



4-21-2016

The Grizzly, April 21, 2016

Brian Thomas
Ursinus College

Phoebe French
Ursinus College

Naseem Syed
Ursinus College

Erin McKinney
Ursinus College

Cynthia Cao
Ursinus College

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews>

 Part of the [Cultural History Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Liberal Studies Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Thomas, Brian; French, Phoebe; Syed, Naseem; McKinney, Erin; Cao, Cynthia; Banks, Jake; Dickinson, Rachel; Babrich, Berett C.; Deliberti, Mary; Holmes, Matt; and Hoffman, Mike, "The Grizzly, April 21, 2016" (2016). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper*. 681.

<https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews/681>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspapers at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

Authors

Brian Thomas, Phoebe French, Naseem Syed, Erin McKinney, Cynthia Cao, Jake Banks, Rachel Dickinson, Berett C. Babrich, Mary Deliberti, Matt Holmes, and Mike Hoffman



Photo courtesy of Blaise Laramee

Nora Sternlof, editor in chief of The Lantern, accepts the Dolman Prize from faculty advisor Jon Volkmer at the Lantern launch, hosted in Bomberger auditorium.

Writers, editors debut Lantern

Phoebe French
phfrench@ursinus.edu

This past Wednesday, April 13, marked the launch of The Lantern in the Bomberger audi-

torium. According to the Ursinus website, The Lantern has been the college's literary magazine for more than 80 years. The Lantern is run by Ursinus students and only showcases work by mem-

bers of the Ursinus student body. It features student poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and visual artwork. Students submit work in the first semester and one edition is published every year.

"This year we put out one of our bigger issues because we got a lot of submissions, which was great," said Lantern editor in chief editor Nora Sternlof.

At the launch, many of the students whose works were published attended and read aloud a selection from their piece.

"The idea is to let people know what's in it, so that they can be more interested and pick one up," said Sternlof. "We also want to give those who submitted a chance to celebrate their pieces."

According to Sternlof, prizes were given at the launch for the best prose, the best poetry, the best overall piece, and the visual art that made the cover. The works are judged anonymously by Ursinus alumni. Prizes range from \$100 to \$150.

the cover. "It was really exciting" said Tran. "I've been submitting all four years and I've always wanted to make the cover."

"It was pretty spur of the moment," said Tran, when asked about the story behind the cover photo. "I think that's what a lot of my photography is. There's very little planning. If you miss the moment, you miss the moment."

"[The launch] event itself went really well," said Sternlof. "It's really cool to see everyone in person, and to hear how people deliver their own work. It's always something I really enjoy."

Tran had the same sentiments. "It's always really nice to hear and see everybody else's works. There were a lot of really awesome pieces that I heard."

"It's really cool because for such a small school, we've put together a great creative writing community," said Sternlof. "It's always cool to see it come to life during the Lantern launch."

Sternlof said that while many of the submissions often come from those students in the English department, the Lantern staff would like to get submissions from other students as well.

Copies of the Lantern have been distributed around campus.

"It's really cool because for such a small school we've put together a great creative writing community."

— Nora Sternlof
editor in chief, The Lantern

This year, senior Andrew Tran had his photograph—a landscape of Penn's Landing—chosen for

Revote results in Rein and Thomas winning election

New UCSG board takes office after two rounds of voting while students are left questioning process

Naseem Syed
nasyed@ursinus.edu

Robert Rein '17 and John Thomas '18 have won the Ursinus College Student Government election for president and vice president, respectively. Their victories came after a contentious two-week period that saw student electors having to vote twice because of disputed campaign practices.

In the special second election, held April 14-15, Rein and Thomas won by a 51 percent to 42 percent margin over the incumbent

president Abi Wood '17 and vice president Karla Pisarcek '17. The remaining 7 percent of votes went to write-in candidates, who were allowed to take part in this new election.

The election of Rein and Thomas came after the Student Activities Office (SAO) nullified the original election, which was held from March 28 to 30. The SAO took this action after receiving reports from the election committee that Rein and Thomas had been present when some students voted electronically and presented students with the device

to do so. The election committee, a student-run entity independent of the SAO and UCSG that writes the election bylaws, ruled this "unfair," but not necessarily in violation of the rules. This led the SAO to disqualify Rein and Thomas.

According to Krista Snyder '16, the coordinator of the election committee, "even though [Rein and Thomas] didn't break a clear written rule, it was unfair."

While both Rein and Thomas admitted that they were present when some students voted, they appealed the SAO's decision to

Todd McKinney, dean of student activities, and Debbie Nolan, dean of students. McKinney and

"We sent our appeal right away."

— Rob Rein '17
New UCSG president

Nolan reviewed the SAO's action, and determined that the election bylaws were too ambiguous for the deans to make a final decision on whether they had been

violated. As such, the dean's decided to grant Rein and Thomas's appeal.

McKinney said that had the deans upheld the disqualification, it would have meant that "we could make a decision that would ultimately mean giving the election to one person or another." McKinney and Nolan then decided to order a new election that would take place in a public space with physical ballots.

The Student Senate met on April 11 to approve a new set of

See Election on pg. 3



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Jonathan Marks, a politics professor, has published a review in the Wall Street Journal about a book he says is the first qualitative study of self-identified conservatives in colleges.

Politics professor publishes book review in Wall Street Journal

Erin McKinney
ermckinney@ursinus.edu

The Wall Street Journal recently published a book review written by Ursinus College professor Jonathon Marks. The book he chose to review is titled "Passing on the Right: Conservative Professors in the Progressive University." According to Marks, the book is "as far as I know the first in-depth qualitative study of self-identified conservatives in our colleges and universities."

Marks is a professor of politics

and specializes in political philosophy. This position leaves him uniquely qualified to comment not only on the political analysis present in the book but also on his experience as a conservative on a liberal arts campus.

