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Making connections

Ursinus prepares to break ground on a structure between Pfahler and Thomas

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A plan is currently in the works to construct a new facility that would connect Pfahler Hall and Thomas. The administration plans to add a new addition to the two buildings that would connect each of the floors and provide additional laboratory space. While at this point there is only a conceptual design and nothing is set in stone, there are hopes that the new facility will also add a new auditorium, a welcome center, and studying and discussion space for students. The administration hopes that the new facility will serve as a way for the separate science departments to better collaborate.

According to chemistry professor Dr. Victor Tortorelli, who has been heavily involved with the planning of the new facility, “In this day and age there’s a lot more interdisciplinary work being done...by bridging the buildings, symbolically as well as by the logistics. It’s going to bring groups and people from different departments closer together so that their work will be enriched by that experience.”

By giving the science departments more space and diminishing the separation between Pfahler and Thomas, Tortorelli said that the new facility will further develop the Ursinus science programs. Said Tortorelli, “It’s going to open opportunities for new programs, for strengthening the programs we have now, and more interdisciplinary work among faculty and students.”

It is hoped that construction on the building can begin by Fall of 2016. According to Tortorelli, “They would like to have some shoveling ground, a start to this.”

See Structure on pg. 3

Highlighting a new trend on campus

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Ursinus has recently started to look a little more vivid, a bit more vibrant, more...dare one say it? Colorful.

For the past few years, more and more students have been sporting a variety of dyed hair, from bright pink to deep blue to bold purple. “I’ve dyed my hair orange, pink, purple, blue, a violet, and I had an emerald color,” Sarah Gow, a sophomore English and psychology major with minors in creative writing and Spanish, said. “I like emerald a lot. The only problem is that it doesn’t last long.”

A practice first done in ancient Egypt and popularized by punk rockers in the 1980s, hair dyeing is swiftly gaining waves throughout the country, with more than 75 percent of American women dyeing their hair, and self-dyeing products grossing an average of approximately $2 billion annually. The Ursinus community is no exception to this trend; in fact, many students have kicked it up a notch.

Althea Unertl, a junior who also majors in English and minors in creative writing, has dyed their hair pink, red, blue, purple, and even white and rainbow. Right now, their hair is white with “ice blue” tips. “I think I’m gonna go silver after this,” Unertl said enthusiastically.

Some students have dyed their hair unnatural colors since high school while others, like Unertl, have waited until college to start coloring their hair. “They would like to have some fun on campus, having hair that’s bright and colorful,” said Linden Hicks, a senior English major with minors in Japanese and creative writing, said of his first time dyeing his hair, in summer of 2013.

He decided on his favorite color, purple, and now sports a blue-and-green combo.

Although hair-dye has become a commonplace means of having fun on campus, having hair that’s mint or plum-colored can make it tough to get a job. In some places such as fast food restaurants and corporate businesses, unnaturally colored hair is prohibited.

“I feel like if I was an employee, I wouldn’t be too concerned about what color a person’s hair is,” Weaver said. “But I think employers still care about it, and because of that, I think I won’t have pink hair when I look for a job after graduation.”

“I feel like if I was an employee, I wouldn’t be too concerned about what color a person’s hair is,” Weaver said. “But I think employers still care about it, and because of that, I think I won’t have pink hair when I look for a job after graduation.”

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See Hair on pg. 3
Ursinus has become the most recent school to hire a full-time in-house counsel. Robert Clothier has worked as lawyer at law firms in the local area. He is a graduate of Princeton and Chicago Law School.

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Robert Clothier joined the Ursinus community in September to serve as full-time legal counsel for President Brock Blomberg and the Board of Trustees, and as a legal liaison to ensure that the college administration operates within the bounds of federal regulations. Clothier has practiced law in the media world as well as in other liberal arts institutions. “Bob,” as President Blomberg fondly calls him, said he is excited to work at Ursinus and to work with the Ursinus community, and in particular the administrative board and the Board of Trustees, to ensure that the college administration works as well as it can within the bounds of federal law.

