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Students enjoy summer vacation abroad

By Michael Delaney
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Summer is a wonderful chance for college students to travel, be it to a friend’s house or across the country on a road trip. For many Ursinus students, though, this summer offered a chance to explore the world itself. From Europe to Asia to South America, almost no corner of the world went untouched by this school’s intrepid globe trekkers.

For a handful of Ursinus students, travel was a chance to explore the world itself. Though this summer offered a chance for college students to travel abroad, almost no comer of the world went untouched by this event. As students at Ursinus College, we were one of the biggest groups on campus devoted to bringing events and entertainment to the UC student body,” explains Burns, “We do everything involved in bringing an event to campus, starting with the idea and following through with the organization, booking and running of the event...CAB allows the student body to have a say in what fun entertainment they want on campus, instead of leaving it up to the college to read our minds and hope the events are interesting.”

The events kick of September 3rd (tonight) from 9-12 pm in front of BWC with a OJ toast. The events are continued to Features, page 5.

A freshman’s take on the first-year orientation experience

By Giavonna Banner
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My first predictions about freshman orientation? I thought it was going to be a zoo. People running around with their arms full of clothes, supplies, electronics, etc. Parents out of control, nagging their kids to do this, remember that. Well, let me be the first to say that Ursinus’ freshmen orientation did not disappoint. Not only were there new hesitant students and ecstatic parents rushing around to unload their cars, but the entire football team was lugging suitcases, refrigerators, microwaves, etc. into the freshmen dorms. This was truly a pleasant surprise — who wouldn’t want to watch a bunch of athletes haul their belongings up to their room for them? I don’t think I carried a single thing up to my new room.

As for unpacking and attempting to organize, well that took hours. For awhile it looked like a tornado had hit room 214. Eventually the mess was tamed, my parents reluctantly said their last words and left, and me, a freshman, was finally on my own. Time for the orientation activities to begin.

I did not really know what to expect when it came to the orientation activities – were we going to talk about ourselves, have long group conversations, play games, or what? My question was answered when my hall’s RAs had us play trust and... 

“Freshman” is continued to Features, page 4.
International News with Lisa: Oil spill, Racism, Mosques and Mines

By Lisa Jobe
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Oil spill
August 30, 2010

According to BP’s internal investigation, some of the blame for the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster can be pinned on BP managers who misinterpreted pressure data indicating a blowout could occur.

Findings on the Gulf Oil Spill

According to an anonymous source, the managers interpreted the tests results to mean that the rig was in good shape, and that they could begin replacing denser drilling fluid in the well with seawater. However, the seawater was too light to prevent the rig from exploding, killing 11 workers. The damaged well leaked 4 million barrels’ worth of crude oil into the sea before it could be capped.

Obama’s administration and BP came to an agreement in which BP will pay $20 billion to cover damages. The disaster ultimately sank the $365 million rig, and closed thousands of square miles of the gulf to fishing, worrying many whose livelihood depends on the Gulf.

Former USDA Official on Racism in America

Shirley Sherrod, former Department of Agriculture employee who was forced to resign last month over allegations of racism, told CNN that she hopes to continue to work on issues of race in America.

Obama Weighs In on Ground Zero Mosque Controversy

This past weekend, President Obama clarified remarks defending the right of Muslims to build a community center and mosque near Ground Zero, insisting that he is not commenting on “the wisdom” of the proposed project, but rather on the American principle of freedom of religion.

“In this country we treat everybody equally and in accordance with the law, regardless of race, regardless of religion. I was not commenting and I will not comment on the wisdom of making the decision to put a mosque there. I was commenting very specifically on the right people have that’s what our country is about,” President Obama clarified further.

Chilean Miners May Have to Wait till December for Rescue

Drilling has begun in a complicated and delicate plan to rescue 33 Chilean miners trapped in a mine 2,200 feet below ground. The men were trapped August 5 by a cave-in. The miners may not be rescued until December; in the meantime, supplies are being sent down to them via a small hole. A miniature home theater system is even being sent down to occupy the miners during their long wait, and teams of psychologists stand by to assess the group’s mental health.

The men have been in good spirits since establishing contact with the outside world on Sunday, but psychologists worry that will not last long, and stress the importance of maintaining morale during the long ordeal.

The plan to rescue the miners involves drilling a tiny “pilot” hole down to the miners’ location, then widening the hole to a rescue chimney that will only be 26 inches wide. The men will then be pulled up, one-by-one; just hauling the miners to the surface will take four days, barring any unexpected problems.