The Wall Street Journal has such a wide readership that many of those published, including Marks, seek the audience in addition to the respect of the publication. Marks chose to review this book not only because he found interest in the subject but also because this was the first qualitative

study of this material that he has been aware.

Additionally, Marks said the authors of the book bring a sense of sobriety and seriousness to a topic that is often either glossed over or ignored. Both in the review and in the original book, there is acknowledgement of the public perception of colleges and universities as hotbeds of liberal ideology.

Marks' approach to the review was one of analysis then of personal interpretation. He cites a statistic revealing the disparity

between liberal and conservative ideologies on college campuses. Directly from his review is a citation of sociological research finding that "17.6% of faculty in the social sciences consider themselves Marxists. Only 4.9% consider themselves conservatives."

Marks said many times a movement has found its begin-

"I've learned that persistence sometimes pays... sometimes my email were not even answered, but eventually they said yes."

— Jonathan Marks
Politics Professor

nings on a college campus, which would lead some to believe this type of atmosphere is not conducive to a more conservative ideology. Later in the review, Marks identifies himself as one of these conservatives on campus, or an "elephant on the quad" as the title of his review would suggest.

"The book makes two points, pointing in somewhat different directions, but I think they're both true," Marks said.

One of these points, according to Marks, is that leftist professors "too often see nothing wrong with entire...fields and subfields that deal with politically charged matters, being all but one-party states." This confirmation bias, he said, seems to taint even the authors' perspectives. However, he states that his own experience "is largely consistent with the authors' findings."

Besides this review in the Journal, Marks has been published in various other sources, including Commentary Magazine, the Weekly Standard, and the Jewish Review of Books.

This was not even his first time published in the Wall Street Journal. However, it is his first book review to be published in the journal, as the previous pieces

were op-eds.

"I've learned that persistence sometimes pays... sometimes my emails were not even answered," Marks said. "But eventually they said yes." The publication process does not seem to get any easier over time, he said. Patience is indeed a virtue when it comes to publication.

Marks said he "queried two different editors at the Journal at least four or five times over a period of more than a year" just to get his review considered. He added that it is rewarding to achieve recognition through publication, whether it be the first or the hundredth time.

STUDENTS WANTED

Lend your voice to WVOU

Ursinus's student-run radio station

Email wvou@ursinus.edu for more information

THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 22

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

Ursinus Grizzly
601 E. Main Street
Collegeville, PA 19426

EDITORIAL STAFF

BRIAN THOMAS	Editor in Chief
DEANA HARLEY	News Editor
KRISTEN COSTELLO	Features Editor
SOPHIE SNAPP	Opinion Editor
BRYCE PINKERTON	Sports Editor
ALEXIS PRIMAVERA	Photo Editor
MADDIE MATHAY	Web Editor
BLAISE LARAMEE	Copy Editor
LISA ABRAHAM	Copy Editor
BRI KEANE	Social Media Editor
CHARLIE BUTLER	Adviser

Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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

All content Copyright © 2015 The Grizzly.

Election continued from pg. 1

bylaws. Both presidential candidates, Rein and Wood, were present when the senators introduced amendments to the new bylaws before the re-vote cycle began.

Even with the conclusion of the special election, which produced the victory by Rein and Thomas, candidates and students continued to question the electoral process and the tactics used during it.

One such topic up for debate was door-to-door campaigning, a common practice used by professional politicians but technically

The votes are in (finally)

After two voting cycles over the past few weeks, the winners of the 2016 UCSG elections are:

Rob Rein '17-President
John Thomas '18-Vice President
Lily Talerman '18-Treasurer
Rachel Weil '18-Social Chair

barred at Ursinus.

The college's student handbook forbids solicitation in residence halls. McKinney explained that clubs and organizations are banned from knocking on students' doors, whether to enlist students to join their groups, buy products or donate to causes. The same ban applies when candidates are canvassing for votes.

Besides that rule, the night before the election, March 27, an email was sent banning candidates from carrying a device for students to vote on when campaigning. This was because the election was held via a Survey Monkey link for the first time, allowing students to vote on any laptop or mobile device. As Snyder later explained, "Students should not coerce or make anyone feel uncomfortable when they are campaigning, and they should not be able to see students' votes."

Snyded added, "It wasn't adding another rule, but emphasizing fairness if an appeal was made about an unfair event occurring."

Both parties admit they did go door-to-door canvassing while voting was open. Wood said such a practice "is essential to any election process."

Rein later agreed, and said

"Going door-to-door, asking people to vote for us, giving them our 30-second speeches—we didn't see it as cheating."

When the SAO received reports via the election committee that Rein and Thomas were present in some instances when students voted via electric ballots, however, it decided to take action.

Rein and Thomas received an email from the election committee the morning after the polling closed informing them of their disqualification from the election. They were given five days to file an appeal to the administration.

"We sent our appeal right away," said Rein. "We didn't think it was fair that it wasn't in the bylaws."

Upon review of the appeal, the administration decided to have a new election. This vote was held on April 14 and 15. Makeshift voting booths were formed from cardboard dividers in the Student Activities office. The vote produced the election of Rein and Thomas.

In other election news, Rachel Weil was elected to serve as social chair and Lily Talerman was elected to serve as treasurer.

International Perspective

Balancing changes during freshman year

Cynthia Cao
cyc Cao@ursinus.edu

I have been a swimmer since I was six. I love to swim, but I hurt my waist when I was training five years ago and was forced to stop training. One day this semester, I saw the college swim team training in the pool. The only thing I could think of was to jump in and join them.

After I talked to the coach, I started trying out with the team. It had been a long time since I was training with a swim team. I couldn't follow them. I'm not fast enough. It was even more frustrating when I realized I couldn't even understand their training plans! There are so many professional words I never heard before. I felt really stressed and awkward when everyone else had finished everything on the schedule, and I hadn't. I knew that I needed more time to get myself ready for the training.