Having a full-time lawyer with an extensive knowledge of these federal statutes will greatly streamline how Ursinus’ administrative board works, according to President Blomberg. Clothier’s main duties are as the “Special Assistant to the President” and “General Legal Counsel.” Clothier serves as an adviser and expert to the governing board, effectively serving as a legal liaison between the administration and the Board of Trustees.

National trends indicate that full-time legal counsel is now needed on both community colleges and big time state universities. “With the changing tides and times, this is the best way colleges can ensure a secure legal future,” said Clothier. According to Clothier, one of the deciding factors in this change was the Title IX “Dear Colleague Letter” of 2011, which was a change in federal education governance that essentially said that the Department of Education wanted colleges and universities to directly handle issues of gender equality, discrimination, and sexual harassment and assault. With this new rule came a new set of guidelines to handle and talk about these issues, and Clothier’s duties in this respect are to ensure that when these problems arise, the college can respond effectively.

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Dr. Eve Dunbar, a professor and author from Vassar College, will give a talk this Friday at noon in Pfahler auditorium. The talk is titled “Mice, Chickens, Gorillas, Oh Maud! Rethinking the Human in Gwendolyn Brooks’ Novel, ‘Maud Martha.’”

The event is part of a four-year-old tradition where guest speakers are invited to talk about subjects related to African American studies each fall. Dunbar has done scholarly work in African American literature, focusing on cultural expression, black feminism, and theories of the black diaspora. Her talk on Friday will be about images of the human and animal in “Maud Martha” and how the book answers the question: What does it mean to be human?

“Maud Martha” is about an African American, working-class housewife who struggles with self-esteem issues. Dr. M. Nzadi Keita, Ursinus’ coordinator of African American and Africana Studies, said that the book offers an interesting perspective because it is a novel written by a poet that explores many philosophical ideas about humanity.

Keita encouraged students to attend the lecture even if they haven’t read the book. Gwendolyn Brooks tends to make sweeping observations that have meanings for any of us who haven’t read the book.

According to both Onaci and Keita, having lecturers like Dunbar visit also helps students learn more about the African American studies program at Ursinus.

“It began as a way to remind the campus community of the existence of this program. The guest lecture program is interdisciplinary,” Keita said. “We’re always looking to make it an experience that’s going to address a variety of interests and disciplines, and we see it as a chance for students in the program and people on campus as a whole to realize how wide ranging Africana studies are.”
Hair continued from pg.

my own natural hair color. I think I would do a natural red, or black, or blond.”

Not every job requires that people put away their funky orange and crazy green dye in the back of their drawer for good, however. Hicks found that out with his own eyes.

“I went to a book signing, and the author had straight black hair with bright blue on the ends. It looked very nice, very professional. I don’t think that brightly colored hair is inherently unprofessional. It would depend on where you work.”

“I think I would prefer to hire somebody who was good at their job. I wouldn’t worry about their hair if I was an employer,” said Gow. “At least in the creative writing and English community, I feel like when you’re a little bit quirky [and have dyed hair], it’s accepted and not even questioned. And when you’re in fields like psycho, I feel like they expect you to be a little more polished.”

When asked about what other students think of her hair, Gow said, “The only reactions I’ve ever gotten were ‘Could you dye my hair?’ and ‘It looks cool!’”

“It’s definitely become more popular,” said Hicks. “I like to think I started the trend.”

Even professors are getting into the trend. “I’ve dyed my hair since I was in middle school, and I’ve had it dyed in every color,” said Katharine Davis, an anthropologist professor. Right now, she is sporting a very dark blue, or what she likes to call “Superman Blue.”

For some, hair-dyeing goes deeper than just having fun; they see it as a way to assert their individuality. “I literally don’t care so much about having [my hair],” said Unertl. “It’s an extra [form of] expression that I have, an extra way of telling people ‘this is what I’m feeling, and this is what I want you to see about me.’ That’s always been important to me, being able to express myself. I’ve always done arts, and if I can transfer that emotion and those ideas into my physical existence, that’s even better.”