“Travel Abroad” is continued from front page.

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“I enjoyed the experience,” Doll shared, “and I want to be able to speak more Spanish. I was hesitant this year, but I might go back next year.”

Meanwhile, Stephanie Belaires, a freshman exercise sciences major, experienced her own Spanish immersion as she spent seventeen days touring Spain with her high school. “We started at Madrid, and we went all the way down south,” Belaires outlined. “We probably saw over ten different cities.” Some of those cities she visited include Barcelona, Cordoba, and Burgos. “We went to a lot of museums and cathedrals,” she explained, “so we learned a lot, but another aspect was having fun.”

While in Spain, Belaires also witnessed the excitement following the Spain’s victory at the World Cup. “I was in Burgos in a town square, and the people were crazy,” Belaires recounted. “They were dancing after they won, and they were jumping in fountains.”

In the excerpt, Sherrod seemed to be saying that she had not helped a white farmer to the fullest extent of her ability, seemingly in retaliation for her father’s murder by a white farmer. However, it was later found that Sherrod had given the speech before she was employed by the USDA, and the full speech showed that Sherrod was telling the story to illustrate the need to move beyond race. Furthermore, the white farmer mentioned in the speech came forward and credited Sherrod for saving his farm.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack apologized to Sherrod and offered her a new position outside of agriculture. Vilsack said he had not predicted the uproar over the project. The proposal site is two blocks from where the Twin Towers stood.

Meanwhile, Stephanie Belaires recounted, “I want to have a good time. Most of the time I’d be traveling around to local public schools in rural areas,” said Lockard, “teaching health classes to kids, and I’d teach three or four classes a day.”

Some subjects which she taught include basic hygiene, the dangers of malnutrition, and sex education. “Guatemala actually has the sixth worst malnutrition rate in the world,” said Lockard, “which is pretty atrocious.” Lockard also taught children how to conserve the environment.

“Guatemala is a country of extremes,” she recalled. “There’s extreme poverty and extreme wealth right next to each other. It’s chaotic at times, but a lot of fun.”

And fun is exactly what Michael Alfieri had when he visited Brighton, England for four and a half weeks. In his own words, the trip was “incredible, the best experience I’ve had. More fun than I expected and the transition was really easy.”

Be it wakeboarding in France or playing in the English Chanel or playing in an indoor soccer league, Alfieri truly took every opportunity to have a good time. “Everyone in England was very nice,” he said. “Once you made friends with them they would invite you everywhere.”

It is always exciting to visit another country, and despite initial challenges adapting to a new culture, these few Ursinus students, and many more, can all agree that traveling abroad is an amazing experience. In many cases, though, the only thing more exciting than going abroad is finally coming home.
Greek Life rushes into Fall season with new regulations

By Katie Haldeman
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As we are all well aware, there are some major changes occurring in the Ursinus College Greek Life community this year. Kim Taylor, Assistant Dean of Students and also head of Greek Life, took time to discuss the changes a little more in depth. Taylor hopes the Greeks take all these changes as a “challenge” and wants them to excel. “I believe our Greeks can do great things,” said Taylor while mentioning there are five main components to a successful Greek Life program: scholarship, leadership, community involvement, civic engagement, and having fun.

The changes implemented this year are to ensure the most effective outcome of these five attributes.

One of the biggest changes is the time period available to sororities and fraternities to “rush.” For those not familiar with the previous Greek Life system, rushing would occur for a majority of the Fall semester in years past. After winter break, students would come back and receive formal or informal bids from sororities or fraternities that were interested in getting to know you a bit better. The student then accepted their bid and was given a formal bid by that sorority or fraternity, allowing them to pledge said organization.

Pleading would then take place for about three weeks within the first half of the semester. After the time was finished, the student was accepted into the organization. The amount of time organizations can spend with their pledges has also changed. Taylor explained she no longer wants to allow the opportunity for Greeks to spend over 60 hours a week pledging and therefore it has now been cut down to only 20 hours a week during specific time periods. By October 15th the entire process of becoming a new brother or sister will be completed.

Pledging and recruiting can now only take place during the fall semester. Therefore, Greeks have a clear opportunity to spend the entire year representing themselves to the best of their ability. In reference to recruitment, as of this year freshman students are no longer able to participate in Greek Life. This was put in place to make sure that freshmen are given the chance to fully relax and deal with the first year of college for what it is. Taylor said she wants the first year students to be able to just see everything in front of them. She continued to explain that freshmen have enough decisions to contemplate in the first month, there is no reason to push this one on them as well.