The day after my first try out, I was invited to a swim team traditional event when the sophomores take all of the freshman out the first Friday of the school year and show them around the nightlife. I was really excited. The swim team is a happy team. Everyone is really nice; it feels like a family. I really wanted to be one of them. But I couldn't speak English fluently, and I couldn't understand what they were saying when they spoke fast. I didn't want to admit that I had problems with communication so I chose to talk less.

A week later, I decided to not join the team for this year. I want to practice by myself for this year so I can be good enough for the team. And more importantly, I need time to adapt to this new environment, to learn how to communicate with people. But what should I do to adapt to this new place? How can I fit into this new society?

I made myself a plan to achieve my goals.

First, I have to speak English as much as possible; starting with greeting people. Greeting is one of the easiest ways to communicate with people. It also shows that I am friendly. Trying to talk

more in class is also helpful for practicing English.

Second, try to get involved in some activities, such as clubs, sports teams, and parties. In those activities, I will get more chances to make new friends. I tell myself, "Try chatting with them, don't be shy and don't worry about saying something wrong because people will understand that English is not my first language."

I'm an international student and this is my first year in America. It's not easy for me to live in a foreign country and communicate in a foreign language. But that is my life now. I don't talk a lot because I don't want people to notice my accent. I don't want people to notice that sometimes I can't understand what they are talking about because my English is not as good as theirs. So I just nod and smile when I can't understand what people are talking about. Then, I realized that people might feel I don't like talking so they won't talk to me anymore. I don't want to be left out, so I have to change myself. No matter how hard it is, I will never stop trying.

Nowadays, people are living a better life. Young people are spoiled, so they tend to take themselves as the center of the world. But the truth is, we are changed by the world. Take my experience as an example. If I don't change myself, I would only have hung out with Chinese students and I wouldn't know how to get along with American students. That's the same as my life when I lived in China. If I don't get any chances to actually fit into American society, then living in America would have been meaningless. So we have to change ourselves to adapt to our circumstances.

Cynthia Cao is a freshman international student from Beijing, China. She plans to be a psychology major and is a member of SASA. She hopes to try out for the swim team next year.

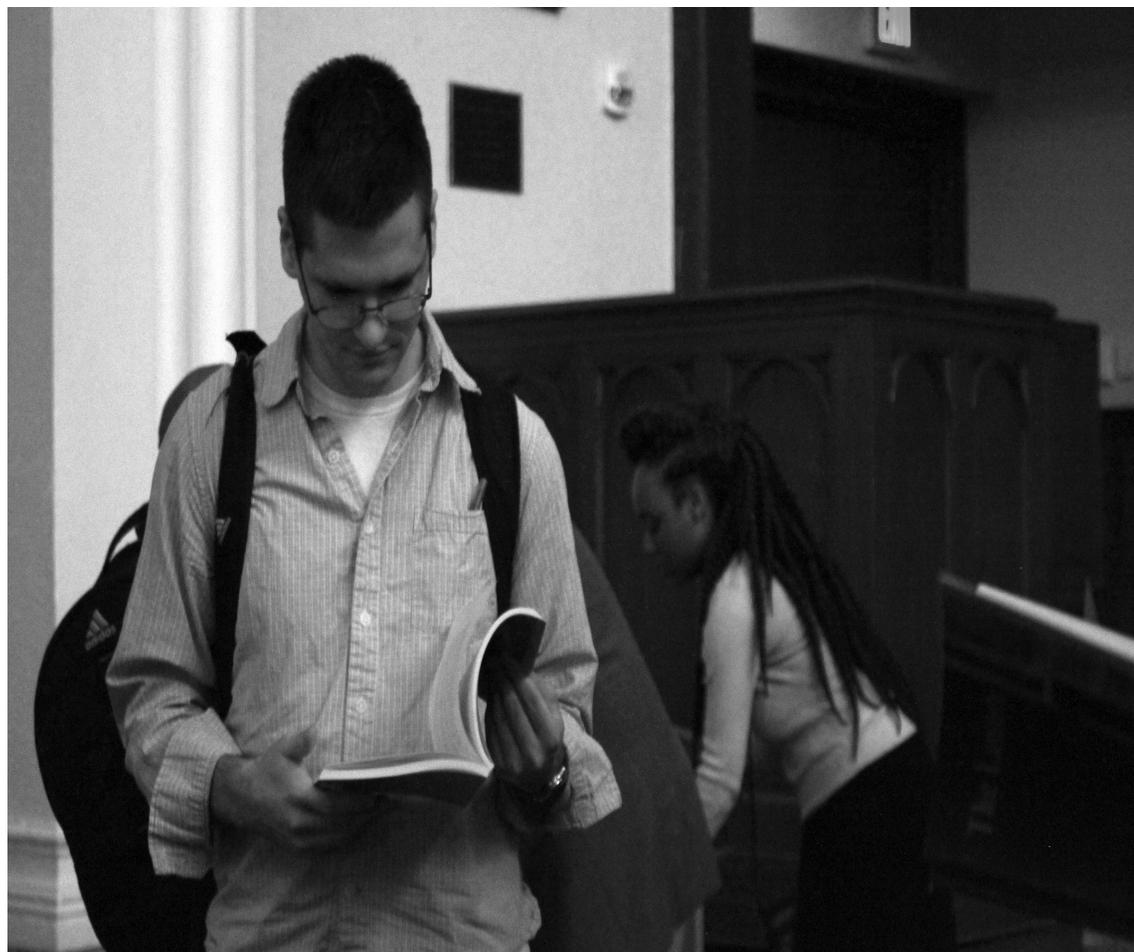


Photo courtesy of Blaise Laramee

Brian Thomas '17 reads a new copy of this year's Lantern. This year, Blaise Laramee '16 won the poetry prize for his poem "Ghosts," Sarah Gow '18 won the prose prize for her piece "Going to China," and Mara Koren '17 won the Creager prize for her story "98% Guaranteed." Jada Grice '18 was the runner up for the poetry prize for her poem "Mama's Stance on Sugar," and Sophy Gamber '18 was the runner up for the Creager prize for her piece "The Mariana Trench."

