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Students in Free Enterprise wins regional competition

By Katie Callahan
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Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) has made big strides since their creation in 2007 under advisor Professor Stephen Bowers. Back in March the group travelled into Philadelphia to compete in SIFE’s regional competition in Philadelphia which was made up of about 35 schools. The team walked away with first place and a ticket to the National Competition in Minneapolis which comes up next week.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization bringing together business and sustainability across college campuses. Beginning in September, members came up with project ideas that met six different category requirements in free enterprise detailed by the international requirements of the organization: Marketing/economics, success skills, financial literacy, business ethics, environmental sustainability, and entrepreneurship.

As of September, 2009 there were 40 active countries working with SIFE, 1,500 schools, and over 42,000 students worldwide. Ursinus competed against schools like LaSalle, Elizabeth-town, and Messiah to clinch the Regional Champion title.

Throughout the semester they worked on about eight different projects including on-campus events like Recyclingmania, Women in Business, and business ethics talks in the pharmaceutical industry. Other projects took them off campus, like their work with B.U.S’y (Building Up Strength in Youth) where they worked with 30 at risk teens; teaching them the dos and don’ts while filling out applications, the power of a handshake, and different ways to get involved with their own community. Another project linked them with Kencrest Employment, an organization which works with Autistic and mentally handicapped individuals. This particular project formed relationships between SIFE and the psychology/neurology departments at Ursinus and created relationships.

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UC SIFE members won the regional competition held in Philadelphia this year. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Kamn

Students volunteer with UCARE’s Community Week

By Ryan Collins and Jessica Neuman, UCARE
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In the spring of 2009, an inspired group of Bonner Leaders started Community Week on the Ursinus College campus. The Bonner Leaders’ Program is a leadership development program at Ursinus where students spearhead direct service initiatives on and off of campus. The creation of the UCARE office helped Community Week expand in scope, and each semester since its inception, the event has brought together more projects and more students.

The Spring 2010 Community Week was the most successful yet. With almost a dozen sites available, over 100 Ursinus students turned out to participate in locations across southeast Pennsylvania. Students got their hands dirty at the Ursinus Organic Garden, played Bingo with senior citizens at Columbia Cottage, and baked challah to benefit earthquake victims in Haiti. Sites ranged from the Ursinus campus to Trinity UCC Church across the street, to the Don Guanella Village, a residence for developmentally disabled men in Springfield, PA.

One particularly successful site was an Ursinus trip to the Francisvale Animal Shelter, where students helped clear walking areas for the dogs. One of the site leaders for Francisvale was Vai Alonso, a freshman and Bonner Leader. Reflecting on the experience, she comment-ed, “It felt like a celebration.”

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Ursinus celebrates student artwork with annual exhibit

By Mike Delaney
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The Student Art Exhibition opened on Thursday, Apr. 28, displaying the work of art students and majors in both the Berman Museum and the Ritter Art Gallery. While some art reflected women in media, unique views of the landscape, as well as studies of the human figure and other still life images. Several themes were organized by the professors, and included pieces that reflected women in media, unique views of the landscape, as well as studies of the human figure and other still life images.

Claire Peterson, a sophomore Studio Art minor, had her series of urban photographs displayed, which depict evidence of plant growth and life in the city environment. “In my project I wanted to show how Mother Nature is everywhere, trying to get back what is hers – reclaiming.

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UC SIFE members won the regional competition held in Philadelphia this year. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Kamn

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International News with Lisa: South Korean woman climbs highest mountains

By Lisa Jobe
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SEOUL, South Korea – Oh Eun-sun, of South Korea, is the first woman to climb all 14 of the world’s highest mountains. She reached the summit of Annapurna in central Nepal on Tuesday. The 14 peaks are all over 26,247 feet (8,000 meters) tall. Eun-sun’s closest rival, a Spanish woman named Edurne Pasaban, has scaled 13 of these 14 mountains so far. Pasaban claims that Eun-sun did not actually reach the summit of Mount Kangchenjunga, which is the world’s third-largest mountain, when she attempted to climb it last year. 86-year-old American mountaineering journalist Elizabeth Hawley, widely regarded as the “final arbiter” on disputes such as the one Pasaban has raised, has decided to record Eun-sun’s ascent of Kangchenjunga as “disputed” until an investigation can be conducted. Fewer than 20 people have ascended the 14 highest mountains in the world, and Oh is regarded as a national hero in South Korea. (CNN.com)

Thursday, Apr. 29

BHUTAN – After “very good talks” on Thursday, the prime ministers of India and Pakistan have asked their officials to take immediate steps to “normalize” the relationship between the two countries. India’s Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan’s Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani met for the first time in nine months at a summit of South Asian leaders in Bhutan. Relations between the two countries had been frozen after India blamed a Pakistani militant group for the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. According to Pakistan’s foreign minister, neither side was expecting Thursday’s talks to go so well. Both sides had different priorities – Pakistan wants India to restart the peace policies it halted after the Mumbai attacks, whereas India will not fully restart the peace policies until Pakistan acts against those responsible for the Mumbai attacks. However, some political analysts say that normalizing relations between India and Pakistan may be much more difficult in practice. (Reuters Online)