Whether the outside world accepts it or not, one thing is for sure: The dye tide has hit Ursinus, and it’s here to stay.

The college plans to finance the building of this new facility primarily through fundraising, according to Tortorelli. Donations from alumni and foundations will be raised specifically for the purpose of financing this project.

However, there are many students who believe that the money could be better spent in improving other areas of Ursinus, particularly other facilities on campus. According to senior student Bethany Siehl, “Ritter, Olin, even Bomberger, there’s a lot in those buildings that could be updated.”

There’s a sense among students that too often money is spent towards the sciences programs while other academic areas are neglected. According to junior Jon Kishpaugh, “It’s a very large expenditure on an area of campus that already has a large expenditure. There are certain areas that could also use that money.”

Said Siehl, “We need to help the students that aren’t getting the same assistance [as science students].”

There is also some concern that the new facility will cut off a major walkway on campus. Said Siehl, “It was really convenient for me to be able to walk between Pfahler and Thomas to get to Main Street. With this [building] there I’m going to have to detour around it or cut through the building somehow. It’s just a pain because sometimes the buildings are locked, sometimes it feels dangerous to be walking alone late at night.”

Still, many students are willing to acknowledge that the building will be helpful for many students, if not for all students. Said sophomore Madison Bradley, “On a practical level it makes sense. There’s more science majors. At least the money is going [someplace] that helps the students, even if not in my field of study.”

Hair continued from pg.

Counsel continued from pg. 1

a year from now, but a lot has to happen between now and then.”

While previous renovation to the existing space was completed and will help move the process along, there is still a lot of infrastructure work that needs to be done before building can commence. There also may need to be additional renovations to the current spaces in Pfahler and Thomas that could set back the start date of construction.

The environment is fun, and the techniques are based on some cultural influences. Many of the techniques are based on some traditional Ethiopian dance. This is a proactive measure, helping establish Ursinus as a college that is interested in learning about our culture.

More information about Title IX, the “Dear Colleague Letter,” and other related materials regarding federal regulation of colleges can be found at “ed.gov” under the “Office of Civil Rights” page.

I remember when I was in fourth grade back home in Ethiopia. I had a group of cool friends full of passion, talent, and interest, especially toward the performing arts. We used to perform traditional Ethiopian dancing and singing. Other students were always very interested in our performances. Afterwards they would show us respect and interest, giving me a passion for dance and pride for my culture. That passion has remained with me and caused me to join the Seismic Step dance team at Ursinus.

“I learned how our culture, identity and story is significant in our life.”

— Azeb Kieda
Ursinus freshman

Since there are a variety of dance teams at Ursinus, I was struggling to choose one. Most of them are interesting and I was eager to join all of them. I was especially excited to join the Seismic Step dance team. I am always anxious for Saturdays to come so that I can go to rehearsal.

The environment is fun, and most importantly, learning the dance is so much fun! Even though the moves seem easy, they are tricky to catch. When I joined Seismic Step, I noticed that most of the dance moves have cultural influences. Many of the techniques are based on some familiar African dance styles. I love it because there is nothing more enjoyable than doing what you love.

As I kept going to rehearsal, I learned how our culture, identity, and story is significant in our life. I was especially aware of this after I attended the dance performance called “Under Her Skin” that was choreographed by Professor Jeanine McCain for the Fringe Festival. It was a beautiful performance about Professor McCain’s grandmother’s story and it made me realize that any art creation, new ideas, and invention come from what we know: our life experience, our culture and our identity.

I would really love to introduce some part of me to the Ursinus community through choreographing an Ethiopian dance, especially the Amhara tribe dance style which is the popular cultural dance in Ethiopia and is typical of the country.

Even though I haven’t done any choreography before, I would give the necessary time to learn basic things from my dance team leaders.

If learning how to choreograph and also teaching the dance moves to my team seems too difficult and frustrating, with patience and dedication I can accomplish what I desire to do. Because at the end of the day, it is an opportunity for me and for the Ursinus community to share a valuable experience. People will get to know me and my country through this. And this is significant for me in terms of people knowing who I am.