Transgender student overcomes challenges

How working with the Bearitones helped Levon Favin find happiness

Jake Banks

jakebanks@ursinus.edu

"Oh honey I can see your house from here,

If the plane goes down, damn I'll remember where the love was found,

If the plane goes down, damn"
—Jason Mraz

Since he was 10 years old, Levon Favin has held these lyrics from the song "Plane" by Jason Mraz in high regard. The song helped him get through some very dark and tough times in his life.

"I struggled a lot with depression and suicidal ideation in high school, and getting through that was hard," Favin, an Ursinus College junior, explained. "I always knew I was different." His parents were supportive and always there for him, yet Favin said that "some things you just need to fix on your own."

He could always lose himself, though, when he heard "Plane." And when he came to Ursinus in 2013 and joined the Bearitones, the college's all-male a cappella group, Favin got to live his dream: sing the solo of his beloved tune.

"That moment and that song had a lot of significance for me," he said. "The best was after I sang that solo, someone approached me and said, 'You really know how to tell a story.' That made everything I went through worth it."

Favin is a 21-year-old transgender man from Maryland. He first came out to his friends and family in 2010 when he was a sophomore in high school.

The road to happiness has not been an easy one for Favin, but he continues to persevere and live his life to the fullest. "I'm going to make it through," said Favin. Little did he know things were about to get a whole lot better for Favin in college, where, just like a plane, he would take flight.

"When people first see me, I can tell they are thinking, 'Is that a guy or a girl?'" But I'm used to it," Favin said. Standing at about

five feet six inches, Favin is certainly not the most imposing person on the UC campus, but he often distinguishes himself by wearing a snapback hat with black plastic glasses. He sports a backpack that is about his width and weight, as it appears too heavy for him to lug around campus. On his backpack are about 20 to 25 colorful buttons, each with a catchy or witty slogan that demonstrate his support for his beliefs. His clothes are just a bit too large for his body. The sleeves on his sweaters end just beyond the reach of his arms. These same extended arms are a common sight to see when you spot Favin, as you better believe he will greet you with a massive bear hug and an infectious smile that is almost guaranteed to brighten your day.

Favin views himself as being an avid member of the LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning) community at Ursinus, which he said has supplied him with a group of friends who support and love him. "Identities are broadening," Favin said, "and there is a lot of fluidity in people that I didn't realize existed. I really like that." Favin said he chose Ursinus because of its warm and safe atmosphere. "I wanted a safe place, and my friend who is also transgender recommended it to me. He told me it was a really accepting community. I just wanted somewhere that I could feel safe."

Favin's friend, Artemis Lopez, urged him to come out and visit Ursinus to truly understand how accepting the community was. Although apprehensive at first, Favin visited and realized he was more than safe; he was home. "A big concern for me was not having my own single room my freshman year," Favin explained, "but Artemis reassured me that Ursinus could reserve one for me. That's when I knew I was at the right place. They were very understanding." This type of welcoming atmosphere is why Favin

now feels completely comfortable with who he is.

Depression is still very real to Favin, even at Ursinus. However, he knows that whenever he is feeling alone, sad, or judged, he can recite to himself his favorite adage: "This too shall pass." Favin said that "when you are in a dark place, it's hard to tell yourself things will get better. For me, I keep telling myself that because I know I will overcome my struggles."

Even though Ursinus has embraced Favin for who he is, he is still aware that there is a big world out there that might not be as understanding of him. For this reason, Favin said he stays plugged in to the latest political and social developments in the U.S. to make sure that every transgender person can feel as free to live his or her life as he does now. Naturally, Favin's attention has gravitated towards the upcoming election, as he hopes that the LGBTQ community is on the mind of presidential candidates.

Favin said that the next U.S. president will affect the LGBTQ community, specifically relating to hate crimes directed towards the group. "I'd like to see more protection for minority groups, specifically the LGBTQ community. There's always ways to smooth the progress for victims of hate crimes," Favin said. "Laws and legislations can be made to prevent these acts of aggression and I think they should be taken seriously." Favin added that he also hopes the next president will find ways to reduce college costs as he believes that "everybody should be able to feel the kind of liberation that I have felt."

A Democrat, Favin is a Bernie Sanders supporter and is pulling for him to make a comeback in the polls. "I love Bernie. He really speaks to millennials. I also love his no non-sense attitude," said Favin. "Plus, he's Jewish. I'm Jewish, so that's pretty cool." Favin said he is definitely not a Donald Trump supporter, as he



Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran

Levon Favin '17 playing his ukelele in Lower Wismer during lunch. Favin has been a member of the Bearitones for the past two years, which has enabled him to express his passion for singing and music.

thinks Trump is too much of a reality TV presence and that his anger should be channeled toward making positive changes. "Trump and his supporters are dangerous," he said. Regardless of the election's outcome, Favin said he just wants the next president to protect the rights of minority groups.

Favin has had an impact on his friends and his community. "Levon is really genuine," said Arthur Robinson, a roommate of Favin and a junior at Ursinus. "He's always speaking his mind and being honest about what he likes and what he doesn't like." Robinson also said that Favin is "never afraid to be open about his passions and I really respect that about him." When asked about Favin's transition of gender identity, Robinson said that Favin is "very up front and earnest about it."

Despite the fact that Favin is different from a lot of students at Ursinus, Robinson said that "we haven't really run in to many people who are uncool about it." Robinson added that "it's really bad for him if someone misgenders him or treats him poorly for it, but even then he takes it in stride and keeps on trucking." It appears that Favin's impact on his community is reciprocal. "Even though I am transgender, I'm involved in a lot of stuff, like Bearitones and theater. So I think people know who I am. People know me as Levon."