Friday, Apr. 30

WEIFANG, China – Five young children were injured at a Chinese school after a man attacked them with a hammer before killing himself; the attack is the third such attack on Chinese schoolchildren in as many days. In the attack, which took place in the city of Weifang in Shandong province, the man grabbed two children before setting himself on fire, but the children were pulled to safety, and all five children as well as one injured teacher are in stable condition. On Wednesday, a former teacher attacked fifteen children and adults at an elementary school in Guangdong province. The attacks have sent China reeling. Since a similar wave of attacks in 2004, many Chinese schools have brought in security forces. These recent attacks have led to a call for greater security in schools, but such measures are expensive, and in reality there may not be much that can be done to prevent such attacks. (BBC News Online)

By Lisa Jobe
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Education in Haiti is very slowly making progress after the January 7.0-magnitude earthquake that destroyed an estimated 90 percent of schools in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. While many students still crowd into tents for classes, many Port-au-Prince schools are being rebuilt, after months of missing government deadlines to re-open schools. In many rural areas, education is improving as well, as rural schools must grow to meet the demands caused by the huge numbers of displaced Haitian students. However, even before the earthquake, education in Haiti “was in a state of disaster.” The nation’s literacy rate is around 50 percent, and only 15 percent of students move on to secondary school. While millions of dollars are going to earthquake recovery in Haiti, education needs funding as well. On May 5, STAND, UCARE, and other Ursinus student volunteers, teamed up with the Rotary Club of Collegeville to host an art/music event at the Berman Museum. The night was a celebration of student artwork, and there were dance, comedy, and music performances put on by students. All proceeds from the event are going toward various international projects of the Rotary Club of Collegeville in particular the town of Ouanaminthe, which has accommodated displaced Port-au-Prince students since March. To learn more about the Rotary Club’s projects and how you can help, check out www.pwofansnam.org or email Joy Miksic at joy@pwofansnam.org. Information courtesy of Ms. Joy Miksic of the Rotary Club of Collegeville.
“Art Exhibit” is continued from page 1.

what was lost,” she said. “I was really happy that people liked my work as much as I did.”

Meanwhile, Deniz Asaner, a senior in Painting II, had two of her paintings featured, which depicted both a worn out trombone and an aging clarinet against colorful backgrounds. “I chose these instruments because they may not be in the best of shape, there is still something beautiful about each one,” she said.

Other artistic exploits included a variety of paintings, sculptures, and even mechanized contraptions resembling Rube Goldberg machines. Professor Hliotia made note of several contributions to the show, including a series of nocturnal landscapes by Daniel Horowitz, who observed empty parking lots and back alleys, as well as landscapes by Christine Taylor representing the four seasons.

A number of fanciful sculptures and statues by students also gave visitors a unique glance into the artists’ minds, from a car shaped out of neon pink straws, to a dog made entirely of dog treats.”

Jasmine Ellis commented on how excited she was with the reception to her year-long honors project presented in the Berman Museum. “It is a highly thematic body of work,” she explained. “I am examining the decay and evolution of grammar in the English language.” With such titles as Homonymicide and I Write, Therefore I Am, which received the Sculpture/Installation Award, Ellis’s goal was to encourage her audience to ponder how language has changed over time. “All the art is intended to make the viewer consider the state of language and how linguistic evolution and decay differ,” she explained. “The exhibit is set up to represent a crime scene where language has been murdered.”

According to Hanover, the opening reception at the Berman Museum welcomed over three hundred guests there to support this year’s artists, especially those who received awards for their work this semester. “The exhibition is a great opportunity for our students to bring together a body of work for their benefit and show the breadth and depth of their creative spirit.” She went on to add, “It’s an excellent show this year!”

Student artwork will remain on display until May 15 in both the main and upper gallery of the Berman, as well as Ritter, bringing a nice close to the academic year for the art department.

“SIFE” is continued from page 1.

with the community in which they worked. Other projects included work with Montgomery County Community College, an exchange student seminar for UC students studying abroad, and the Collegeville Economic Development Corporation.

To get ready for the local competition, try-outs were held to find the best public speakers out of the group of students. Bindu Pirlamari, Ty Wetzel, Kaitlyn Myers, Rebecca Kamm, Brandon Reber, and Tim Jordan made up the presentation team while other participants included Serra Guerin, Janel Melnick, Kimberly Keenen, Kristen Mareno, Sam Weiser, and the 50 active members of SIFE. Starting in January, the members worked to create a presentation that met the requirements of the international rules including a 24 minute oral presentation where they had to outline the projects that they did for this year and the impact these made on the community.

“I love when it comes to competition time...It’s a time to show how well you executed your plans and projects,” said junior Ty Wetzel.

“I feel like the real world is like a competition, you’re always competing against someone,” said Rebecca Kamm on how she has been influenced by this SIFE competition.

This year was different than last year’s projects. SIFE teamed up with the Tri-County Community Network, a way in which non-profits, organizations, businesses, and individuals can help serve under-privileged populations and attended networking brunches to make connections with other organizations in the community.

