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Ursinus remembers Sam Morgan

Sam Morgan, who played football at Ursinus from 2009 to 2011 and was a starting defensive end during the Bears' 2010 Centennial Conference championship campaign, died suddenly on Mar. 3. Morgan, of Coventry, Pa., excelled on the football field in college and in high school. He was 21.

Morgan was a physics major at Ursinus where he was also a member of Delta Pi Sigma fraternity. He was also a key player for the Bears' defensive line. He amassed 41 tackles and three half sacks in his two seasons with the team. He died in high school. He was 21.

"He was always there when you needed him as a friend. As a teammate, you could always count on him on the field. I think that shows what kind of person he was," said teammate Chris Lenkowski, who roomed with Morgan and also played against him in high school.

"He was just so unique. I've never met anyone like him and probably never will again. When you were around him you couldn't not smile, and the way he played football was full of passion for the game," said former football player and friend Nick Grajewski.

The Ursinus community held a vigil in remembrance of Morgan on Monday, March 12 at 10 p.m. on Patterson field. Morgan's family and friends were in attendance as well as a few hundred students and faculty members who filled the bleachers on the home side of the field. A slideshow celebrating Morgan's life, achievements, and friendships was played on a screen set up on the track, after which the microphone was made available for anyone who wished to say something in honor of Morgan.

"When you met him, you just knew you wanted to be associated with him," said head football coach Peter Gallagher. "There wasn't a day Sam wasn't ready for football... for whatever you needed him as a friend. As a teammate, you could always count on him on the field. I think that shows what kind of person he was," said teammate Chris Lenkowski, who roomed with Morgan and also played against him in high school.

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Crash victims fly home

Thursday, March 15
SWITZERLAND –

Eight children who survived a deadly bus crash in Switzerland are flying home to Belgium.

Twenty-eight people of the 52 aboard the coach bus were killed after the vehicle struck the wall of a tunnel.

All six adults on board were killed along with 22 children. Many of the survivors were still in the hospital.

Belgian authorities are preparing to fly home the bodies of those who died, although nine of those who died, although nine of those who died, although nine of the children have yet to be identified.

The children had been skiing in the Swiss Alps for a week and were traveling home to Belgium on one of three buses.

The other two reached Belgium safely.

The accident is the worst in Switzerland in decades.

Some surviving children say that the driver of the bus lost concentration while trying to insert a DVD or CD, but police say that surveillance footage from inside the tunnel does not support this theory.

(overrides)

Young woman commits suicide

Thursday, March 15
MOROCCO –

A Moroccan teenager committed suicide after her family forced her to marry her rapist, sparking outrage among activists in Morocco and abroad.

Amina Filali, 16, drank rat poison last week because she had been made to marry the man who raped her when she was 15.

According to activists, her rapist married her after he promised to avoid receiving a sentence for rape.

Rape is punishable in Morocco by five to ten years in prison, or ten to twenty years if the victim is a minor. Article 475 in the penal code, which claims to defend family values, states that if a rapist marries his victim he is exonerated of the crime. When Amina’s family reported the rape, the prosecutor advised her to marry her rapist, her rejected the proposal until he was threatened with prosecution.

Amina’s father said that his daughter had complained to her mother that her husband beat her often during the five months that they were married, and that her mother had advised her to be patient.

Activists are now calling for the abolishment of Article 475.

French gunman targets school

Monday, March 19
TOULOUSE, FRANCE –

A gunman on a motorcycle shot dead at least four people, including three children, at a Jewish school in Toulouse on Monday.

A prosecutor in Toulouse said that the gunman shot at people outside the school, then pursued children into the school before fleeing the scene on motorcycle.

The gunman killed a 30-year-old Hebrew teacher, his two children aged three and six, and a third child.

A 17-year-old was also wounded. The shooting occurs just days after three soldiers were killed in two similar shootings in the same area of France.

The soldiers, one of Caribbean and two of Muslim origin, were killed in a drive-by shootings.

Prosecutors are treating all three attacks as terrorist attacks, although it was not clear if the motive was political or racist. Prosecutors confirmed that the same caliber firearm was used in all three attacks, but they could not say if it was the exact same weapon.