Whenever Favin feels like he needs to get away, he gravitates

toward a little, musty rehearsal room in the basement of Bomberger Hall. The room isn't much, as four white walls squeeze in a grand piano and piano bench into a tight area. "I love that room," Favin said. "That's where I rehearsed my audition for the 'Plane' solo over and over again. Sometimes I just go there to sing things not related to here, and I like that room a lot."

Singing and music have always brought joy to Favin's life, he said. In fact, it was singing that made him realize that he was truly special.

"When I started singing in high school, they put me in the tenor section of my choir," Favin explained. "By that time I had already come out to them, so I assumed it was because I identified as a guy. But the tenor role just fit me. I didn't have to coach my voice down to that range; it was just there. It was natural."

At that moment, Favin knew that he wasn't like everyone else. "It's not that common for female-bodied singers to be able to sing tenor, so I knew it was special. I think it was my body saying, 'I know you've gone through some shit, so here's a singing voice.'"

Although Favin's voice doesn't sound like Jason Mraz's, it is angelic and pure with a touch of masculinity. Once heard, it's clear that it is something unique. This is why if you were to ask Levon Favin what makes him special, he will reply, "I'm female-bodied, but I've always been a tenor."

Ursinus' UCEA goes green

The student environmental action club plans a week of activities to celebrate Earth Day

Rachel Dickinson
radickinson@ursinus.edu

Friday, April 22, is Earth Day, and the UCEA is celebrating it by having "Earth Week," a week-long celebration of Earth Day with a different activity planned every day.

The events will start on Sunday, April 24, with a bike ride. Other events throughout the week include a screening of the movie "WALL-E" on Monday; a talk with the Bonner leaders about technology on Tuesday; and the distribution of organic snacks in Olin Plaza during lunch time on Wednesday.

Thursday is COSA, and UCEA will be leading all of the environmental tables and information sessions. All events are free and open to everyone.

On Friday, the UCEA members will be in Olin Plaza at their respected tables from 3 - 6 p.m.

Each table will be set up with a different component of a house, with information and activities pertaining to that section of the house, as their overlaying theme for this year is building a sustainable house.

Tables will include areas like solar panels, rain gardens, green roofs, and water sharing. Every year UCEA does this celebration as a way to raise awareness for protection of the Earth.

"Earth Day is our biggest event of the year. It will promote sustainability in a way that is visible and fun for the whole campus," said Katrina O'Donnell, a member of UCEA.

UCEA's president, senior Han-

nah Marshall, has been working with other members on these events all year along. In preparation, they have been distributing posters and signs throughout campus, placing them on bulletin boards, doors, paper towel dispensers, and even napkin holders with information on water conservation and energy preservation.

Marshall is also an active

"It will promote sustainability in a way that is visible and fun for the whole campus.

— Katrina O'Donnell
Ursinus Sophomore

member of the sustainability office. She has run numerous events that have become annual, including the energy competition that took place in February between all of the residence halls.

"I do these programs and events because I want to make sure that future generations—well, any generation after me—can enjoy the Earth the way I have been able to," Marshall said.

The events and ideas for "Earth Week" have been planned by UCEA during their weekly meetings. Although other projects happen throughout the year, Earth Day is the one they plan for the longest.

"Earth Day is super important because it encourages people to think about ways we can protect the planet we live on," O'Donnell said.

Marshall will be sending out emails and hanging up banners in Wismer with details on times

and locations for the Earth Week events to encourage everyone to come.

The UCEA club is always looking for new members and participants for their events. Marshall said that if any student feels like this is a club they would be interested in getting more involved in to come and talk to any of the present UCEA members, and to look for more information next year as this semester is coming to an end.

O'Donnell agreed, saying, "Students should get involved because environmental issues are very important and it's a fun club to be a part of, also environmental studies classes are not required for every major so joining UCEA is a great way to stay informed and involved."

WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays,
6 p.m.
Ritter 141



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Students paint recycled glass containers to celebrate Earth Day. Each year, Ursinus College Environmental Action club hosts a celebration that encourages all people to protect the planet.

Word on the Street

*If you could elect any celebrity as student government president, who would it be?
Why?*

"Wonder Woman. She is fair and has a lasso of truth so nothing gets past her."
— Mya Flood, 2018

"Steve Buscemi because he's a hero and a charismatic man of the people."
— Nora Sternlof, 2016

"Bill Nye. He'd actually get stuff done."
— Solana Warner, 2018

"Mr. Rogers because he's neighborly and someone you could get along with."
— Lisa Abraham, 2018

"Tom Waits because he is a great storyteller and would turn every building on campus into a seedy diner."
— Brian Thomas, 2017

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
COSA All Day	String Ensemble Bomberger Auditorium 7:30 p.m.	Zombie Water Gun Tag Paisley Beach 2 p.m.	Voices in Praise Spring Concert: Spring into Glory Bomberger Auditorium 4 p.m.			Planning for your future: Investing and Retirement Planning Faculty Dining Room 12 p.m.

Laws addressing pornography must adapt

Phoebe French
phfrench@ursinus.edu

With today's technology, sexting has become more and more popular. Sexting is when someone sends sexually explicit photographs or messages, usually by text message with a cell phone.

Obviously, this is a somewhat new phenomenon. Consequently, U.S. laws are not keeping up with the times.

First, there is the issue of consensual sexting. For example, consensual sexting could be a woman taking a nude photo of herself, sending it to her significant other, and that person sending a nude photo back. These photos are never shared without the permission of each party. Sounds fine, yes?

Now imagine that you are a 17-year-old senior in high school in the same situation. What just took place would be illegal.

A few states now have laws specifically addressing sexting, but for states that do not, they de-

fault to their child pornography laws.