One of SIFE’s main goals is to create sustainability within the community and within themselves. The members commented that one way they are sustainable is by creating partnerships with individuals, other Ursinus clubs, and outside businesses/organizations that have expressed interest in continuing to work with them in the future.

Pirlamari mentioned that to have a chance at the regional title they had to give up weekend ends of nice weather to practice inside Pfahler and Olin auditorium and re-did their presentation time and time again. All members said the work was worth it.

Tim Jordan mentioned, “It wasn’t hard, just time consuming” when referring to putting the presentation together. They felt the pressure to perform at the highest level possible because of the preparation they put into it.

Professor Bowers played a role in their success as well. “He’s the guy that’s like the predictor...we might not see problems but he will see them a mile away,” said Wetzel.

The National Exposition brings together 180 schools across the United States to compete in Minneapolis from May 11 to May 13, 2010. The winners of the competition advance to the SIFE World Cup where they will compete against countries like Egypt, Africa, and Australia. To learn more about SIFE, check out www.sife.org or email SIFE@ursinus.edu.

“UCARE” is continued from front page.

experience, Alonzo commented, “I love working with the people at Francisvale, because they care so much about what they do and animal welfare is such an important part of their lives. I also just love taking time out of my week to hang out at the shelter and play with the animals. It’s a great stress reliever.”

Alonzo is not the only student to remark about the benefits of volunteering. Another student commented that he had originally volunteered only because he was required to complete service hours, but that the experience was so rewarding that he is now planning to get involved with ongoing service projects at Ursinus. Not only does student participation in Community Week benefit others, but the students themselves experience the positive effects.

Community Week didn’t help just students, of course. Much of the work that Ursinus students did for the community partners simply wouldn’t have been completed without the volunteers stepping up to the plate. Connecting concerned young adults with partners in need is what civic engagement is all about, and it encourages students to take responsibility for making the world a better place.

A number of volunteers expressed a deepened sense of how their time and work benefited people who needed it. Sarah Brians, a participant in the Don Guanella Village event, says, “Throughout my volunteered time at the event, I was approached by several students/adults with disabilities. It saddened my heart, but made me realize how much of a difference I can make in someone’s life just by being there with them and listening to them...even laughing at their jokes.”

Such insights tie into the purpose of Ursinus College as a whole. The mission statement of Ursinus says that the college aims “to enable students to become independent, responsible, and thoughtful individuals through a program of liberal education. That education prepares them to live creatively and usefully, and to provide leadership for their society in an interdependent world.” With students volunteering to create the service opportunities during Community Week and coordinate them, they gain unparalleled experience as leaders, and come to see how their individual effort really does have an impact on society.

This year, Community Week has blossomed as an indicator of Ursinus student commitment and achievement. Its success has brought together diverse groups across campus and, even more importantly, it has positively influenced those who were helped along the way. Ursinus students should be proud of what it has accomplished this year, and look forward to helping Community Week grow in the future.
Career Corner: Tips for becoming committed Ursinus alumni.

By Career Services
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As the Class of 2010 leaves our campus community to embrace the real world, we look forward to welcoming you as our newest group of active and committed Ursinus alumni. Being a thoughtful and dedicated alum is not only about writing checks. You can be a valuable asset to Ursinus in many ways.

Stay in touch: Let us know where you are and what you are doing. Let us know how we can reach you so that we can keep you up to date on school activities, programs, and directions.

Spread the word: From the moment when you walked on campus as a freshman, you became a powerful representative of and recruiter for Ursinus. Speak confidently and knowledgeably about your Ursinus experience. Tell the world about what's special about Ursinus.

Stay involved: As you leave our community and become a member of a new one, you will be able to offer insight and bring a perspective that extends beyond UC. As you progress in your career, volunteer to speak to students about the steps that you've taken, the decisions that you've made, and the lessons that you've learned. Become an Alumni Career Ambassador and offer career advice via e-mail, or speak in classes or workshops to give current students advice that you would have wanted to hear.

Be a leader: If you were a leader in the classroom, on the athletic field, on stage, or in a club or organization, your responsibility to that group and to Ursinus does not end when you walk across the platform at graduation. Assume a leadership position in our alumni organization and continue to make your mark at Ursinus.

The Financial Factor: There is nothing getting in the way of donating to Ursinus and to our success. In the beginning, you may not be able to give much. But still give. UC will value any donation—no matter how small—because we use the percentage of donating alumni as a way to demonstrate our institutional health. There is tremendous satisfaction that comes from supporting your alma mater. Don't forget to check if you new employer has a matching contribution program.

Take a minute before graduation to reflect on the depth of your friendships and the powerful impact of your professors. Support the place that gave you some of the most meaningful and transformational experiences of your lifetime.

The Career Services office invites alumni to utilize all our resources and services—even after graduation. You can continue to use UC CareerNet to view full-time postings. And don't forget: when you are out in the work world, be sure to call us and share full-time jobs, part-time jobs, summer vacancies, and internships for the next generation of Ursinus students.