This change will allow sororities and fraternities the entire year to recruit, allowing freshmen the chance to find the best fit for them and see what it truly means to be part of a Greek organization.

Lindsay Budnick, one of the presidents of the Greek Council, commented on her reaction to the changes. Budnick feels that these changes are the beginning of something really good. She feels that by having the entire year shows the Ursinus community that being part of a sorority or a fraternity is more than just rushing, it is an opportunity to do more positive things and get more involved in the community.

As for the idea of freshmen not being able to pledge Budnick said, “it may hurt the numbers for some,” but feels confident that everyone will work out perfectly in the end. This is not the first time Greek Life has changed its system. Every few years it seems as though the way the college runs its Greek Life program changes again.

Taylor mentioned that the outcome of the newest change will be a good one. She has great faith in our campus’ Greek Life organization and she knows that this outcome will raise the bar and make Ursinus Greek Life not only better but stronger as well.
Word on the street: Freshmen chime in with mixed emotions and different expectations

By Katie Haldeman
kahaldeman@ursinus.edu

Zach Hostetter - PreMed
Lancaster, PA
Most excited for:
Meeting all the people in the dorms.
Least excited for:
Reading the summer book.

Kelly Cinalli - Undecided
Miami, FL
Most excited for: Meeting people, getting smarter, not failing, and having a good time - all at once.
Least excited for: All the work, writing papers, and CIE.

Charles Lee - Neuroscience
Orange County, CA
Most excited for:
The snow!
Least excited for:
Morning classes.

Melissa Arey - Undecided
Bethesda, MD
Most excited for:
Getting close friends.
Least excited for:
CIE.

Check us out every Monday night in Olin 103 at 7:00 p.m. for our weekly meeting. Can’t make it to the meeting? Have a story idea? Want to write for us? E-mail grizzly@ursinus.edu or the section editor you would like to write for. Don’t forget to search for us on Facebook!

Speed dating with new UC professors

By Katie Haldeman
kahaldeman@ursinus.edu

As we all arrive back on campus it is important to acknowledge not only the new physical changes but also the new changes in faculty and staff. I took the opportunity to do what I call “speed dating” with as many of our new professors and staff around the campus as possible, to ask them some different questions.

To start off my round of “dates” I conversed with our most recent edition to the Math/Computer Science Department, Nicholas Scoville. Scoville is a graduate of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He mentioned that during his undergraduate career his biggest fear was that he, “would not be able to fake [his] way to a degree.” He further explained that when he was in graduate school, his biggest fear was that he would not be able to fake original research, and now, at Ursinus he explained his biggest fear is that he won’t be able to fake that he actually knows what he is talking about.

He said, “sooner or later the charade must end. I will be found out.” All these fears are something students can probably relate to.

When Prof. Scoville isn’t teaching he can be found enjoying a unique sport, bodybuilding. “I’m not into most sports. The one sport I am partial to is body building. There is a sport that requires complete and total discipline in everything you do.”

When it comes to television Scoville explained, “I don’t watch much TV anymore, but back in the day it would have to be The Cosby Show and Saved by the Bell.” When I had satellite, I enjoyed Life is Worth Living.”

Aside from an interest in bodybuilding and remembering his old favorite shows, he said his favorite thing to do for fun is to spend time playing with his two daughters.

Dr. Carlita Favero is the latest biology professor. A graduate of William and Mary (undergraduate) and University of Virginia (graduate), she explained that her favorite sport is dance and that she loves sleeping, a lot! When she isn’t sleeping she enjoys spending time with her children and family. She loves the colors orange and purple but depending on what shade of green it is she loves that as well.

Like Professor Scoville shedoesn’twatch alot of television but she did say she is a fan of Medium with Patricia Arquette and Ward Girl, which airs on PBS.

She also gave advice to her future students: Be proactive! read for class, investigate the subject on your own (don’t expect to be spoon fed), get help if you’re having trouble.

Although only two of the new professors on the UC campus were highlighted, look out for future interviews with more of our latest faculty and staff.

“Freshman” is continued from front page.

communication games, ones that made us step out of our element a little bit to solve a common problem.