Moblemediaguard.com outlines some of these laws. For example, possession of a sexually explicit image of a minor is a crime in and of itself. Distribution of this type of image is a crime. Therefore, a teenager who takes a nude photo of him or herself and sends it to another teenager has already committed two felonies and could face jail time.

According to innovativepublichealth.org, 13.2 percent of females 17 years of age and 8.7 percent of males in the same age group have reported sending nude photos of themselves to other teenagers.

Personally, I do not believe that 21.9 percent of our teenage population deserves to be imprisoned. I do not believe that sending nude pictures of yourself is a particularly good idea, but since when are teenagers filled with good ideas?

This is consensual sexting. My

next issue comes with nonconsensual sexting. This would be a situation where, for example, a man and a woman are messaging over Facebook and suddenly he sends a picture of his penis to the woman.

Personally, I have been a victim of this too many times. I will open a Snapchat from a stranger and see a nude picture of him. I have received Instagram direct messages from strangers containing nude photos. While in my Philosophy of Love and Sex class, I asked how many women in the room had received a picture like this, commonly referred to as an "unsolicited dick pic," and almost every woman in class raised her hand. (I am sure that this is not only men sending unsolicited nude photos, but I have personally never heard a story about a woman sending an unsolicited obscene picture.)

Sadly, right now there is no law against this. This person could be charged for harassment,

but it would most likely take more than a single picture sent for someone to be charged. This makes no sense to me. If a man walks by me on the street and flashes me, that is not legal. Why should online be any different? In fact, a Georgia court ruled in favor of a man who sent an unsolicited nude photo. According to the Atlanta Journal Constitution, a man faced up to three years in prison after sending a picture of his penis to a woman who complained to police. He was charged under a Georgia law that made it a crime to send unsolicited material showing sexually explicit content unless the envelope or container it was in warned of the contents. But a court unanimously ruled in favor of the man, saying that the law cannot be applied to texting.

Luckily, it is not all bad news. Finally, "revenge porn" laws are being passed. Revenge porn is defined as the posting of a nude photo of someone without his or her permission. This is a crime

often committed by exes. For example, a couple consensually sends nude photos to one another while in a relationship. After they break up, one posts nude photos of the other on the internet.

Currently, 27 states have passed laws specifically dealing with revenge porn, including Pennsylvania. Some of these laws are strict, which is great. In New Jersey, sharing explicit images without permission is a crime punishable by three to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$30,000, according to criminal-defense-lawyer.com.

I don't believe that this is enough. Fifty states should pass laws against revenge porn. Fifty states should pass laws against unsolicited nude images. Teenagers sexting one another should not be charged with child pornography if they are doing so consensually. I understand that laws are difficult to change, but we need to at least start trying to change laws as fast as technology is changing.

Film review: Batman v Superman rates 3/10

Chase Babrich
bebabrich@ursinus.edu

A full year and a half ago, the original trailer for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" was released, starting a hype train in motion so large that most people probably went to see this movie just because they felt like they should. Granted, that probably was the best move the DC Comics cinematic universe could make.

One would have thought that the execs over at DC Comics would have learned their lesson about massive hype trains, though, from their last Superman film, "Man of Steel." No matter how large the train, the movie itself has to be good. Sadly, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" may leave many audience members feeling the same way they did after "Man of Steel"—that is, an interesting mix of disappointed, disoriented, and nauseous.

While "BvS" had all the hype, special effects, and star power any major blockbuster could ask for, it tries to do too many things at once, and ends up an incoher-

ent jumble of action.

Directed by Zack Snyder, the newest DC film installment takes place two years after the aftermath of "MoS", with Metropolis still reeling from the massive destruction that most believe was brought on by Superman himself, a strange, all-powerful being from another world. Among the people questioning whether Superman (played by Henry Cavill) is good or bad is none other than Bruce Wayne (played by Ben Affleck), who (spoiler alert) is also the vigilante known as "Batman." After a few key controversial events concerning Superman and his decisions on who to save and who not to save, Bruce decides that Superman is a threat and must be taken down. While I don't want to write anymore here because that would spoil the movie, I'll also mention that the notorious Lex Luthor (played by Jesse Eisenberg) has a hand in the whole thing.

The biggest problem with "BvS" is that it is trying to be its own movie while simultaneously playing catch-up with the Marvel cinematic universe. As the title

implies, "BvS" is somewhat of an origins story for the new "Justice League" (already slated for November 2017) and is forced to try to introduce too many plot threads at once. During several scenes in the film, I found myself wondering if I had all of a sudden started watching a different movie, and it only got worse when dream sequences started to be entire scenes in themselves.

'Dawn of Justice' may leave many audience members feeling the same way they did after 'Man of Steel', that is, an interesting mix of disappointed, disoriented, and nauseous.

There's even one scene which is a dream-within-a-dream, something I thought all major blockbusters were banned from doing ever since "Inception" came out. The disjointedness of scenes also makes for weak characters, since we're never allowed to see more than two scenes of a character without them either screaming

loudly and punching things, or the film cutting to a completely unrelated event, only to return to them several scenes later. Affleck's Batman, for example, is certainly the highlight of the whole film, but his character development goes no further than what everyone already knows about Batman (i.e., he's brooding, and he lives in a cave with another dude named Alfred).

When I mentioned that characters scream a lot and punch things, I meant to say that it is the majority of what you'll be watching, especially during the last third of the film. It was baffling to me how little the filmmakers learned from "MoS". What was bad about "MoS"? There were about 40 minutes of non-stop, incomprehensible action at the end that completely tired audiences out. "BvS" does pretty much the same thing, except it does it twice for good measure.