Ursinus Bike Shares goes national

By Katie Callahan
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Ray Clarke, one of the original creators of Bike Share at Ursinus College, recently announced that Bike Share National is now up and running. Bike Share National is a non-profit organization that takes Ursinus' Bike Share program and puts it into the hands of other colleges and universities across the country.

Beginning in 2008, Laura Ng '09 and Clarke created the Bike Share program, the second in the country at the time. Basing their model off of Ebony College, the program took off instantly on campus. Well over 200 students on campus are involved with Bike Share currently, making it the largest organization on campus.

The program looks to cut down on fuel emissions and to give students another way to exercise at school. Clarke mentioned that cars give off the most emissions during city driving and when the car is initially turned on. By cutting back on small trips to places like Redner's, Bike Share hopes to decrease pollution caused by these emissions.

Clarke came up with the idea of making Bike Share National when he experienced how difficult it was to first get the program at Ursinus started. The idea of the organization is to drop their business plan and sponsor hook-ups into colleges across the country. So far Clarke has established contact with two schools and both have adopted and purchased the program.

To help make the program legitimate, Clarke looked for a sponsor that could help with paying for the bikes and getting their name out to other colleges. Fuji Bikes agreed to give Bike Share National deals on bikes and free promotional items. Fuji Bikes competes with companies like Trek and is one of the largest retailer/seller of road bikes in the country.

Clarke understands that the bikes suffer from a lot of wear and tear, estimating that each bike gets 1,000 miles of usage per year. Fuji agreed to replace all of the UC bikes for the 2010-2011 school year, giving them 16 new road bikes starting in September for free.

"Bike Shares are the new thing, they are exploding. We were one of the first ones in the country to have it. It's going to be big," mentioned Clarke. By the end of the summer, Clarke hopes to have contacted and sold the Bike Share National program to all the schools in the Centennial Conference and to have placed the program in other schools as well. Clarke mentions that without the help of Liz Hooper, the program wouldn't be as successful as it is today.

"I'll have an idea that I won't even say to her and two weeks later she comes at me with a similar idea and we will implement it together," said Clarke. Her proactive work ethic has helped her strengthen the program at Ursinus and implement new ideas.

Throughout this process, Clarke is looking to make a community surrounding Bike Share National that can share ideas when it comes to managing techniques and ways in making everyone's individual bike share program work more efficiently. He wants this to be sustainable and knows that because of the program that has been created at Ursinus, that this is now possible.

Ursinus is helping fuel the project, from money coming in from Residence Life to help from Facilities in installing new bike racks around campus. The whole community is making the project possible.

Clarke is also bringing in ideas on making Ursinus Bike Share work more smoothly by setting up a system where students can purchase bikes at a discounted rate if they would like to have a bike for longer than the 24-hour riding period. By doing this he hopes that more students can get involved with the program and that they won't have as many problems with students keeping bikes for longer than allowed.

By the time he graduates in May 2011, Clarke wants to walk away knowing that he has helped set up a system that anyone can jump into and do without flaw. To learn more about Bike Share or Bike Share National, contact Ray Clarke at rclarke@ursinus.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD FOR THE FALL 2010 SEMESTER:

Katie Callahan: Editor-in-Chief
Mike Delaney: News Editor
Katie Haldeman: Features Editor
Carly Siegler: Opinions Editor
Nick Pane: Sports Editor
Brianna Gaddy: Photo Editor

If you have story ideas for next year's Grizzly, don't hesitate to email the above editors. Thanks for reading Ursinus, see you in the Fall!
Splinter Cell: Conviction game review

By Mac Kilduff
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The person who first said "hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" obviously never met Sam Fisher. In "Splinter Cell: Conviction" you and your enemies will understand why this is so brutally true.

Overall "Splinter Cell: Conviction" is a good looking game. It moves pretty well, looks good in the way of graphics, it's smooth, and sometimes a little mind-blowing. It's easy to get into and has a good storyline. That being said, however, a change from the previous "Splinter Cell" games is that there's no more light meter to tell you that you can't see while in the dark. They've made it so the screen goes black and white while hidden but enemies and environmental advantages remain in color to assist you. It looks nice sometimes and can be a little helpful but it's still rather jarring to spend a portion of the game in near-monochrome.

The game also seems rather cinematic at points, which definitely adds a nice touch. You'll find mission objectives triumphantly projected onto surfaces in front of you rather than having them pop up in the corner like so many other games. This can actually add more seamless gameplay. Instead of crawling through that window only to wait for a mission update, you can continue moving and read those projections (which appear in multiple locations sometimes) while continuously moving and keeping your eyes forward.

The game strays away from previous "Splinter Cell" games. On the first play through it felt like there's more focus on weapons and killing and less focus on subterfuge. It's possible to sneak but sometimes you just have to go through a little shooting. There's also less moves you can do to sneak.