It was really interesting to see who lead, who followed, and who stayed in the shadows. Regardless of who had to sing during one game or bark like a dog during the other, the orientation games achieved its purpose: breaking the ice and getting everyone to step a little bit out of their shell.

Then came the seminars.

There were a few of them – one on alcohol, another on rape, and even an inspirational speaker.

I must say, these lectures were very well put together. I can honestly say(9,824),(987,940) that I walked out of each discussion with a little more knowledge under my belt. Whether it was how to spot a sexual predator, to the volume of alcohol in a drink, to the importance of diversity in my freshmen class, I definitely enjoyed every minute of learning about these important concepts.

At the end of the day, the question became, “Now that I’m here, how do I feel about Ursinus?”

Truthfully, I couldn’t really answer that question until the end of my first weekend here. After the first day, though I was excited, I was a little skeptical. I had really expected to make more friends the first night, and I was expecting everyone to be a little more outgoing. But the truth is, the first night of freshmen year all of us newly independent young adults are still adjusting to our newfound freedom.

Fortunately, by the second day mostly everyone is ready to be themselves and meet new people- which is exactly what I did. I went from a dance party with a strobe light in one dorm to a community jam session in the first floor common room of Beardwood Hall.

In one day I made a bunch of new friends, and I met the kind of friendly, easygoing, and unique people that had attracted me to the campus in the first place.

This is what I had truly expected Ursinus College to be like. So, in short, Freshmen Orientation was a success. Rather than it being something to get through, It was something that I think everyone came to enjoy. Now we just have to learn to enjoy classes!
Summer Fellows: Taking undergrad research one step further

By Katie Holdeman
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While most of the students from Ursinus College were at home relaxing and enjoying their summer, there were over 200 students on campus doing research and being part of a unique and wonderful experience called Summer Fellows.

According to Katie Greco, a junior biochem major, "[Summer Fellows] is a great opportunity to build a relationship with a professor, ditch the textbooks, and do some real hands-on work instead of just talking about great ideas."

Summer fellows is an eight to ten week program that allows students from Ursinus College to work closely with a professor and delve deeper into a topic that interests them. It can range from a topic in biology to English to dance. There is a wide array of options.

"Summer Fellows is an excellent way to hone in on one particular topic and even get real hands-on work instead of having to juggle multiple times throughout the semester and win a big prize at the end," explained Burns.

Other events to look forward to this semester are viewings of DVDs not yet released on DVD once a month on Paisley Beach — the first viewing will be September 18th at 9 pm with a showing of Iron Man 2. Other movies to look forward to are Toy Story 3 and Inception.

"CAB" is continued from front page.

Bums says, "It’s a great message and even greater performance!"

The third big event of the semester will be on September 10th with the price is right game show during Late Night Lower. Everyone is given a chance to play and leftover prizes will be raffled off at the conclusion of the show.

On September 14th at 8 pm there will be a RC Car Racing Tournament. "We’re going to turn Wismer Lower into one giant racing track and let those who sign up compete for the high score multiple times throughout the semester and win a big prize at the end," explained Burns.

Other events to look forward to this semester are viewings of DVDs not yet released on DVD once a month on Paisley Beach — the first viewing will be September 18th at 9 pm with a showing of Iron Man 2. Other movies to look forward to are Toy Story 3 and Inception.

There will also be Halloween events, and the possibility of an outdoor concert of sorts. And of course there is always the Spring Fling in which CAB sets up activities each day of the week and it ends in a big festival.

Bums explained, "It’s going to be a year jam-packed with CAB goodness that everyone will enjoy!"

For anyone who is interested in getting involved in CAB she says, "It is really easy to get involved with CAB...just show up to our meetings on Mondays at 7 pm in Wismer Lower Lounge. We want to hear everyone’s ideas and perspectives on events because CAB is here to entertain the students. We always need more volunteers to help run events and we’re planning to pack in a lot this year, so we’re going to need more hands than ever."

They are always looking for more to be involved and as Burns explained, "we’re like those gummy vitamins: CAB taste delicious AND is actually really good for you because you’re involved!"