The actual Batman vs Superman fight is the only sequence that has any tension or weight to it. It is relatively short compared to most other action scenes in the film, in which characters with

Superman-like powers punch each other endlessly. That is not to say that the action itself is of a low quality. I actually was a little disappointed I didn't see the film in IMAX because some of the visuals were so impressive. But a visually compelling action scene in film is like dessert; it's the best when it comes after a nice meal, but gets old real fast if you eat it for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

In my opinion, DC superheroes are much cooler and interesting than Marvel characters, and I wish the DC cinematic universe could back that up with some quality movies. Unfortunately, the individuals involved in the making and distribution of "BvS" seem to be too caught up with the business and marketing aspect, rather than the character building and filmmaking aspect. (The ad campaign for this movie is already more ingrained in my memory than the plot.) I'd recommend this movie to anyone who desperately needs to get rid of \$10.50 and kill two-and-a-half hours of their time. 3/10

Playing big

When driving to cage isn't enough

Mary Deliberti
madeliberti@ursinus.edu

I am 22 years old and carry around a Connecticut state-issued identification card that has my picture, information, and in large, patronizing red capital letters, "NOT A LICENSE TO DRIVE."

If it seems excessive, it is. I remember on Sundays begging my dad to take me driving. He would slowly look up from his crossword, sigh deeply, and tell me to grab the keys with as much enthusiasm as a candy-loving kid on his way to the dentist.

These driving adventures of ours never ended well. My stops were never long enough, I didn't pay enough attention, and I didn't understand the rules of the road. The smell of my dad's acerbic black coffee enveloped the car, which only added to my stress, and a near collision with a FedEx truck catapulted his.

After screaming into my right ear about the importance of triple checking before making a turn, he said, "Mar, it's really not that hard. But you need confidence, you need to act big."

According to my identification card, I am 60 inches tall. My dad was right: being big could only be an act for me. There's no fooling anyone about that. But no information stuck from those driving lessons. Instead I filled my brain with what boy I found cute in my Spanish class and whether or not my brother would ever invite me and my sophomore friends to drink with him and his senior friends.

Then all too quickly my brain was flooded with lacrosse. Our high school program brought in a

new coach who was all business and no bologna. The past year I had been a starting freshman on a bad team, but this year this new coach brought in a different feeling.

We worked harder at practices than in any games we played. She yelled louder and more venomously from the sidelines than my dad buckled in the passenger seat. Everything had a consequence. Bad shots were met with push-ups, turnovers were met with push-ups, and losses, well, those were met with push-ups. And running. She had insatiably high standards and treated us not like the girls that we were but like the women she wanted us to become.

"My dad was right: being big could only be an act for me. There's no fooling anyone about that."

— Mary Deliberti
Senior women's lacrosse player

I started to doubt myself. I didn't know if I was good enough to meet my new coach's standards. I was 16 and this coach had me working harder than I ever had. When I expressed my concerns to my dad, he said, "You just gotta play big and don't worry about it. Make your presence known."

This time it stuck. My shots started getting harder. I paid more attention and really started to understand the rules of the game. Acting big was a girl's game while playing big was a woman's game. We went on to win a state championship and I made my presence known. And then I went on to never drive again.

Baseball continued from pg. 8

White Sox. Contreras appreciated my compliments and that I spoke in Spanish. He signed a few baseballs and took photos with me.

My little brother and I always checked out batting practice before games. We would stand on the first baseline while the Phillies' bullpen pitchers warmed up. I once waved to Contreras and asked if he remembered me. He pointed at me and threw me a baseball. This became a tradition whenever I saw him.

We built a friendship that led to an exchange of our phone numbers. Our families went to dinner together numerous times and visited each other's homes often. We became good friends.

I called Contreras after my

dad's stroke and in Spanish he told me, "Ser fuerte, mi amigo," which means "Be strong, my friend," in English.

Contreras took time out of a successful season with the Phillies to help my family and me. He visited my father while he was in rehab and brought his wife, Isabel, with him to translate. He gave motivational support to my father and told him that throughout his career, he encountered numerous hardships that he had to overcome. Contreras had many injury-plagued seasons and often struggled with his pitching mechanics, but never gave up.

"I remember Contreras telling me that Fidel Castro gave him the nickname 'The Bronze Titan,'" my dad said. "He told me to be a fighter and strong like a titan. He

believed in me and motivated me to push myself and walk again."

Contreras often gave our family tickets for games, invited us to travel with the team, and invited us to Clearwater for spring training in 2012. He also offered to pay my dad's medical expenses. He wanted to help us overcome our problem. Since he knew I loved baseball, he did his best to keep me involved with the sport that never ceased to bring me pleasure.

Contreras showed me it's possible for fans and athletes to become friends with one another. We still keep in touch. I would never have made it through such a difficult time without his moral support, friendship, and compassion.

Golf continued from pg. 8

When talking to her about that moment, she recalls my excitement with Tiger more than his masterful display.

"You were so excited! You were running around the house, under the counter and kitchen table chanting 'Tiger Woods!' I'm not sure you knew how special he was, but you took a liking to him that I never saw in you before then. It made me so happy to see. You liked him so much, we nicknamed you 'Lion,' because Tiger was taken."

Lion Holmes. It has a nice ring to it. Fast-forward almost 20 years later and the Masters still brings the "Lion" out in me. I will watch hours of coverage every day, and when the round is over, call my grandma to discuss what transpired. The Masters is the one thing that ties me to my childhood, and more importantly, to my grandparents. It allows me to escape reality and forget about the divorce or other bad things that have happened in my life, and for that I will forever be grateful.



Photo courtesy of Matt Holmes
Matt Holmes '16 in 1997 the year Tiger Woods won the Masters. That year's tournament created a bond between Holmes and his grandparents.