There is a little bit of equipment progression. You unlock EMP grenades, sticky cams, remote mines and so on but it's not often you may be using these items unless it's the EMP. You'll also unlock more guns as the game progresses and can upgrade each of them. As you successfully complete challenges listed in the menu (typically related to stealth) you'll be rewarded with points that you can use to upgrade each weapon. You can't put a suppressor on every gun so if you try to remain stealthy the whole time you probably won't find yourself using half of the guns. Once you get comfortable with one gun you'll probably stick with that the whole time unless you love variety that much.

They've also added a bunch of fun little additions. They have an up-close kill function so you can stealthily take out enemies from darkness. After a successful kill like this you unlock the "execute" function. At this point you can mark several targets and use the function to take them all out automatically with one bullet each. The "execute" function allows for a tactical advantage in stealth and in action situations. They also added the "interrogate mode" which is exactly what it sounds like. You can use your fists or the environment to beat the life out of people to make them talk.

For those who dislike beating the life out of people: this is unavoidable, so learn to enjoy it. There's also a nifty cover function to help in shooting and sneaking. And finally there's a multiplayer function to further enjoy the game.

Overall, it's a fun game that you can get into in a night but will probably disappoint fans of previous Splinter Cell games. I'd give it a four out of five.

Bizarre Foods: New flavors with DOTS candy

Cory Kram
Elizabeth Mahoney

We're sure that all of you are familiar with the candy DOTS. They normally come in bright yellow boxes with a lot of delicious flavors. It appears that they've recently tried to revamp their image by coming out with a new line called DOTS Elements. Instead of the original yellow boxes, the DOTS are packaged in black boxes that contain pictures of the four classical elements. They have four flavors to match up with each element—Air: wintergreen; Water: green tea; Fire: cinnamon; and Earth: pomegranate. We only tried the green tea and cinnamon.

First up: Water
Cory: As I opened the box, I was surprised by the appearance of the DOTS. They look like they would be able to glow in the dark. Also, I wondered if they were radioactive because their greenish hue reminded me of toxic waste. I can't even begin to describe the taste of these DOTS. They definitely don't taste like green tea. They taste like something that you'd clean your toilet with. Blech. I did not like the flavor at all. I would be very amazed at anyone who would be able to finish a huge box of these bizarre DOTS.

Elizabeth: As an avid green tea drinker, I was really excited to try these. While the color does look a bit like a glow stick, it still seemed like they might've been as good as I was expecting. I was wrong. They do not taste at all like green tea. The flavor was not terrible, but it did taste a bit like soap. What made it worse was the texture. They were the same texture as normal DOTS, but since the taste was off, having to chew the entire thing became something akin to eating a bag of dirt flavored jelly beans.

Next: Fire
Cory: These DOTS were much better than the green tea DOTS. I noticed that the cinnamon flavor takes a few seconds to kick in. Also, for some reason, I found the chewing rather annoying. I don't mind chewing on regular DOTS, but something about these DOTS seemed different. I was hoping that the cinnamon flavor would be more intense, but it was pretty tame compared to Atomic Fireballs, a popular cinnamon hard candy.

Elizabeth: I'm not a big fan of cinnamon flavored candies, so I was a bit wary of these, but they were not that intense. The color was a little bit better on these, and when the cinnamon flavor kicked in, it was mild. It even lingered after I finished chewing. While these tasted better than the green tea DOTS, I found that they were chewier and therefore harder to enjoy.

Overall, we would not recommend these to fans of the original DOTS. They weren't that bad, but they couldn't compare to the originals. We give these $5 out of $$$$$.$

Upbeat UC strikes again

All photos by Carmen Cheng

Sean Patrick Donovan and Seika Ueda prepare a table outside of Wismer where students were encouraged to write messages of happiness.

The mascot walked around giving hugs to students. Here Amber Berkins jumps into the Grizzly's arms.

Messages of happiness written by the UC community were displayed on campus for everyone to enjoy and reflect upon.

The organization hides packages around campus occasionally and notifies students through their Facebook page. The group encourages students to fill the box with something else and to re-hide it on campus.
By Zach Shamberg
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Finals are beginning. Finals are ending. Finals have ended. Each day is warmer and sunnier than the next. Summer is here, faithful readers, and so too is my graduation from Ursinus College.

When I left my high school as a graduating senior, I promised myself I would never look back. And I haven’t. I’ve been asked to go back to see plays or exchange pleasantries with former teachers, but I have refused every offer. Why? Because I want to stop looking back. I have gone through life constantly looking over my shoulder to see what I missed or what I should have done. The halls of my high school are simply filled with regrets and lost opportunities. I can’t even drive by that building anymore. So when I was handed my diploma and told that I was finished high school, I got the hell out of there as fast as I could. My family owns one picture of me at my high school graduation, and I’m walking away with my back to the camera. I don’t know what exactly I’m walking towards, but I know that I’m better off than just standing there, waiting for something to happen. My parents always ask me why I couldn’t pose for one photo. I tell them that they wouldn’t understand. My senior year was a living nightmare, nine months of angst and heartbreak that would ultimately change my personality and demeanor forever. I considered the campus tours and orientation events at Ursinus a welcome break from all the shit I dealt with throughout my senior year.