(Overrides)

Soldier prepares to defend actions

Monday, March 19
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON –

A U.S. soldier implicated in the killing of 16 villagers in Afghanistan had his first meeting with his defense team on Monday.

Army Staff Sergeant Robert Bales has been in solitary confinement at a military detention center in Kansas since arriving there on Friday.

Bales is suspected of walking off his base in southern Afghanistan on March 11 and gunning down the 16 civilians including nine children and three women.

Bales is a four-tour combat veteran.

He had been injured in his previous deployments to Iraq between 2003 and 2010.

He was distressed about being sent back to a war zone for a fourth tour.

Bales’ lawyer has disputed rumors that alcohol and marital problems had influenced Bales’ state of mind.

(Overrides)
Professional women advise UC students

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On Tuesday March 13, female students were invited to attend the “Women in the Workplace” program hosted by SIFE:

Students in Free Enterprise, and Career Services. Senior Rebecca Kamm and sophomore Nicole Cianciarulo organized the event along with Sharon Powers, the Associate Director for Employer Relations. A little over ten alumna were in attendance.

Some of the topics discussed by these professional women were the interview process, maintaining a balance between work and personal life, professional networking, and personal experiences in the workplace.

The discussion opened with a speech by Christy Barilotti, who graduated Ursinus in 2001.

She is currently the owner of Personal Wealth Management Company. Barilotti talked about how she achieved her career goals. Currently she works with wealth management and insurance.

"These are male dominated fields," she said. "You need to learn how to handle yourself in a male dominated industry. You have to be assertive but feminine at the same time."

Barilotti started as a biology major at Ursinus and decided to follow a different career path by pursuing an internship in financial advising for Eagle Strategies: a company linked with New York Life at the time.

In 2008, she opened her own company. Sadly, the financial crisis happened the same year; however, she was able to weather the storm.

Barilotti ended her presentation by saying; "Just because you are in your twenties does not mean that you aren't meant to be a part of the professional world. Employers want young people to work among them. Don't be intimidated."

The younger employers are often responsible for the latest and newest ideas. "The older employees want you to see you succeed."

After Barilotti's speech, UC students were matched up with two to three alumnae at their tables.

They were given twenty minutes at each table and rotated after each discussion.

At the first table, there were two alumna, Meg Dresher ('02) a GDMS Project Data Manager of Merck Pharmaceutical Company, and Lyndsay MacFeeters ('10) an employee from Shire, a biopharmaceutical company.

Both spoke about their career paths and shared advice about how to enter the workforce.

"I interviewed everywhere during my senior year. I had no idea what I wanted to do. I applied for things I had no business applying for. And then one day I went on a field trip to Shire with one of my classes to hear a presentation. After the presentation, I sent a thank you note to the man who spoke at the presentation. The next week, he called me and asked me if I was interested in applying for an internship with the company." Dresher said.

At the next table, Heather Dromgoole ('98) the Vice President of Human Resources for Access Group Incorporated, shared some advice.

"It is all about putting yourself out there," she said. "Times are different now. When I was applying for jobs it was tough because I didn't have a car and we couldn't apply for things online like we can today."

AmeriCorps reps visit

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This past Tuesday, March 13, AmeriCorps representatives Michele Carney and Zachary Nelson were invited to campus by Career Services to give interested students an opportunity to learn more about AmeriCorps and whether or not it is an option that they might consider after Ursinus.

AmeriCorps was founded in 1965 and serves as a connection between volunteers and non-profit organizations throughout the country. Nelson explains that it gives students "a chance to apply skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community."

Each year, volunteers are offered over 75,000 opportunities to work with local and national non-profit agencies through tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth, improving health services, building affordable housing, cleaning parks and streams, managing and operating after-school activities, and helping communities respond to disasters, to name a few.

