones with the malnourished people who looked like skeletons … he captured so many different worlds,” said Rosenthal. “There was a [photograph] of this kid going through this damaged city, this ex-city, and his childhood’s gone … you know he’s never going to leave that situation. You see that [idea] reiterated many, many times throughout the presentation in countless photos.”

Rosenthal also noted the images’ effects on him.

“It made me feel small,” he said. “It made me feel as if I was part of this different world and it really isolated me.”

There was a question and answer session after the presentation. While he would not discuss his future projects, Nachtwey revealed that he plans to continue working for a long time and that there are many more stories he would like to cover.

Students who are interested in viewing Nachtwey’s work can view some of the images on his website: http://www.jamesnachtwey.com. They can also check out his books “Deeds of War,” “James Nachtwey: Pietas,” and “Inferno.”

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Speaking out against injustice: how members of the UC community combat rape culture on campus

Students, faculty and staff talk about the importance of creating a safe campus during Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sienna Coleman
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Did you know that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month? Last weekend, Jessica Oros, Ursinus’ prevention and advocacy educator, and junior Elizabeth Hilt, the prevention education advocate for the peer advocates, traveled to RespectCon at Emory University in Atlanta.

Hilt explained that the conference “looks at sexual assault prevention and education through a social justice lens.”

“I am proud that we as a community can embrace dialogue on this issue and take steps to educate ourselves.”

— Katie Turek
Assistant director of UCARE

“Many of the speakers [at the conference] sought to ground sexual violence in the history of our patriarchal society with an emphasis on race and intersectionality,” Hilt said. “In addition, they taught effective ways to unearth the root of these social justice issues in order to address and combat them on college campuses.”

Oros added that the conference reminded her to always be aware of intersectionality—the interconnectedness of race, class, gender and other identifiers, and their relation to oppression and domination—and that “when we … strive to serve those on the margins of society, no one gets left behind.”

According to Ursinus’ Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, five sex offenses were reported on campus in 2013, nine offenses were reported in 2014 and 19 offenses were reported in 2015. It’s important to note that these numbers reflect an increase in reporting of offenses, not necessarily an increase in offenses themselves.

The report also states that “Ursinus is one of the safest campuses in the nation” and explains the many resources we have on campus for safety and prevention: “Safety Officers perform comprehensive and frequent patrols, respond quickly to safety problems … Personal safety escorts are available 24 hours a day.”

The report further states that “Ursinus College considers sexual misconduct to include assault, harassment, stalking, and relationship violence of a sexual nature” and that “College Community members have the right to be free from all forms of sexual and/or gender-based harassment and violence.”

“The College has zero tolerance for sexual and/or gender-based misconduct,” the report says.

In addition to Campus Safety, UC also has the Peer Advocates who work to educate the Ursinus community about the issue of sexual misconduct and to support those who are personally dealing with an issue of sexual misconduct.

“Social norms shape and influence individual behavior including violence. A report by the World Health Organization in 2002 showed that cultural acceptance of violence, as a typical means to resolve conflict or as a part of raising your child, is a risk factor for interpersonal violence,” Oros explained via email. “We live in a society were violence is very commonplace, both currently and throughout our history.”

Oros explained that our society tends to trivialize sexual assault or place blame on victims and survivors, a social pattern often referred to as ‘rape culture.’

“This mindset is often perpetuated through mainstream media and advertising.”

“Listen to one another … and question the social norms we’ve established as a campus community in order to eradicate them.”

— Elizabeth Hilt
Ursinus junior

“It can be seen in the music we listen to, the ads in magazines, jokes told about rape, and the TV [and] movies we consume,” Oros said. “Rape culture perpetuates the stigmas placed on survivors and then hold survivors accountable for something done to them.”

Katie Turek, assistant director of UCARE, believes that there needs to be a broad cultural change in the way we talk about sexual assault.

“Individuals who disclose their experience being sexually assaulted are taking a big step in talking about it, and our response should be one of listening, caring, and ensuring they feel safe. I am proud that we as a community can embrace dialogue on this issue and take steps to educate ourselves,” she added.

Oros and Turek both believe that as a community, we have the power to shape our society and to keep each other safe.

Oros said that teachable moments occur in everyday conversational.

“More people need to feel empowered to speak out when they hear something disrespectful and be able to explain why it was disrespectful to the person who is making the comment,” she said.

Oros is also optimistic about the awareness that she has seen on campus, especially among student leaders who are passionate about making change. She is also confident in the supportive environment Ursinus provides for enacting more programs to help educate the community about these issues.

In particular, the Peer Advo-

Have a feedback on anything we covered?

We welcome your letters to the editor!