The first time I ever traveled to Ursinus, I saw the campus during winter break; quiet, untouched, calm. This was just what I needed. After high school, I had to revitalize myself in some way. Four years later, I am healed. The school not only changed my life, it very well saved it. I came to college an unsure, unhappy, scared person. I will be graduating on May 15 as a man ready to tackle any challenge. There’s nothing I can’t do, and I owe that to Ursinus.

Over the past two years, I’ve written countless articles and editorials that, I hope, you’ve enjoyed. Some of my favorite columns have focused on entertainment and, more specifically, film reviews. If I could choose any profession in the world, it would be that of a film critic. This year’s debates with columnist Carly Siegler about films such as “Avatar” have many quipped and raised the future of movies and cinema. I look forward to seeing what Hollywood brings us in the coming years, and I pray that I will once again be able to write about film and make countless jokes about the “career” of actor Ben Affleck.

I’ve written articles that have proved to be highly controversial on this campus, and not surprisingly, they have all dealt with politics. For all my conservative preaching and Obama-hating, I want you all to know that I never tried to force an opinion down your throat. Read my articles and voice your concerns, but do your own research. You may not agree with my views, but please: educate yourself. Don’t let anyone tell you what your opinion should be. You have to do the research, and you have to form your own opinions. If we hope to find any truth and honesty in politics, we all must take the initial steps and learn about the things we believe. At the very least, I’m glad these articles spawned debate between students and teachers. This country needs alternating viewpoints, not one overwhelming majority. Maybe one day I’ll run for office, and my college articles will show up on NBC or CBS, and puntids will mock me for being a hard-core Conservative lunatic. But I’ll tell you, I’ve learned enough to know that those ideas are worth relaying to the rest of society. I hope to return one day and find that this campus has become a hotbed for political activity. Until that day comes, I ask that just one student maintains my tradition of challenging the political norm.

My articles this past semester seemed to veer away from politics and film completely. In fact, I might have reviewed movies only once or twice, and that was the movie “Hurt Locker.” In my final semester, I became very sentimental and reflective. I wrote earlier that I hate looking back, but I haven’t been able to stop myself these past few months. In my most recent articles, I’ve discussed happiness, falling in love, and making everyday count. I sound like a motivational speaker for the depressed and neglected. But those articles weren’t about my inability to be happy or be in love—they were about admitting to myself that I deserve those things. We all do. Every one of us deserves to be happy. And I didn’t believe that was possible until I graduated high school. I honestly accepted the fact that I might never truly be content, and that I somehow deserved that for the life I had led. Well, that’s not true. And spending four years at Ursinus helped me arrive at that realization. These past few articles were a collection of my confessions. I am no longer shy and defend. Use your time at this college wisely, and most importantly, use it to find yourself. I did, and I love what I’ve found. And hope that, someday, someone will love me for what they find as well.

I can hear that Vitamin C song now: “As we go on, we remember all the times we spent together.” It is truly a Shakespeare article without at least one obscure pop culture reference?. It’s time for me to say goodbye to Ursinus, and to walk down that proverbial aisle and accept my diploma. It’s time for me to throw my cap in the air and celebrate my graduation from one of the finest institutions in the country. And, for the very first time, I’ll stand with my good friends and family and take a picture that I can be truly proud of. And when my parents ask me why I could finally pose for a graduation photo, I’ll tell them that there’s no way they could produce anything better. I did. And I’m grateful for this experience has meant to me.

To Matt Nixon, Will Freeman, Mark Smedberg, Carolyn Martin, the brothers of Phi Kappa Sigma, the Ursinus Theatre department, and the senior class of 2010: thank you for these last four years. You really did save me. I love you, and I will miss you all.

By Caitlin Dalik
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As I reflect on my four short years here at Ursinus, I think that the most valuable part of my education was what I learned outside of the classroom. Sure, what I learned inside the classroom is, of course, very important but it was the life lessons that made me grow personally and figure out what I was passionate about. What made me choose Ursinus was the sense of community on campus and I’m happy to say, four years later, it is still something I admire about the college.

I remember in my freshman year, I decided I wanted to go over to the Relay for Life event. I participated for Relay for Life in high school but had not joined a team that year. I went over to the track with my iPod with the intention of running eight laps, one for each year my mom had been a breast cancer survivor. I started running when another student in a full suit and dress shoes started running next to me. He asked me why I was running and when I told him, he asked if he could run beside me. Baffled, I said, sure, why not? He then explained to me that his mother was just diagnosed with lupus and that while he couldn’t relate to my mother’s battle with cancer, he understood what it was like to have a mother struggling with an illness. He ran the entire two mile journey around the track with me, in a full suit and dress shoes talking with me about school and my family. I think it was that experience that sums up my Ursinus career. I never got a chance to thank that young man but having that kind of support from a complete stranger was a great feeling.

It is this mutual understanding between students that makes me happy to say that I was an Ursinus student. I appreciate the way complete strangers will debate in classes and share their views and experiences and how students will generally listen to others’ views and learn from them instead of shutting them out completely. It is how the campus will reach help students and faculty in need and how students dedicate themselves to service to better the Ursinus community and beyond.