Sharon Hansen Powers, one of the Career Advisors at Ursinus College, highlights the many advantages that AmeriCorps offers students. She explains that this program gives students "exposure to different issues, the attainment of hands-on experience and new skills, and the feeling of truly making a difference in the world through whichever AmeriCorps program the student participates in." Carney and Nelson add that "it is a great way to try out the work world before going back to school or taking on a full time job in your field while gaining experience in a time where college graduates are out job searching."

Even students with plans to continue their education with graduate school should consider AmeriCorps.

One of the rewards of completing service with AmeriCorps is receiving up to $5,500 toward college loans for furthering one’s education with graduate school.

As Hansen Powers indicates, "participate in an AmeriCorps program provides a great experience whether the student be applying to grad school or seeking employment."

Hansen Powers encourages any student to apply to AmeriCorps. "There is a wide array of AmeriCorps opportunities and I have known students from all backgrounds to do these programs."

In the past three years, 24 students from Ursinus have joined AmeriCorps, giving them "preferred status for federal jobs, awesome networking opportunities, and job skills that employers are looking for when they are hiring," according to Carney and Nelson.

Students interested in applying should visit the AmeriCorps website at www.americorps.com to search for fields that they would like to work in and the different placements being offered. After finding a program that they are interested in, students can then follow the on-site instructions on how to apply to that particular program.

Carney and Nelson can be contacted for questions at mfcarney@chesco.org and znelsen@chesco.org, respectively. Additionally, any of the Career Advisors at Career Services can assist interested students with their program selections and applications. Appointments can be made by calling Career Services at 610-409-3599 or emailing them at careers@ursinus.edu.

"SAM" continued from pg. 1

Kicker Keith Baker represented the football team and spoke of Morgan's dedication to his teammates and his intensity every day during practice, a quality that did much to motivate those around him. All in attendance were invited to sign a framed picture of Morgan. Many of his teammates left brief messages such as "Throw the X up," remembering Morgan's signature celebration of crossing his arms in the air after making a big play.

Gallagher presented Morgan's girlfriend with a football signed by all the members of the football team and gave his father his number 91 jersey. He closed the ceremony by saying, "Sammy, may you rest in peace, my friend."

Memorial services were held Tuesday morning at St. Basil the Great Church in Kimberton, Pa.
SIFE’s Green Team teaches children to recycle

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This year, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) will be competing in their regional competition in Baltimore, Maryland on April 4.

Danielle Tersaga, a current SIFE member and junior business & economics major, explained exactly what SIFE is about, what it has meant to her, the projects they have worked on and the impact that this organization has made on and off of the Ursinus Campus.

SIFE’s mission “is to bring together the top leaders of today and tomorrow to create a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business” Tersaga said.

The benefit is that this organization has allowed her to work within the community while also developing important leadership skills and impacting the lives of many.

Tersaga is a member of two different projects, one of which is “Women in the Workplace”, in which Ursinus alumni speak with female students regarding their career experiences.

Tersaga also works with “Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow”, which sends Ursinus students into middle schools in both East Norriton and Norristown to speak with eighth-grade students about the importance of setting goals and becoming leaders.

In addition, Tersaga is also the project leader of the Green Team, which is a recycling effort that teaches young children how to recycle and why recycling is important.

The organization explains that “despite the ongoing efforts for recycling education of adult generations, about 60% of garbage thrown away could have been recycled. Therefore, SIFE believes targeting the younger generation, when habits and trends are just beginning to form, may be the key to truly instituting sustainable practices in one’s lifestyle.”

The Green Team has gone to Children of America and will be going to the Goddard School and other local childcare centers before the end of the school year.

“We start off by sitting in a circle and showing the kids posters and objects that either can or cannot be recycled. It becomes a fun lesson, and the kids are always excited and raising their hands to answer our questions and share how they recycle at home,” Tersaga said.

The kids also have the opportunity to make craft projects after the lessons, which teaches them that many objects can be reused in different ways.

SIFE members hand out worksheets to students to see how much the kids remember from the lesson and just how much the program has benefitted them.

Not only does this project affect students within a classroom setting, but the project also makes sure to get the parents involved.

While there, UC SIFE members give the students an assignment to take home which consists of a checklist of items for children to recycle and when they are recycled.