I know some of my friends didn’t even know where Ethiopia is located until I told them. Hopefully, my choreography would be a brief introduction to me and traditional Ethiopian dance.

Azeb Kieda is a freshman from Gander, Ethiopia. She has been living and studying in the U.S. for two and a half years. Azeb enjoys being a member of Seismic Step.
Can you really ‘Netflix and chill’ without killing your grades?

Exclusive survey shows that students are spending multiple hours per day on television streaming sites

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It’s a rainy Wednesday night, and what has been a long, stressful week is half over. Julia Dorsheimer makes it back to her dorm around 8 p.m., pulls out her laptop, and plops onto her bed.

Just one episode and then I’ll start my homework, she thinks to herself as she clears off her bed, pushing aside her chemistry homework, biology textbook, and Spanish project. She logs onto her computer and opens up Netflix, makes some popcorn, changes into sweatpants and a hoodie, and picks up right where she left off in “Prison Break” a few hours earlier.

One episode turns into two, which turns into three, and before long it’s too late; Dorsheimer has become a victim of Netflix and its binge-watching temptations, abandoning her homework and other important responsibilities.

Netflix, the online streaming website, is popular among college students because it can be watched on a laptop or cellphone, and many students don’t have a TV in their room.

Netflix is mostly used to watch a TV series faster than viewers would be able to watch it on regular TV, because Netflix makes it possible to watch multiple episodes in one sitting. This is commonly referred to as “binge watching” and can cause a string of problems for students if they are unable to control it.

Many different definitions and ideas are kicked around when asked what binge watching is.

Dorsheimer, an Ursinus freshman, said, “I think binge watching is when you watch more than five episodes in one sitting if they’re long episodes, but if they’re short like a half hour, than I think ten is considered binge watching.”

Dorsheimer admitted to binge watching about once a week when she has the time.

“I always try and put my school work first, but every time I watch an episode I just want to watch more,” she said.

The way Netflix is set up makes it incredibly easy for students to binge watch because another episode starts loading within 10 seconds of the previous one.

Junior Sophie Snapp, agreeing with Dorsheimer’s definition of five or more back-to-back episodes, doesn’t consider herself a binge watcher, but she does watch Netflix every day.

“I don’t like binge watch Netflix, but if I’m bored or procrastinating I’ll turn on an episode,” Snapp said.

Binge watching and the amount of episodes it takes for someone to be considered a binge watcher varies depending on who is asked. Senior Michael Heimbaugh said that he only considers binge watching to be watching a whole series of a show in one sitting.

“I don’t watch Netflix regularly, maybe like once a week, but I can definitely see how binge watching can happen,” Heimbaugh said.

Netflix is used by teenagers and young adults of this generation as a way to decompress, similar to the way happy hour was to the 1990’s crowd; it’s part of pop culture. Students often get together with friends to watch Netflix together as a way to be social on a college-level budget. It can be argued that college students are the biggest Netflix users; some even expressed that coming to college was the core reason for subscribing.

“I didn’t have Netflix until I came to college. A lot of other people had it, so I felt like being a college student I should get it,” Heimbaugh said.

Netflix’s instant availability and low cost makes this attainable; however, for some it comes at a high nonmonetary cost. Not only has the service been shown to have detrimental effects on a student’s academic standing, but some students have even acknowledged it hinders their social life as well.

“There have definitely been nights where I should have been studying, but instead I was up until 3 a.m. watching Grey’s Anatomy. That was more in high school; I’ve definitely cut back,” Dorsheimer said.

There’s a fine line between using the streaming account as a stress reliever and as a procrastination tool, and that line varies for students. Some are unable to control their watching while others are able; however, for some it comes at a high nonmonetary cost. Not only has the service been shown to have detrimental effects on a student’s academic standing, but some students have even acknowledged it hinders their social life as well.

Of the 90 participants in The Grizzly’s online survey, 85.56 percent said they have some kind of streaming account, and 14.44 percent said they didn’t.

We asked Ursinus students...