"The Ursinus College Alphabet

By Greta M-w
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A is for Alumni, who love to stop by their old room
B is for Brunch, Sunday’s are the best
C is for College, our’s is Ursinus
D is for Door, remember to knock
E is for Education, which is why we are here
F is for Facebook, don’t creep in
G is for Gym, don’t go at 4:30
H is for Hook Up, who even
knows what that means
I is for Inbreation, it happens sometimes
J is for JBOARD, behave so you never go
K is for Karma, they say it comes around
L is for Lanyards, don’t wear them around your neck
M is for Mirror Windows, go look at Thomas
N is for No, and it means no
O is for Olin, which is open 24 hours
P is for Public knowledge, here everything it
Q is for the Quad, aka BPS
R is for Reimert, a glistening world
S is for Shane Walk, make sure you wear good shoes
T is for Triangle, in front of BWC
U is for Upper, please call it Wis V is for Venerial Diseases, always use condoms
W is for Wisner, Wis works too.
X is for Ex, which your high school romance will soon be
Y is for Youngest, which you now are
Z is for Zack’s, call it by this name"
Point: Allow citizens to build mosque in New York City

By Derrick Wickward
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When it comes to the War on Terror, Americans, even those who are not politically inclined, tend to have strong opinions. Due to the nightmarish events that occurred on 9/11, many Americans often associate terrorism with Muslims and the Islamic religion. So when the idea of building a mosque about two blocks away from the site of the most devastating terrorist attack in American history came up, it was bound to strike a nerve.

To be honest, when I first heard this story, I became enraged. I consider myself to be very patriotic and the events of 9/11 were so heinous that my emotions got the better of me. I responded as I feel many Americans probably reacted when they first heard the idea. I considered it a smack in the face to the victims of 9/11 and to the rest of the American people. But now that I have had time to calm my emotions and reflect on the situation with a clear head, I feel that not allowing the mosque to be built would be a breach of American values and would be detrimental to the War on Terror.

My first and foremost reason for reaching this conclusion is the simple fact that this mosque is being built by AMERICAN Muslims. They are citizens of this great country and deserve to be treated as such. They did not ask for the negative stereotype that the Islamic extremists have bestowed upon them. They did not wish to shed the blood of their fellow Americans. They mourned as we mourned nine years ago. They lost as we lost. They were born here and they have their religion. Could you imagine the uproar that would be caused if Christians were told that they could not build a church where they wish? Or if the Jews were told that they could not build a synagogue? Just because Islam is still a minority religion in this country does not mean that it should be treated any differently.

To further highlight the patriotic nature of my opinion, I also thought about the general effect that the mosque situation would have on the War on Terror. What do you think the reaction in the Muslim world would be if we disregarded one of our greatest values and discriminated against their religion? It would only be more ammo for the terrorists. Those responsible for the attack on our country that built up people’s misdirected anger toward a religion in the first place would rejoice because they would now have powerful propaganda to use against the United States and its people. They would spread the message that Americans hate Muslims and it would only fuel the terrorist movement.

This would result in more attacks, more suicide bombings, and more innocent casualties and would ultimately be damaging to the War on Terror, and it would all stem from the intolerance of emotionally charged people. Do people have the right to be angry about 9/11? Of course. Do they have the right to want to punish those responsible? Sure. But do they have the right to treat American Muslims as second class citizens because of their faith? Absolutely not. If they want to build their mosque, then let them build their mosque! If nothing else, it will show that the American people are tolerant of all religions and that we will not be swayed or intimidated by the atrocious actions of terrorists.

Counterpoint: Build the “ground zero” mosque somewhere else

By Thamer Jendoubi
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Park51 or “the Ground Zero Mosque” as it is more commonly referred to in the media, has been at the center of a heated dispute between liberals and conservatives in the past few weeks. The proposed project, which would see a thirteen-story Islamic center built in lower Manhattan (less than 3 blocks away from where the 9/11 attacks took place), has been fiercely contested by many Americans who feel that such a center would be disrespectful to those who lost their lives on 9/11 as well as the victims’ families. Others, who are in favor of building the center, argue that it is unfair to make all Muslims pay for the crimes of a handful and that Muslims should be able to practice their religion freely, just like everyone else in this country. While both sides make valid points, neither is entirely correct and unfortunately, only one of those sides is going to get what they want, and I believe that side should be the opponents of the project.

First, let me start by saying that it is not the arguments of those against the Islamic center that have convinced me that it should not be built. On the contrary, most of the arguments I’ve heard from that side are actually quite poor. Some opponents say that they wouldn’t mind the center being built farther away from Ground Zero, or that it’s too soon after the attacks to have a mosque that close to the site. To that, I would ask: where must the center be built in order for it to be an acceptable distance? If two blocks is too close, how about three? Or ten? Or fifty? Where’s the line, and who draws it?