Parents are in charge of checking items off of the list. All of the activities are interactive according to Tersaga, and photos and videos are always taken of the children making their projects and explaining what they learned.

Ursinus Mock Trial Team competes for first time

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From Feb. 24-26, the Ursinus College Intercollegiate Mock Trial Team competed at the Regional Mock Trial Competition at Lafayette College.

It was the first year Ursinus fielded a mock trial team, and under the guidance of attorney in residence John Baer, they were very successful.

According to Ben D’Alessio, who acted as a defense attorney in the case, “the Ursinus College Mock Trial Team showcased an array of talent and moxy in their first competitive tournament in school history.”

The competition focused on the fictitious criminal case, State of Midlands vs. Dawson, which involved a college student, Danny Dawson, driving two passengers, Taylor and Vanessa, home after a night of drinking at a bar that subsequently results in a crash and Vanessa’s death.

The case had a multitude of facets to it that the team spent the entire school year analyzing.

The team had to be prepared to present both a defense and prosecution of Danny Dawson to deal with charges of murder and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Although fairing pairings against highly experienced veterans such as Penn State, Ursinus won two cases on the defense.

The case that Ursinus won was led by attorneys D’Alessio, and John Mazzeo, with Daniel D’Alessio and Lauren Miller-Schaeffer acting as witnesses.

In its founding days, the team consisted of 36 students who learned the basics of the various roles and practiced various approaches to handling the case under the guidance of Jim Baer.

Baer’s experience in the courtroom, knowledge of the law, and commitment to the team were what fueled the entire program.

“Baer was very supportive. He encouraged a lot of school spirit,” said Holly Smith, who acted as a defense witness.

From the initial 36 students involved, eventually 10 students on the Intercollegiate Team were voted on in true democratic fashion.

Kate Lechleitner, the Pre-Legal Intern, and freshman Ethan Wright were also instrumental in preparing for the competition although they could not actually attend due to a conflicting track meet.

Mazzeo spoke highly of his team, and what they were able to accomplish.

“It was a learning experience and my privilege to compete alongside some of the brightest legal minds that Ursinus College has to offer. There is a lot of room for improvement but this group is determined to be even more competitive next year,” Mazzeo said.

Since the Regional Competition is over there will be one more mock trial competition held by the team in which they are separated into two groups and during two events, argue the case from the defense and prosecution side.

“The Honorable Judge Didier has agreed to preside over the event on Tuesday, March 20 and March 27. The student body is encouraged to attend.

“Whether you have an interest in law as a career, or you just want to be in a fun club, mock trial is a great time and a great way to meet new people,” said Mallon, who encourages anyone interested in joining the mock trial team.

*Note: Sophie is a junior, and member of the Intercollegiate Mock Trial Team. She participated in the competition as an attorney.
UC Bonner Leaders visit Jamaica for service trip

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Every spring break, the Ursinus Bonner Leaders take off on a week-long service trip in Jamaica, which gives Bonners firsthand experience with one of the program’s six comment commitments, International Exploration. The objective of this commitment is to help students cultivate a sense of social agency that extends across national borders, allowing students to become more participatory in a global society.

The Bonners worked at three main sites throughout their stay in Jamaica. One of the sites was the house of a local resident. Students also painted a cement wall at this very same site.

Outside of the service and fun time, students also experienced a glimpse of Jamaican culture and learned a bit about the country’s economic system. They went to the German Museum where they learned more about the German-Jamaican cultural exchange.

Students also visited the Sundals resort in Jamaica to meet with the foundation representative, learning a bit more about the country’s economic distribution.

“Going to Jamaica for spring break was hands down one of the most powerful and thought-provoking experiences of my life. It was an opportunity that allowed us to truly witness a piece of the world for what it actually is, rather than what it’s commercialized to be,” said Ursinus senior Daria DePaul.

“It was the best experience of my life. Not only did I get to experience service in another country, but I got to get a real taste of the culture of Jamaica,” Ursinus sophomore Paige Fromheiser.

After each day the group would sit down and debrief about the trip and their new experiences.