Do you have an account with a website that allows you to stream movie/television (Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc.)? 

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See Netflix on pg. 5
We asked Ursinus students...
About how much time do you spend on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc. on average per day?

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Of the 90 participants in The Grizzly survey, 23.33 percent said they watched 0-30 minutes of T.V. on their streaming account daily; 26.67 percent of respondents said they watched 1-2 hours; 21.11 percent said they watched 3-4 hours; 10 percent said they watched 5-6 hours; and 3.33 percent said they watched 7 or more hours daily.

Netflix can be used by students as an escape and can affect their social life.

“I mean I try not to watch [Netflix] when everyone’s hanging out because I don’t want to miss anything. You know, no one wants to be that person sitting in their room watching a show while everyone else is out,” Snapp said.

Does Netflix discourage socialization? Some people argue that it doesn’t, and that instead Netflix is a way to bring people together.

“It’s a great conversation starter, and when you find someone who’s watching the same show as you, you almost feel as though you now have a bond,” Dorsheimer said.

So is Netflix a detrimental aspect to the rising generation or is it just another trend that has to be managed? Opinions vary among students here at Ursinus, but one thing is certain: The population of Netflix subscribers is soaring.

Are you interested in creating your own podcast?
The Grizzly staff is looking for hosts for weekly segments exploring a topic of your choosing!
If interested, send your ideas to grizzly@ursinus.edu!

Word on the Street

What is the most addicting T.V. series on Netflix and why?

“‘Friends’ is hands down the most addictive series on Netflix because it’s obviously a classic and ridiculously funny.”
— Cacey Hamilton, 2017

“‘Cupcake Wars.’ It needs no explanation.”
— Katherine Clark, 2016

“‘Chopped’ because you can watch it for hours and it never gets old.”
— Annie Rudman, 2017

“‘Arrow’ because it’s action-packed and always leaves me hanging at the end.”
— Bethany Mitchell, 2016

“‘X Files’ because aliens.”
— Margaux Mazur, 2016

“‘Bob’s Burgers’ because it’s mindless and hilarious.”
— Meghan Later, 2016

Happening on Campus

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Are you a white feminist?
How white feminism hurts the cause it appears to support

Erin McKinney  
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The term white feminism is paradoxically becoming more prevalent in discussions of gender, and at the same time being dismissed in such discussions as a non-issue. The problem here is a colloquial misunderstanding of feminism and of other terms associated with this specific ideology. It can seem complicated, especially due to the negative parties that treat feminism and its practitioners as pariahs. Feministculture.com defines white feminism in a way that is easy to understand, even for self-proclaimed “meninists” (which is a whole other branch of crazy). Before we get into a whole plethora of liberal terminology, here are some of the basics.

Feminism is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes,” not exactly the man-hating, bra-burning ideology that is often associated with the movement. So knowing this we can go on to Feministculture.com’s definition of white feminism. The way this site defines “white feminism” is not exactly based on race but rather on the intersectionality of the feminism one pursues.

“You are not automatically a white feminist because you are a white heterosexual woman, but you are a white feminist if your feminism is not intersectional and only benefits white cis women.”

Hold up for another big term and definition! Intersectionality seems super complicated but simply means “the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group,” according to the Oxford English Dictionary.

So basically, intersectionality means the consideration of race, class, or gender in all discussions and how these are connected in our societal framework, which they very much are. Upper-middle class, straight, white women are the largest demographic supporting this “white feminism.”

It seems obvious, then, why “white feminism” is a problem. It does not account for the experiences of non-white women, and often ignores the issues of lower income people as well. There is also a focus with white feminists (not racially, but in the terms previously described) on a heterosexual set of issues, which almost completely ignores the issues of non-straight women.

“As white women ignore their built-in privilege of whiteness and define woman in terms of their own experience alone, then women of color become ‘other,’ the outsider whose experience and tradition is too ‘alien’ to comprehend.”

—Audre Lorde  
Feminist writer

One may say this group of women focuses on more trivial and superficial matters of gender inequality, such as the “free the nipple” movement or other such campaigns to embrace one’s sexuality.