The same goes for the question of time, and I might add that the Manhattan Mosque has been a mere five blocks from Ground Zero, and no one seems to have had a problem with it. No, it’s not these arguments that have influenced me. I believe that the center shouldn’t be built simply because it would offend so many people. Whether this offense is justified or not is a different matter, but the fact remains that people would take offense to this Islamic center; people whose relatives were killed by extremists who also happened to be Americans. They mourn Similarly, I feel that such a center could only be more ammo for the terrorists. Those responsible for the attack on our country that built up people’s misdirected anger toward a religion in the first place would rejoice because they would now have powerful propaganda to use against the United States and its people. They would spread the message that Americans hate Muslims and it would only fuel the terrorist movement.

This would result in more attacks, more suicide bombings, and more innocent casualties and would ultimately be damaging to the War on Terror, and it would all stem from the intolerance of emotionally charged people. Do people have the right to be angry about 9/11? Of course. Do they have the right to want to punish those responsible? Sure. But do they have the right to treat American Muslims as second class citizens because of their faith? Absolutely not. If they want to build their mosque, then let them build their mosque! If nothing else, it will show that the American people are tolerant of all religions and that we will not be swayed or intimidated by the atrocious actions of terrorists.
Book review: A student’s brief take on Oscar Wao

By Emily Short
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It takes a talented writer to create a novel that makes the reader laugh while telling a decidedly tragic story. This is exactly what Junot Diaz does in The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.

While at first I was not terribly interested in the persona of Oscar Wao or Dominican history, the book is written with such a unique, witty, and casual tone that it sucked me in after only a few pages. The humor is shocking, sarcastic, and biting at times. The style of black comedy in particular makes one feel almost uncomfortable laughing while reading, as it pokes fun at the misfortunes of the characters. However, the humor balances out the depressing aspects of the book and propels the story forward.

One aspect of the book that really stands out is the utmost care Diaz takes to introduce his characters so that the reader understands each of their pasts, aspirations, feelings and motivations as they make decisions in their lives. It is a story of interwoven characters. The first is the Dominican boy Oscar. He is grossly overweight, heavily involved in nerd and science fiction culture, and passionately in love with women. He is in a battle against his perpetual virginity and is constantly rejected by women.

In order to understand Oscar’s story we get to meet and delve into the past and present lives of those closest to him, such as his mother, sister, and college roommate. Diaz tells each character’s history in great detail, in such a way that the reader can develop an emotional and empathetic bond with each one. It is an anecdotal and character-driven story.

The plot may not always be fast-paced, but that isn’t to say there isn’t any action. There are stories of gangsters, murder, crime, sex, love, rejection, pregnancy, cancer, rebellion, and passion. It seems there is never a dull moment in the lives of Oscar’s supposedly cursed family. Nor does it seem there is ever a happy one.

The novel is rich with the culture of Santo Domingo and Diaz provides the reader with an in-depth, but optional, telling of Dominican history in the form of footnotes.

The most distinctive and enticing aspect of the story is the author’s tone. It is casual, filled with pop-culture references, and written in a way that feels more like a conversation than a book. This tone makes the book interesting and accessible to all varieties of readers.

Although the use of Spanish gives the book a very realistic feeling, the heavy use of Spanish phrases and slang may be off-putting to some who are not familiar with the language.

Another interesting aspect of Diaz’s storytelling is that the point of view is that of an outsider. We are not usually inside of the characters’ heads. This allows the story to be told in an almost objective manner.

This book, the campus’s kickoff to a new program called “Ursinus is talking about...” is a surprisingly captivating read. The story of Oscar Wao is one that everyone should hear.

Summer at the multiplex (and a musical): Part I of II

By Carly Siegler
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Jesus strums on his guitar, sings, and turns to the audience and says “Summer has come and passed. The innocent can never last.” No, not that Jesus. I’m talking about the Jesus of Suburbia, Green Day’s representative here on earth for the angst and disillusionment of the young people of a post-9/11 America. First introduced on the 2004 album “American Idiot,” Jesus is now Johnny (John Gallagher, Jr.) who, along with a cast of talented “disciples,” has been rocking out all summer at Broadway’s St. James Theatre, the perfect kickoff to my summer’s entertainment.