The Ursinus Bonners were accompanied by a group of Moravian students who came along with the program’s host, Hopkin Clem.) Clem is the father of Ursinus freshman Danielle Clemmons, who also went along on the trip.

“It was an experience that brought my fellow Bonners and I much closer. Through the reflecting on our daily activities and living with one another, we achieved a stronger friendship and educated each other through conversation,” Martinez said.

The trip also allowed for students to take a look at cultural differences regarding lifestyle, and perspectives on life.

“This trip to Jamaica was my first time out of the country, and it was great to experience a culture for what it really is instead of hearing it from someone else. What I love most about Jamaica was the simplicity of their lifestyles. People live off the land and make greeting everyone with a smile a priority,” DePaul said.

What was your favorite thing about St. Patrick’s Day this year?”

Dani Miller
Biology, 2014

“I liked seeing a variety of people out for the day having a good time.”

Nicole Ioviero
Psychology, 2013

“Everyone had an awesome day and got to hang out together for the first time in a long time.”

Rutkowski interns in McGladrey’s RAS department

Melissa Rutkowski, a senior business & economic major and international relations minor, interned with McGladrey, an international provider of insurance, tax and consulting services, at their New York City location last summer. Rutkowski found the opportunity by making contact with an Ursinus alumna.

After speaking with her, Rutkowski had a phone interview with the New York City director and an in-person interview conducted by a panel of risk advisory consulting employees as well. As an intern for the RAS (Risk Advisory Services) Department, Rutkowski dealt with researching a company’s business processes, formulating the risks for each of these processes, and then developing controls in order to mitigate these risks.

Responsibilities differed from week to week, as Rutkowski did a lot of traveling and worked an average of two to three days per week in the office. She was sent to Kentucky and to a client site in Tampa Bay for two weeks, visited a bank New Jersey, and traveled to other clients within the city.

At the client sites, Rutkowski and either a senior associate or a director performed internal audits. “I not only got to see them working with the clients to learn from them, but they also gave me tasks while I was there,” Rutkowski said.

Before beginning her internship, Rutkowski attended the East Coast Intern Orientation in Charlotte, North Carolina. There she learned about the company and met with consulting associates from the Charlotte office to learn about what a consulting job truly entailed.

Weeks later, outside of Chicago, all of the country’s interns met for workshops. Rutkowski was able to become good friends with people from the Boston office.

“It really good to know people outside of your individual office because once you start working there, you go to a client site, and maybe what you’re working on may not be your expertise, you can call up somebody from another office and recruit their help... They tried to really make a community feel within the company” Rutkowski said.

Rutkowski used her skills in communicating when travelling to clients’ offices and going out with them to dinner, ensuring that she “represent [herself] and the company in a good manner.”

She also exercised her computer skills, as she used Auditors Assistant and Microsoft Excel frequently. Rutkowski has a job at McGladrey awaiting her after graduation thanks to her success and networking at the internship. “I got everybody’s business cards. I always tried to be really personable,” Rutkowski said.

She will be working in the same division, RAS, with the same coworkers she worked with as an intern. Rutkowski advises students looking for internships that “building connections networking is critical...the job fair is really helpful here, but you never know when you’re going to run into somebody who has a connection to an internship outside of Career Services.”
College meme pages aren’t a waste

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College memes. Yes, at this point you may have at the very least heard of these college memes, but for those who have not, college memes basically make fun of something that only students of the campus would understand.

For example, there is an Ursinus College meme of the “Most Interesting Man Alive” in which he states “I don’t always go to upper, but when I do it’s because lower is closed on the weekend.”

Such a statement would be something that only an Ursinus College student would be able to understand. Now, imagine hundreds and thousands of these memes that as a group form a specific college’s memes.

Opinion on these memes has been mixed to say the least. The argument that college memes are simply a waste of time and have nothing to do with bettering oneself or getting an education is a valid one.

Students should spend more time hitting the books or doing extra-curricular or looking for a job rather than spending time making up memes or laughing at ones that have already been created. So all in all, college memes addicting and are a waste of time and should be ignored.