Scores as of Monday, April 18

M Lacrosse (10-2)	W Lacrosse (6-6)	Baseball (16-13)	Softball (10-14)	M(10-5)&W(8-6) Tennis	M&W Golf	M&W Track & Field
April 16 @ Gettysburg UC: 6, Gettysburg: 11 Goals (UC): Logan Panaccione, Sam Isola, Ian Desenberg, Peter DeSimone, Tucker Noel (2)	April 16 vs. Gettysburg UC: 5, Gettysburg: 17 Goals (UC): Franny Liberatoscioli (2), Jess Hill, Devin Brakel, Abby Goldstein	April 16 @ Dickinson Game 1: UC: 1, Dickinson: 11 Travis Kozak: 1-for-3, 1 R Game 2: UC: 2, Dickinson: 10 Jay Farrell: 2-for-5, 1 R, 1 RBI	April 16 vs. McDaniel Game 1: UC: 1, McDaniel: 0 Kaitlyn Willis (W, 6-5): 7.0 IP, 0 ER, 4 H, 8 K Game 2: UC: 4, McDaniel: 3 Sammi Donato: 1-for-3, 1 RBI	April 16 @ Gettysburg Men: UC: 8, Gettysburg: 1 Women: UC: 4, Gettysburg: 5 April 17 vs. Wilkes Men: UC: 3, Wilkes: 6	M: April 12 @ Ursinus Spring Invitational, Stonewall Second place out of six teams. W: April 17 vs. Gettysburg, Foxchase GC UC: 334, Gettysburg: 344	April 17 @ Bison Outdoor Classic, Bucknell University Highlights: Senior Drew Mackin won his heat in the 800, in which his time leads the conference. Senior Kristen Prijs ran a season best in the 400.

Three Ursinus seniors share their stories about how sports affects them

What the Masters means to me

Matt Holmes
maholmes1@ursinus.edu

For a majority of golf enthusiasts, the first full week of April is one of the most highly anticipated weeks of the year. No, it is not because the weather starts to cooperate, and golf fanatics can finally brave the elements and play, but rather because it is time for the first leg of the four major PGA events, the Masters Championship, more commonly known as the Masters.

The Masters is held annually at Augusta National in Augusta, GA. It is the only major tournament that is held at the same site each year, which adds an extra element of history to the event. The Masters Championship dates back to 1934, when Horton Smith was the inaugural champion. The event has hosted many great players. When discussing golf greats, the first question often asked is, "Did they win a green jacket?"

To me, the Masters is much more than another golf tournament, and the green jacket is more than a trophy. To me, the Masters ties me to my childhood, and gives me a unique bond with my grandparents, who taught me the game of golf.

When I was very young, my parents got a divorce, and my mom, sister, and I moved from our home in Connecticut to my mom's childhood home in Upper Dublin, PA. We moved in with

my grandparents, who graciously took us in during a time of need. I didn't know it at the time, but this would become one of my greatest blessings.

In the spring of 1997, during the height of the divorce, I was a rambunctious three-year-old who liked playing with Legos, getting dirty in the mud, and driving my mom and grandparents absolutely crazy. However, my grandparents noticed something that would tend to glue me to my seat; a golf tournament on the television. Now, I had no idea at the time what golf was, but I had a particular gravitation towards the game.

When April came around, spring was in the air and the Masters was around the corner. My grandparents, who are golf nuts like me, were watching one golfer take the sport by storm: Tiger Woods. He was an individual, not just in his unique name, or that he was African American, but in the methodical, almost magical way he worked around a golf course.

That year, in the 1997 Masters, Tiger Woods put on a masterful display of golf. He ended up setting a tournament record and blew away the competition by winning by 12 strokes, something completely unseen before.

My grandmother still remembers this day in every detail.

See **Golf** on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of Michael Hoffman

Michael Hoffman '16, far right, is seen here with his mother, brother, and former Major League Baseball pitcher José Contreras.

My golden friendship with 'The Bronze Titan'

How my connection with an MLB pitcher got me through the most difficult time of my life

Michael Hoffman
mihoffman@ursinus.edu

August 3, 2011, was the worst day of my life. It was the day I almost lost my father.

My dad suffered a massive stroke shortly after he arrived at work that morning. He collapsed at his desk and was rushed to a nearby hospital. My father survived the stroke, but was paralyzed on the right side of his body.

I was very shaken by what happened to my dad. One of the first people I called for some mental support was my friend José Contreras, a baseball player who pitched for the Philadelphia

Phillies.

My relationship with Contreras proved to me that not all athletes are in the game solely for financial reasons. Players like Contreras genuinely care about their fans. He helped me get through one of the most difficult times of my life. His ability to console my family during such a troubled time helped us face the reality of the horrible ordeal that affected us.

I've been an admirer of Contreras since his days with the Chicago White Sox. I remember him going the distance in game five of the 2005 ALCS. His masterful performance sent the White Sox

to their first World Series since 1959. I consider that outing to be one of the best playoff pitching performances I've ever seen.

When I learned that my beloved Philadelphia Phillies signed Contreras in 2010 to a two-year deal with a third-year option, I jumped with joy.

I first met Contreras at the Phillies Phestival, an ALS fundraiser the Phillies host every season. In his native language of Spanish (he speaks very little English), I told Contreras I had been a huge fan of his since his days with the

See **Baseball** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday
Softball vs. Elizabethtown, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.	M Golf @ Centennial Conference Championship, Bridges GC	Baseball vs. Johns Hopkins, 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.	M Tennis vs. McDaniel, 1 p.m.	M Golf @ Centennial Conference Championship, Bridges GC	Baseball vs. Washington College, 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.	
Baseball @ Haverford, 3:30 p.m.		Softball vs. Muhlenberg, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.	W Tennis vs. Franklin & Marshall, 1 p.m.	W Golf @ Centennial Conference Championship, Foxchase GC	M Golf @ Centennial Conference Championship, Bridges GC	
		M Lacrosse @ Muhlenberg, 3 p.m.	M&W Track and Field vs. Ursinus College Invitational		W Golf @ Centennial Conference Championship, Foxchase GC	
		W Lacrosse @ McDaniel, 1 p.m.				