The issue here is not that women are held to a different standard than men when it comes to clothing, which they should not be, but rather that women should be free to choose to cover up. Many of these movements, with the best intentions at heart, alienate non-white non-heteronormative women. There are Muslim women who choose to wear hijab or niqab (traditional head scarves and body coverings), and who are being told that they are not truly feminists unless they expose certain body parts and embrace their sexuality.

This white feminist ideal that women can wear whatever they want into the issue of cultural appropriation, aka using another’s cultural dress or customs without knowing their background or being part of said culture. This includes trendy women who wear bindi music festivals and white girls, such as Kendall Jenner, who wear dreads and other African-American hairstyles and are lauded for their style. Meanwhile, Zendaya, a woman who is actually a part of this culture, is ridiculed for her dreads and is told “she probably smells like patchouli oil... or weed.”

The issue with this isn’t the latent racism or ignorance present in the white feminist movement. In fact, this movement is not evil to its core, perpetuated only by privileged, unintelligent white women. But rather it’s a way for these women to find a cause they believe in.

Honestly, any discussion of gender inequality, whether perceived or actual, is a good thing! But the way white feminists go about it is misguided. There needs to be greater acceptance and intersectionality among those fighting for equality. When women work together, acknowledging their shared and unshared experiences as equally important, then societal change will be able to occur.

Erin McKinney is a politics major and minors in gender and women’s studies and media and communications. She is involved in phonathon on campus as well as the wind ensemble.

“The Bridge of Spies”  
Spielberg, the Coen Brothers, and Hanks unite in a film proves disappointing

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From a film-goer’s point of view, it is easy to forget that the people making films view the process as their job, especially if they’ve been doing it for any considerable amount of time. Not every movie you go to see in theaters was that actor’s magnum opus, nor can every film you go to see be the movie that director had been wanting to make his or her whole life.

The same can be said for screenwriters, editors, and sound directors. Sometimes, like everyone else with a job, they just need a paycheck. This is not a bad thing; to some extent, we, the audience, put the filmmakers in that position with our higher and higher demands for new entertainment every year. However, it is a reality, one that is exemplified perfectly by films such as 2015’s “Bridge of Spies.” When I saw that the film was directed by none other than Steven Spielberg, I was reminded of the lesson described above. While “Bridge of Spies” is a fine piece of filmmaking, the whole film had the feel of a lack of effort, as if it were created with only money in mind.

In general, the script seemed like it was written to be a perfect example of how a three-act story should work, rather than an actual working script. All this is, as I mentioned above, even more disappointing when you take into consideration that “Bridge of Spies” was directed by Steven Spielberg and written by the Coen Brothers, men who have films such as “Jurassic Park,” “No Country for Old Men,” “Fargo,” and “Saving Private Ryan” under their belts (just to name a few!). It’s astonishing that I have to struggle to remember anything from the film other than Tom Hanks being Tom-Hanks-ey the whole time.

“T he whole film had the feel of a lack of effort, as if it were created with only money in mind.”

Please note I am not saying this is a bad movie. On a technical level, I’m sure every aspect of the film was executed perfectly. I also always enjoy Hanks’ performances, and so much of the film was carried by him.

However, that doesn’t change the fact that I found “Bridge of Spies” immensely boring, and I can’t help but conclude that the talented people involved with the project simply phoned it in on this one, just to let it slip by and cash in.

I can recommend this to you if you witnessed the Cold War first hand (like most of the audience I watched this with), or if, for some reason, you are contractually obligated to see every Tom Hanks movie that comes out. I would be hard pressed to recommend this one to anyone else. What I can recommend is to think twice about trusting Metacritic scores.

(4/10)

For extended review visit www.ursinusgrizzly.com/category/news/opinion
Jim Worrilow has defied stereotypes by singing for the Bearitones and playing on the Ursinus football team.

Worrilow continued from pg. 8
gins and the group behind Worrilow starts singing the melody of the song. Worrilow then jumps in and wows the crowd with his jazzy and soulful rendition of Bruno Mars, as he belts out, “Don’t believe me just watch!”