Send us your thoughts to: grizzly@ursinus.edu

Sarah Hojsak
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Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Hilt
Elizabeth Hilt, left, and Jessica Oros, right, recently represented Ursinus at RespectCon in Atlanta.

www.ursinusgrizzly.com
St. Andrew’s scholarship recipient looks forward to a full year of soaking up Scottish culture

Sophomore Bailey Ludwig was recently awarded the prestigious scholarship, and will spend next year at the University of Aberdeen.

The tight deadlines made the application process challenging for Ludwig and her advisers.

“We were on a very short time-line and so we were trying to help Bailey get everything done very quickly in time for the deadline,” said Dole.

Dole and Doughty helped Bailey prepare for her written application and the interview process.

“The interview process is pretty daunting, and most people who are only sophomores haven’t had much training in interview skills,” said Dole. “They also have a pretty extensive amount of writing to do for the application and so we were able to work with her some on crafting a sense of audience and whatnot to help her make the best possible impression.”

Ludwig described the interview process as intimidating.

“They interviewed us with a panel and we sat in this really big throne and they asked us questions and it was really intimidating, but it was cool, too … I had never been put in such a rigorous interview process like that,” she said. “I had never been in such a high stakes competition and so it was cool to experience that.”

Both Dole and Doughty agree that the process of advising Ludwig was a rewarding one.

“As soon as we started working with Bailey, she seemed like she had a lot of determination and a lot of charm, and we thought that those two together could really help her succeed,” said Dole.

“I think I was almost as excited when Bailey won the prize as she was. I really came to be rooting for her strongly.”

“I was really glad she was our candidate and I was really glad to hear that she won because I know how excited she is,” said Doughty. “That was really rewarding.”

While she’s abroad, Ludwig is excited to take a course in Scottish literature and take more classics courses.

“I want to explore my options,” she said. “There are a lot more course options at Aberdeen than there are here so I want to try something new.”

Ludwig is eager to experience all Scotland has to offer.

“I’ve been out of the country before, but not for that long of a time, so I’m interested in becoming immersed in another culture,” she said.

Courtney DuChene
caduchene@ursinus.edu

Ursinus sophomore Bailey Ludwig is the recipient of a prestigious St. Andrew’s Society scholarship that will allow her to study abroad at Scotland’s University of Aberdeen for a full year.

“I had never been in such a high stakes competition and so it was cool to experience that.”

— Bailey Ludwig
Ursinus sophomore

Sophomore Bailey Ludwig received the St. Andrew’s Society scholarship, which will allow her to study abroad in Scotland next year.

The scholarship is offered annually by the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia. Ursinus College is one of only 30 colleges and universities allowed to nominate students for the scholarship—each college can only choose one student to nominate. This year, Ludwig was Ursinus’ candidate; she’ll spend the entirety of the 2017-2018 school year abroad.

As an English major, Ludwig’s interest in Medieval literature attracted her to the scholarship.

“I was interested in Europe and the UK to begin with anyway,” she said. “So they recommended the program to me and I did a bunch of research and I was really interested in the schools.”

The St. Andrew’s Society extends the scholarship to five students annually, placing them at universities in Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Glasgow, or Aberdeen.

English professor Dr. Carol Dole, history professor Dr. Ross Doughty, and Dean Kelly Sorensen helped Bailey with the application process. They were part of a three-person committee that met with other candidates before choosing Ludwig to represent Ursinus. They then met several times with her to help her prepare for the application.

Doughty was one of the first Ursinus students to win a St. Andrews Scholarship in 1966-1967. When he began teaching at Ursinus in 1975 he was immediately asked to be on the committee to work with future applicants. He has been advising students ever since.

“I think it’s a great opportunity … for me it was the first time that I’d really spent any time out of the country and for most of our students that’s the case,” said Doughty.

Dole has been involved in the advising process several times throughout the years. She enjoys working closely with students and helping them succeed.

“This is what I really like about working at Ursinus rather than working at a university,” Dole said. “You can really work with students to help them achieve things that they didn’t even know were opportunities for them before.”

Ludwig first prepared an Ursinus application in which she wrote an essay and completed an interview in order to be selected as the Ursinus candidate for the St. Andrew’s scholarship. After that, she completed a questionnaire, wrote an essay, submitted letters of recommendation, and completed an intensive interview with the society.

“We kind of crammed the whole application into a week, so we worked together a lot during that week,” Ludwig said.

“You can really work with students to help them achieve things they didn’t even know were opportunities for them before.”

— Dr. Carol Dole
English department

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Dan Mullen’s success should inspire graduating students

Franchesca Liberatoscioli
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If you haven’t heard, former Ursinus student Jordan Ostrum will be delivering the commencement address to the class of 2017 on May 14. A press release on Ursinus College’s website explains that Mullen graduated in 1994 and that when he returns to campus he will be receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Many students this week have been discussing whether or not it’s appropriate to have a football coach to give a commencement speech, especially after last year’s commencement speaker was Constance H. Williams, who at the time was the chair of the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s Board of Trustees.