There. I have been dying to plug “Al” for months. Now that that’s out of my system, I would like to say that it’s good to be back. I really have missed rambling on about my passion for all things entertaining (sparkly, shiny, and sparkly). These past months. I would be lying if I told you that the multitude of movies, books, theater, and concerts that occupied my summer were all for the sole benefit of you faithful “Grizzly” readers, but I promise that I always had you in mind, whether I was snapping photos of Broadway marquises or jotting down notes in dark 28 dark cinemas in preparation for this very moment.

Whether or not the majority of women would go to Shakespeare’s poison-chugging, dagger-thrusting heroine for love advice beside the point, “Letters to Juliet,” starring Amanda Seyfried, Christopher Egan and Vanessa Redgrave, was one of the sweetest, if not most predictable, love stories to grace the screen in recent years. Speaking of misunderstood martyrs, Russell Crowe as “Robin Hood,” was a merry time (excuse the pun), a delectable spectacle of action and romance, courtesy of Crowe’s chemistry with fellow Aussie Cate Blanchett’s Lady Marion.

“Sex and the City 2” was predictably glitzy, but with the exception of the agelessly funny Kim Cattrall, this is one franchise that needs to take off its Manolo Blahnik’s and call it a night before it becomes nothing more than a blister on the heel of the flawless television series. Another sequel that was just not up to par was “Iron Man 2,” although that did not stop the box office gods from smiling upon it. “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse,” on the other hand, may be the third of five installments, but this film was the strongest yet, despite Kristen Stewart’s (un)dead line readings.

It’s been a few years since either Julia Roberts or Tom Cruise have headlined a summer blockbuster. Unfortunately, Cruise have been a bit sillier than the films that made him famous, but every time he flashes that boyish grin, it is a reminder that this man will forever be Tom Cruise, movie star. “Eat, Pray, Love,” starring Julia Roberts could do with a little change. Perhaps something like “This spaghetti looks damn good too bad I can’t look like Julia Roberts after eating it, time for a bathroom break.”

Myrin Library display of Junot Diaz’s novel. Students can look forward to more events being held that all revolve around Diaz’s piece. Photo by Carly Siegler

“Eat, Pray, Love” was produced by Brad Pitt, whose female counterpart Angelina Jolie starred in “Salt,” as a CIA agent who must clear her name when she is accused of being a Russian spy. The movie, which is nonstop action, takes more than a few cues from Brad’s buddy Matt Damon’s much clev­erer Bourne films. Meanwhile, Brad’s ex, Jennifer Aniston starred alongside Jason Bateman in “The Switch,” a rom-com about a woman who unknowingly inseminates herself (artificially, that is) with her best friend’s sperm. It’s better than it sounds, I swear.

When it comes down to it, the best blockbusters of the summer were the adorable “Toy Story 3” and Christopher Nolan’s “Inception.” The beautiful Pixar film recently became the highest grossing animated movie of all time. Now personally, I’m hoping that Toy Story 4 finds the toys actually at college with Andy (Buzz gets buzzed!). I can tell you now that as much as I loved the acid trip that was “Inception,” this epic, like “Avatar” before it, will not be taking home the big prize come Oscar Night. Unless someone plants the idea inside the Academy Members’ heads...

Stay tuned for next week, where I will dissect what the independent film world had to offer this summer, from a young woman’s search for her father in the mountains of Missouri to a love affair between a French powerhouse and a musical genius (hint: They don’t teach us this part in CIE II).
McNamara enjoys unique wrestling trip to Siberia, Russia

By Nick Pane
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Often times when a part of the world like Siberia, Russia is brought up in conversation, it is the butt of a joke. It is a part of the world that is seemingly so desolate, cold, and barren, that it hardly seems like a desirable place to visit, much less live in. It is a world that we as Americans can’t really relate to. For Ursinus junior wrestler Connor McNamara, it was a two week vacation that isn’t anything like a typical summer beach trip.

For the second half of June, McNamara competed in the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) senior wrestling tournament in the United States. He helped lead the Bears to second place finish at the Centennial Conference Championships. On a trip like this, wrestling was easily the most familiar thing to McNamara’s experience at first.

McNamara noticed immediately the differences between American customs, and that of Russian norms. “The culture there is obviously very different from our own, but the most striking aspect was their treatment of wrestlers and Americans. Wrestling is their national sport, so we were treated like celebrities, and also because we were in a very remote part of the world where Americans visitors are rare. One of the differences I had never seen an American before we went there, so our celebrity was doubled. They were incredibly excited to see us – I’ve never had the mayor of a city come and personally welcome me to his city, or come to watch me compete.”