After a few encouraging whistles and cheers from his football buddies in the audience, Worrilow breaks out the crowd-pleasers: the electric slide and the moon walk. The song ends, and there is an eruption of claps and cheers inside Bomberger Auditorium.

And just like that, a star is born.

Worrilow is not known for singing around Ursinus’ campus. Instead, he is notorious for tackling running backs and sacking quarterbacks on the football field. He’s a beast on the field, but what really makes him stand out, besides his size, is his ability to sing. In fact, he is the only football player in the history of Ursinus to sing in the Bearitones.

After joining the Bearitones last year, Worrilow has already earned himself a solo and a spot on the executive board. What most people don’t know about him, though, is that he didn’t always use to be this duet of football player and singer. Not until he came to Ursinus, that is.

Worrilow comes from a small town near Wilmington, Delaware. He has always been taken under the wings of his three older brothers, Eddie, Mark, and Paul. “From the day I was born, I already had three best friends,” Worrilow said. “My mom would literally have to pull us away from the yard outside so we could eat some dinner instead of playing football.”

Three of the four Worrilow boys went on to play college football at either the Division I or Division III level. In fact, Paul Worrilow became a starting NFL linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons after not getting drafted by any team in 2013. Looks like all that playing in the yard is working out for these guys.

In high school, Worrilow followed in the footsteps of his older brothers and was awarded the honor of being team captain for his school’s football and lacrosse teams by his junior year. Worrilow didn’t just spend his childhood out in the yard; he also spent a significant amount of time with his grandmother completing crossword puzzles. To this day, Worrilow still finds time to complete his local paper’s crossword puzzles before he takes on the day at Ursinus. “Every day I wake up, have breakfast with my girlfriend, then I always go back to my room and do the crossword,” Worrilow said. “I always print them out from my hometown’s newspaper. I sit there with a cup of coffee and do the crosswords. It may be old-fashioned, but hey, that’s what I like to do. It de-stresses me.”

Just a regular guy? Not so fast.

Unlike his brothers, Worrilow had a strong desire to pursue interests in his life that he always felt he needed to hide from the outside: singing and music. Growing up, Worrilow didn’t really have any interest in doing anything related to music. One day, however, his mom forced him to take guitar and piano lessons, as she stated that it was a family tradition for the Worrilows.

Although Worrilow’s brothers had little interest in these mandatory music lessons, Worrilow had a different feeling. “At first I said, ‘Mom, ma. I don’t want to do this.’ But looking back, I thank God that she forced me to do that because that’s what kind of started me getting into music. Ever since then, it’s always been a huge passion of mine.”

This passion for music stayed a secret throughout his high school years, according to Worrilow. He recalls that he never felt comfortable letting his craving for music out in high school or amongst his friends. To this day, Worrilow remembers one specific incident in which he felt judged for pursuing his musical interests while in high school.

“I remember asking my one football pal what he thought about me entering into the talent show,” Worrilow said. “I was planning on doing something with the piano and singing. I figured, Why not? He responded with, ‘That’s so gay. Why would you do that?’”

So, I just played it off as a joke and agreed with him. That’s when I started doubting introducing myself through that light because I felt like I had to be this rough and tough guy. Luckily, getting to Ursinus changed all of that.”

And change he did. Worrilow finally mustered up the courage to try out for the Ursinus Bearitones in the fall of his junior year. He made the group with ease. A former board member of the group, Erich Keyser, stated that Worrilow “was a no-brainer” when asked about his audition, during which he serenaded the executive board with his own rendition of Frank Sinatra. On top of all of this, Worrilow landed the solo for the hit single “Uptown Funk” for the group’s concert in the spring of 2015. “Jim brought a flair and an element of soul to the group,” said Aaron Nelson, the current president of the Bearitones. “We’re very lucky to have him with us.”