While art museums align with what is stereotypically thought of as the liberal arts, I would like to argue that speakers from athletic backgrounds can offer valuable advice to students at graduation. As a student-athlete who knows the many lessons that sports have taught me over my life, I think it’s a great idea to have Mullen as the commencement speaker because of his qualities shown on and off the field.

I’m a big believer in how participating in sports throughout your life can help you succeed in more ways than you can imagine. I started playing sports when I was five years old. That was 16 years ago! If you think that’s impressive, remember that Dan Mullen has dedicated his life to football for more than 23 years.

I believe that sports can prepare you for more than what happens during games and practices. Sports can help build character and keep you disciplined. Sports teach you how to work hard, how to sacrifice and what it means to work well with others. And when you aren’t winning, sports can even teach you humility and how to fail with dignity.

Learning how to work well with others and how to sacrifice for the greater good, all while having self-discipline, are characteristics that are very important to have in college and in life. I know employers who search for student-athletes to hire because they possess these qualities. Mullen is a perfect example of someone who has worked his way from being an undergraduate at a small, liberal arts college and has achieved great success. He started right here at Ursinus just like the rest of us.

In a 2008 article for The Mercury, Timothy J. Raub told the story of Mullen’s career up to the point when Mullen was selected to be Mississippi State’s 32nd head coach. While his experience and success were satisfactory enough to merit the position, the article notes that Mullen was chosen over other coaches who were equally or more qualified than him such as offensive coordinators at the time, Kevin Willson and Chip Kelly.

And in December 2014 alone, Mullen was named the SEC coach of the year by the Associated Press and “also named the American Football Coaches’ Association Region 2 Coach of the Year.” These awards followed a record season for the Bulldogs where they would play in the Orange Bowl for the first time since 1941.

Mullen’s hiring at Mississippi State, a Division I school for football, as well as his awards and records, proves that he’s that good. Sara Ganin chronicled the lack of progression of many Division I student-athletes, in a 2014 CNN report. Ganin reported that the NCAA’s APR “accounts for academic standards. If we fail to comply, we encourage student athletes to hire because they possess these qualities. Mullen is a perfect example of someone who has worked his way from being an undergraduat...
Former UC athlete bridges the gap between coaching and administration

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“It was always in the back of my mind: Wouldn’t it be great to go back to Ursinus and work,” reflected associate athletic director Erin Stroble.

Ursinus College athletics have been a part of Stroble’s life dating back to her time as a student here. Stroble was a two-sport athlete at Ursinus who played both field hockey and lacrosse. After graduating she accepted a position as a lacrosse coach before transitioning to an athletic administrator.

“I just loved the sport,” said Stroble. “I loved being active and having that time every day that was set aside so I could just go out and play.”

Like so many other Ursinus athletes, Stroble, a 2002 graduate, was drawn to the school by the opportunity to further her field hockey and lacrosse careers. Although she dropped field hockey after one season, Stroble stuck with lacrosse—a decision that would shape her life for many years to come.

Stroble was a standout on and off the field, earning First Team Academic All-American honors and First Team Academic All-American honors for the women’s lacrosse team. Stroble was the first player in Ursinus women’s lacrosse history to score over 200 career goals.

Upon graduation, Stroble took her talents Down Under, where she played for the Burns Club lacrosse team in Southern Australia.

“I was thrilled that I got to do this after graduation before I had to come back and be a real person,” she said. “Although most of her time was dedicated to improving her lacrosse skills, Stroble had the opportunity to experience Australia and its culture through travel. Throughout her time there, Stroble formed relationships and learned lessons that have lasted her a lifetime. The Burns Club sponsors teams at all age levels, ranging from beginners to the master’s level. Since the club had so many members, the entire organization was there for her.”

“It was a family environment,” said Stroble. “I met some great people, it’s hard to believe that it was 15 years ago.”

As her playing career came to an end, Stroble hoped to keep athletics in her life. While working towards her master’s degree, she landed an assistant coaching gig with LaSalle’s women’s lacrosse team. After spending a few years on the Explorers’ coaching staff, Stroble returned to Ursinus as the new head women’s lacrosse coach in 2004, replacing her coach and mentor, Carrie Reilly Kirk, who was the head coach from 1998 to 2003. Stroble held this post until 2011, when she left in order to dedicate her time and resources to the associated athletic director position. According to the Ursinus College athletic department, Stroble ended her coaching career with a record of 63-55 and was named the 2010 Centennial Conference Coach of the Year. “Whether on or off the field, the biggest successes were working with a student-athlete who was struggling,” Stroble said, thinking back on her time as a coach.