I am always amazed at how students grow over their four years. As a UC Ambassador, I have the privilege of watching Ursinus freshman take their first steps onto this campus. I see how typical high school students transform into students who are independent and responsible citizens. I think that there is a typical “Ursinus student.” One that parties hard, works harder, challenges themselves, takes risks, starts their own projects, and works to make a difference. I think that each student at Ursinus is a leader, in their own way. As I sat in the audience of the Farewell Celebration for President Strassberger two weeks ago, I was amazed at the diversity of student performers and speakers. There were biology majors who had astounding musical talent, dancers who I saw working as tour guides, and students who volunteered at hospitals. It was then that I realized that Ursinus students are not just a group of students; they are so many so well-rounded students. Ursinus students do not confine themselves to their academic department or their special talents, they reach out to expand their skills and make themselves exceptional students. I often find myself seeing a student at an event and thinking, “Man, they do everything on this campus!” And it really rings true for such a small student body, Ursinus students work hard to do a lot and I would like to thank this campus community for providing me with this amazing home for the past four years. I would like to thank the Ursinus experience. I had the opportunity to study abroad, complete research with a professor, be a UC Ambassador, serve on various boards for charity events, work on campus, and write for this paper. I’m not sure I could have made these experiences a reality without the Ursinus experience. Thank you Ursinus. Ursinus has been a great four years.
I am not a Campbell's Soup Can: Writing beyond the surface

By Carly Siegler
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Andy Warhol once said, "if you want to know all about Andy Warhol, just look at the surface of my paintings and films and me, and there you'll find nothing behind it." It is ironic then that as I have spent the past nine months discovering all of the layers that exist beneath my surface, I have been writing in such a way that could easily confuse my readership (assuming that I have readership) into thinking that I am a highly superficial person. I am sure to tell you not to be misled by two semesters of movie reviews and Timeselton gossip from yours truly. If anything, completing my freshman year at Ursinus and writing for The Grizzly simultaneously has been a significant part of strengthening my self-awareness. 

And I would like to share with you briefly my experience as a freshman writer, and as a reader.

I had written for my newspaper all throughout high school. Again, I stuck to what I was comfortably familiar with. You could find in the pages of "People" or "Entertainment Weekly." When I got to college, one of the biggest culture shocks a young person will ever experience, it was only natural at the beginning that I stuck to what I knew. Every week I submitted a movie review, a play review once but not thinking the differences of the movies are, no matter how diverse the actors, the writing becomes formulaic.

When I was in high school I was a critic for the Greater Philadelphia Cappies. I went around to different high schools in the area, saw their shows, and reviewed them. Every critic's ultimate goal was publication, which was a way to realize your goals. I followed the guidelines: to us was into be as objective as possible. The problem here (and I have discussed this before) is that there is no such thing as an objective critique. It is an oxymoron. At the same time I attempted to make a political commentary in a review of the musical "Annie." There was no e-mail congratulating me on publication. I did later hear that my review had in fact gotten the play's musical director talking, and to be honest, that meant more to me than any byline in a local newspaper anyway. Now fast-forward to college, writing and look at current Opinion Editor Zach Shamberg. The first few articles I ever read by him were highly political, and more than that, presented a firm conservative viewpoint for the students of what I have come to see as a relatively liberal campus. I myself am very much on the left, but I absolutely loved his articles. They were funny and fresh and honest, and they argued his point well. I will probably never agree with Zach's opinions on politics, but I will always respect them. It is not my patience for writing about politics nor the background knowledge requisite to argue the subject well, so

I saw this group, with their royal blue polo's and star pins, I knew that they had to be a part of my life. While I have always enjoyed leadership programs, I never quite experienced something so life-changing, so eye-opening, and as soul-searching as the Ambassador program. Putting all of the rewarding community service and volunteer work aside, the UC Ambassador made me dive into myself, discover the real me, and taught me how to accept and embrace that person. A UC Ambassador simply defines what it means to be a friend and change agent. This individual opened his/her heart to me, allowing me to feel what it means to be unconditionally loved. When I cried and exposed my deepest, darkest moments of my life, you did not judge, you did not even comment. Instead, you listened as you offered your shoulder for me to lean on. These are the moments of friendship that will forever be remembered. These are the moments when I feel "infinite," and define why I love and cherish my Ursinus friend.

On May 15, 2010, you, my Ursinus friend, will watch as I walk on to the stage in my cap and gown, accept the piece of paper that I appropriately earned, marking the commencement of my journey into the next chapter of my life. I would not have finished this past chapter without you. Whether you were the professor who pushed me towards success, the roommate who kept me humble, the Ambassador who helped me discover the person I truly am, you changed me just by being my friend. This is my tribute to you. This is my sincere thank you.

We all have individual stories, experiences and moments that define our lives. My story is not complete. In fact, my story is just taking flight. Either way, as the song "For Good" from the musical Wicked suggests, "whatever way our stories end, I know you have rewritten mine, by being my friend.'
Senior Spotlight: UC Softball’s Lauren Davis-Macedonia

By Nick Pane
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To measure the success of a pitcher, one normally has to ignore a pitcher’s record, and focus on their individual earned run average. For a pitcher as dominant as Lauren Davis-Macedonia, any statistic can be used to justify her status among the elite.