McNamara also learned a lot from wrestling against competitors from the region, something that he intends to incorporate into his routine and his style of wrestling. The Russians are certainly known for their wrestling (McNamara said wrestling is easily comparable to the popularity of baseball in the United States), and McNamara was sure to put himself into the role of student during his time there.

He went on to talk about how the Russian style of wrestling is much more methodical than the aggressive nature of American wrestlers. “I feel that my improvement in sheer athletic terms was substantial,” said McNamara, “I learned a new appreciation for the ways that people from literally the other side of the planet are similar to and different from us, and what it really means to be an American abroad. I tried to approach the trip with the attitude that I’m unlikely ever to travel to Siberia again, so I wanted to try everything and immerse myself in the culture.”

McNamara hopes to use such a style to better himself as an athlete and lead the Bears to another strong season in the Centennial Conference. As a sophomore, McNamara, along with Connor McCormick and Nate Murren, was eliminated from the NCAA Championships in the consolation round last year. After an accolade such as a trip to Siberia, McNamara is sure to build off his experiences and go deeper into the Championship tournament come season.

Ursinus trio teams up for New Jersey Triathlon

By Nick Pane
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Ursinus junior wrestler Connor McNamara, it was a two week vacation that isn’t anything like a typical summer beach trip.

When the average person is trying to paint a picture of triathlon participants, they often think of a prototypical “Iron Man” – they are massive human beings that are gifted with a physical skill set matched by few, and the heart and guts to complete three grueling tasks one after the other without rest. It is a contest that requires one to be in excellent physical condition and put it up against one of the more challenging events in the world. This is exactly what three Ursinus students decided to do during the summer.

The triathlon itself was more or less designed to promote exercise and so there was always the desire to participate. However, smaller events such as this can bring out groups of all ages to put their physical skills to the test, something that cannot always be said in our society today. However, on this day, people and families came out in impressive numbers to compete in an event that they could measure themselves up to, and allow them to get in shape from a multitude of activities. The three Ursinus students, surely drained once the competition was all said and done, were excited at their own performance, the overall experience in itself, and the fact that they had teamed up to compete in something so unique.

“We were all excited that we participated in something that not many people have done,” said Cragg. “We were happy that we were in the physical condition to compete in these kinds of things and it was nice to see [everyone that was involved] come together.”

Ally Cragg, Brandon Russell, and Alex Potts, all juniors at Ursinus, agreed that they wanted to team up for a smaller version of a triathlon. “Alex mentioned about the triathlon, and [Brandon and I] both were interested,” said Cragg. “Later in the summer, Alex texted me about it, asking me if I really wanted to do it, and I told him I would. So his family signed us up for it.”

The three agreed to split up the events to one person per relay for the triathlon. Potts swam for a quarter mile, before handing it off to Russell for an 11-mile bike ride, and the relay concluded with Cragg’s 4-mile run. Because it was a relay, they were all able to watch each other start and finish their events. “I had never done any type of competition of that nature before, besides track meets,” said Russell, “but there were over 700 participants and I thought it was going to be really hectic riding on the busy beach roads. The whole experience was really fun.”

The triathlon itself was more or less designed to promote exercise than anything else, a cause that should never be lost on anyone. Of the 700 participants, the age range had no limits. “It was great seeing the variety of people competing, all the way from 10-year-olds to the ‘elite’ and even a couple in their 70’s that finished together,” said Russell.

It’s certainly good to know that events such as this can bring out groups of all ages to put their physical skills to the test, something that cannot always be said in our society today. However, on this day, people and families came out in impressive numbers to compete in an event that they could measure themselves up to, and allow them to get in shape from a multitude of activities. The three Ursinus students, surely drained once the competition was all said and done, were excited at their own performance, the overall experience in itself, and the fact that they had teamed up to compete in something so unique.

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Ally Cragg and Brandon Russell are both members of the Ursinus College Track & Field team.

Upcoming Games:

Friday, Sept. 3, 2010:
Volleyball @ Moravian 4:00 p.m. Tournament
Wsoccer vs. Lebanon 4:00 p.m. Valley
Volleyball @ Moravian 6:00 p.m. Tournament
Field Hockey vs. Messiah 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010:
M/W XC @ Delaware Valley Invite
Wsoccer vs. Baptist Bible 1:00 p.m.
MSoccer vs. Misericordia 3:30 p.m.
Football vs. Albright 7:00 p.m.