Now in a role that she loves, Stroble is essential in making sure Ursinus athletics function properly. Among her many duties as associate athletic director, Stroble is in charge of scheduling, NCAA compliance, academic monitoring, and helps out with all coaching searches.

“Whether on or off the field, the biggest successes were working with a student-athlete who was struggling.”

—Erin Stroble
UC Associate Athletic Director

“it’s different every day, which I love,” said Stroble, “Sometimes I don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Stroble gives a lot of credit to her role models. “I was lucky,” she said. “I had a lot of female role models who showed me that you can have a career in athletics.”

A shining example of this is Stroble’s boss, Ursinus College athletic director Laura Moliken. Coincidentally, Stroble was actually a member of the student panel that observed Moliken when she was being hired by the school.

From her time as a student-athlete to her current position as associate athletic director, sports have always been an integral part of Stroble’s life. They will continue to be for many years as she works to help make Ursinus athletics the best they can be.

Scores as of Monday, April 10, 2017

M. Lax (8-2) W. Lax (6-5) M. & W. Track (0-0) Baseball (16-5) Softball (9-14) M. & W. Tennis (10-3) M. & W. Golf (0-0)

April 5: Washington 16 - Ursinus 8
April 8: Ursinus 8 - McDaniel 5
April 9: Haverford 6 - Ursinus 3
April 8: Ursinus 9 - Swarthmore 2
April 10: Ursinus 8 - Immaculata 1
April 8: Ursinus 5 - Dickinson 4
April 8: Women Dickinson 7 - Ursinus 2
April 3: Men LVC Dutchmen Invitational 5th place
April 2: Women Millersville Invitational 5th place

Ursinus 13 - McDaniel 3
Ursinus 11 - McDaniel 6

Ritter 141
Where are they now? Two former Ursinus athletes discuss their lives after graduation

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Ursinus College is composed of many talented students, and approximately one-third of them participate in varsity sports. Every now and then, a once-in-a-generation type of athlete takes the field for the Bears and can change the entire dynamic of a team—either with their play and leadership on the field or their outgoing personalities off of it.

Typically, no matter how good they seem in college, collegiate athletes won’t have the opportunity to go professional because of how competitive the world of sports truly is. That prompts the question: What happens to athletes after they graduate? The Grizzly caught up with former Ursinus athletes Devin Brakel and Drew Mackin to discuss their lives after graduating.

Devin Brakel

Brakel was a two-sport athlete at Ursinus who commanded the field in both field hockey and lacrosse. In her first collegiate year on the lacrosse field Brakel starred. Brakel started for three seasons for the Bears, spending one season injured. In her time at Ursinus she started 43 games and scored an astounding 83 points. It wasn’t only her lacrosse career that was impressive, however. Brakel was also a force on the field hockey team.

In her four years playing field hockey, Brakel was a key contributor to the team, playing in 84 games and starting 25 of them. "When she wasn’t starting, she was one of the first substitutes in the game, and her services were much needed. She accounted for 51 goals and 12 assists, helping to win three conference championships and making it to the final four her senior season. As a student, Brakel was a psychology major with a minor in coaching. She decided to put that minor to use after graduation.

"My plans for after graduation were up in the air. I knew I wanted to coach at the college level, but if I didn’t get a job I was going to go to nursing school,” she said. “I ended up getting a graduate assistant job here at Castleton University in Vermont for field hockey, so I will be doing that next year as well.”

Brakel is also pursuing her masters in athletic leadership with a focus in administration. This way she gets to continue her schooling and stick around the sport she loves. She’s unsure what the future holds, but she’d like to continue her coaching career in either field hockey or lacrosse. It’s safe to say the former superstar won’t be leaving the athletic fields anytime soon.

Drew Mackin

Mackin is another example of a multi-sport athlete. Mackin competed in cross country, and both winter and spring track. Much like Brakel, Mackin also had a storied career at Ursinus that included high placing finishes at conference championships and a senior year trip to Waverly, Iowa for the national championships.

For three seasons, Mackin ran cross country and, although not initially known as a long distance runner, posted very impressive times. His personal best for the five-kilometer was 15:32.16, while he clocked a blazing fast time of 3:19.13. In total, Mackin holds five records that include the indoor and outdoor 4x400 relay, 800-meter, 1,000-meter, and 1,500-meter.

What has Mackin been up to since his career at Ursinus came to a close?

This past fall, Mackin had an internship in Dublin, Ireland doing social media and marketing for a non-profit marketing firm. He was also able to train and keep in shape to continue his running career back home.

“As of right now, I’m running competitively for the Bryn Mawr Running Club while working part time at a running store and doing freelance social media and marketing for several different companies,” said Mackin. “I’m looking to do either marketing or advertising full time and still run competitively if I can.”

Although both Mackin and Brakel may have graduated, their sports still play a big role in their lives. Both seem destined to achieve greatness in the years to come.