Davis-Macedonia, captain of the Softball team and the group’s only senior, has been baffling hitters since introducing herself to the rest of the Centennial Conference. Her numbers are sparkling, with an ERA of .68, well under an average of one run allowed per game. She currently sits at 21-4, with 21 complete games and an outstanding 247 strikeouts compared to just 22 walks. The numbers speak for themselves, as Davis-Macedonia said that the potential revealed itself at a young age. “It was suggested to me [at age nine] that I try out for pitching,” said Davis-Macedonia. “The coach’s sister had been a pitcher at Temple University and was at our tryouts to help her brother that day. When I started to pitch, she thought I had a lot of potential so she offered to give me lessons. From then on, I was a pitcher and knew that was the position I wanted to play in college.”

The decision has certainly paid off for Davis-Macedonia, who had originally played catcher and shortstop before becoming a pitcher. However, Davis-Macedonia claimed that she could not have done it alone. “I have always been a competitor and dedicated to anything I set out to do,” said Davis-Macedonia. “But if it were not for my parents, I would not be where I am now. They were willing to take me to two or three pitching classes per week, the closest about 20 minutes from my house and the furthest an hour and a half away. When I was not at a lesson, I threw to the wall in my basement or my dad would catch for me when he had the time.”

There was clearly dedication to the goal on both sides, which ultimately help Davis-Macedonia accomplish what she has to this point in her stellar career. Coach McGowan has held his prized pitcher in high regard since her decision to come to Ursinus, and she has not disappointed. Ursinus easily snared the conference championship this season, cruising to a regular season record of 27-5 behind an extremely young, but talented roster. Davis-Macedonia credited the teams’ chemistry and ability to come together as teammates, saying “they have a great understanding of the game.” The unit certainly figures to enjoy years of success together as they continue to mature and learn. For Davis-Macedonia, however, this is the final stretch to a remarkable and unforgettable career in an Ursinus uniform. She credited the program for helping her to understand the meaning of teamwork and the impact different people can have through one’s own personal experiences. “I have been so fortunate to play this game with so many great teammates over my four years at Ursinus and have learned so much from them,” said Davis-Macedonia. “They have taught me how to work on a team, to trust that your teammates will always be there for you, to understand that everyone has a role to play in your life and that when you are least expecting it, they will change you.”

Senior Spotlight: Track & Field, Travis Youngs

By Shane Echus
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“Mediocre at best.” Not exactly the way one would describe a Centennial Conference champion, a multiple event school record holder, and an individual who has competed on some of the biggest stages in track and field, including the Penn Relays and NCAA National Championships. But this is how Ursinus College senior Travis Youngs described himself upon his arrival to Collegeville in the fall of 2006. Need less to say, Youngs, a native of Mount Vernon, New York, has undergone considerable improvement since his freshman season, when he finished 9th in the triple jump in the Centennial Conference. When asked about the keys to his success and progression, Youngs credited the coaching staff here at Ursinus, as well as some past jumpers. “Watching Matt Terry (class of 2007) and having really good coaching here helped me jump three feet further from my freshman to sophomore year. Seeing guys with really good technique and being taught [that technique] helped me a lot,” Youngs explained.

The technique and coaching Youngs received in his time at Ursinus lead him to a number of milestone moments. Youngs established school records in both the indoor and outdoor Triple Jump, with marks of over 14.5 meters in both. Youngs established, and reestablished his indoor triple jump mark in 3 consecutive weeks at one point during his illustrious Bears’ career, a feat somewhat unimaginable for many in the world of track and field. However, these accomplishments, as is the case for most athletes in the little publicized sport of track and field, tended to go unnoticed. That is fine with Youngs, “I do it because I love it. When you get a track team together of guys who just love it, it makes it that much more special, and we definitely have that here,” he continued “I’m going to miss it, the team, I love going to practice joking around, hanging out and even talking to our coaches like they’re my best friends.”

Youngs, who will be placed in the record books as one of the most successful jumpers in Ursinus College track and field history, has blazed a path down the long jump and triple jump runway. A runway for Ursinus that according to Youngs, is “stacked” with talent, and could potentially take home all three medals at Centennial Conference championships, in the long jump in particular. This likely would aid the Bears greatly in one goal of Youngs, which has yet to be met, a team championship. When asked of his expectations for the remainder of his career as an Ursinus Bear triple jumper, Youngs had this to say. “I’d like to maximize my final two meets, go out with wins and obviously go out as a conference champ. And as weird as it sounds, I want to go out big. 15 meters in triple jump, to set a PR that I had set up for myself a while back.” 15 meters? That’s longer than the average greyhound bus, that’s nearly 5 stories high, that’s pretty far fora just a hop, skip, and a jump. That would be a pretty strong statement, especially for someone who was once “mediocre at best.”

Season Records:

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