Meanwhile, at Patterson Field, Ursinus’ home field, Worrilow is hard at work digging through the trenches with the football team. He’s hitting, running, and is in the midst of his final season, putting in hard work in often harsh weather conditions to win games for the Bears.

Although the football field is no strange place to Worrilow, he feels different. He feels as though the pressure he had in the past to conform to a big, tough, football player persona is no longer there. In fact, Worrilow feels more welcomed and accepted by his teammates and friends than he ever did due to the fact that people respect him for doing what he loves and not quitting on his passions. “Ursinus has been great,” Worrilow said. “I feel right at home here. I’m just happy I can be myself and that the Bearitones welcomed me into such a great thing.”

So who is Jim Worrilow? Well, he’s definitely a large, dominant linebacker. He’s also a crossword puzzle whiz. He’s a phenomenal singer and he’s got some moves up there on stage. But if you ask Jim Worrilow who Jim Worrilow is, he says, “Jim Worrilow is just a regular guy. I might seem like a tough, barbaric guy on the outside. But I’m just a teddy bear. I’m a big softie.”

Scores as of Monday, Nov. 9

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<tr>
<th>W Soccer (12-6-1)</th>
<th>Football (2-7)</th>
<th>Field Hockey (17-3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4 @ Gettysburg</td>
<td>Nov. 7 vs. Muhlenberg</td>
<td>Nov. 7 vs. Haverford</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC: 0, Gettysburg: 0</td>
<td>UC: 9, Muhlenberg: 10</td>
<td>UC: 6, Haverford: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penalty kicks</td>
<td>Goals (UC): Danielle</td>
<td>Goals (UC): Danielle</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC: 3, Gettysburg: 1</td>
<td>Stong, Devin Brakel</td>
<td>Stong, Devin Brakel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goals (UC): Katie</td>
<td>(2), Megan Keenan,</td>
<td>(2), Megan Keenan,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bell, Stephanie DeAngelo, Jeannie Jasinski</td>
<td>Amber Steigerwalt (2)</td>
<td>Amber Steigerwalt (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 7 vs. Franklin &amp; Marshall</td>
<td>Nov. 8 vs. Franklin &amp; Marshall</td>
<td>Nov. 7 vs. Franklin &amp; Marshall</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC: 0, Swarthmore: 3</td>
<td>UC: 1, F&amp;M: 0</td>
<td>UC: 1, F&amp;M: 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Adkins: 5 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 interception</td>
<td>Goals (UC): Ann Kopera</td>
<td>Goals (UC): Ann Kopera</td>
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<th>W Swimming</th>
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<td>Nov. 7 @ York (Pa.) vs. St. Mary’s and Mt. St. Vincent:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC: 171</td>
<td>UC: 140</td>
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<td>St. Vincent: 85</td>
<td>St. Vincent: 80</td>
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<td>York (Pa.): 57</td>
<td>St. Mary’s: 77</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s: 57</td>
<td>York (Pa.): 73</td>
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THE GRIZZLY| Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015

7 - Sports

Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Worrilow has defied stereotypes by singing for the Bearitones and playing on the Ursinus football team.
Defensive lineman unleashes passion for music

Jake Banks
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The stage is set. The lights are on, the crowd is filing into its seats, and the Ursinus College Bearitones are taking the floor in the Bomberger Auditorium. After singing a few classics, the Bearitones, an a cappella group made up of people identifying as men, introduce a recent and popular summer jam titled “Uptown Funk,” originally performed by Bruno Mars.

The audience members sit on the edge of their seats filled with anticipation. This is not just to inch closer to the harmonious sound waves coming from the group, but to see which member of the group will be singing the solo.

Stomping his way towards center stage is Jim Worrilow, the star defensive lineman for the Ursinus College Bears. Worrilow pops the microphone off the stand and begins to pace nervously on stage. His nervousness is invisible to the audience, however, as Worrilow’s massive 6-foot, 260-pound stature engulfs the Bomberger Auditorium. After singing a few classics, the Bearitones are taking the floor in its seats, and the Ursinus College Bearitones are on, the crowd is filing into the edge of their seats filled with passion for music.

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