However, are college memes all that bad? Yes, it is true that we as college students should be spending most of our time studying or looking for jobs, but what happened to having a bit of fun once in a while?

Obviously, spending a tremendous amount of time on making and/or looking at college memes is in many ways a waste of time.

However, one of the great things about these memes is the fact that they are remainders of the fact that all of us are part of the Ursinus College community.

College students from another school would never understand the afore-mentioned upper meme nor would they understand the vast majority of Ursinus memes. It is good to know that there are some things are ours and ours alone. We can laugh and smile a little when we look at these memes because they help us understand our own lives better.

In all honesty what is wrong with having a little bit of fun while being a bit creative in the process?

Being able to laugh at ourselves and the various idiosyncrasies of our home institution is never a bad thing; in some ways, being able to laugh at ourselves is the best way to have pride in who we are as students and as a community.

College memes are certainly not universally liked and may never be accepted by all.

Some memes in other colleges have gone too far. Some reach that point by making racist, sexist, or homophobic jokes. Others simply aren’t funny.

However, for all the meme naysayers out there, think about this way: if these memes managed to make a completely stressed-out college student laugh for a moment, and forget about the worries of that next big test or paper or that potential job interview, then these memes are already worth their weight in gold.

New Bruce Springsteen lives up to expectations

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In a rock and roll world where bands and artists come and go instantaneously, there have been few to have remained in the eye of the public consistently over the past 40 years.

Bruce Springsteen is one of the few mainstays who still remain with vigor and a passion unlike many in the industry.

He continues to show this with the recent release of Wrecking Ball, his 17th studio album and first since 2009.

Springsteen is at it once again tackling the tough issues and the concerns Americans share in 2012.

While Springsteen has done this in the past, this is unlike any prior message since he started doing such in 1984 with Nebraska and Born in the U.S.A., where he sang about loneliness and the American Dream respectively.

In 2002, The Rising examined 9/11 and how our nation would recover from tragedy, fresh wounds, and being dealt a tough hand of cards.

He examined American cynicism and disappointment in 2007 with Magic, an anthem against then-President George W. Bush.

In concert, Springsteen said before the playing of the song Magic, “here is to the end of eight years of bad magic tricks.”

This time, in Springsteen’s 2nd best album in 20 years, things are different in America and in the mind of The Boss.

In Wrecking Ball, Springsteen’s premise and message to all is that while America collectively has gone through near hell throughout the past four years as the Great Recession has hit hard, there is still hope in the future for all if we stay together.

This kind of optimism is filtered throughout the album and truly gives all something to look forward to, a kind of potential in America that has been tough to fathom in the last few years.

He points to the greed of Wall Streeters in “Easy Money” and the inability of Americans to care of more than oneself and be, perhaps, uneasiness in “We Take Care of Our Own,” the only single from the album.

However, while these problems do exist and will continue to in some capacity, according to Springsteen, the future can still be had.

In “Jack of All Trades,” he says that “We stood the drought, now we’ll stand the flood. There’s a new world coming, I can see the light.”

This sense of optimism is amazingly piercing throughout the album while current times in America and some of his songs say otherwise.

While he says, “Baby, I’ve been down, but never this down; I’ve been lost, but never this lost,” in “This Depression,” he tells us that “hard times come and hard times go” in “Wrecking Ball.”

However, none give off this optimistic view of the future like the newly recorded “Land of Hope and Dreams,” a concert staple for over a decade.

In it, Springsteen tells all to get on the train en route to the land of confidence and hopeful expectation, including the “saints and sinners, losers and winners, whores and gamblers, and lost souls.”

The tough times and hope for a bright future, though, are meshed together in one song that sums up what the album is trying to get across to everyone.

“Rocky Ground” is the epitome of this album and what Springsteen attempts to depict.

Filled with biblical references and the musical voices of the Victorious Gospel Choir and soloist Michelle Moore, Springsteen describes a trek of a “flock” over the rough terrain of a desolate place. However, although this journey may be difficult, he says at closing that “There’s a new day coming, a new day’s coming.”

The vibe the song gives off is the same as the album; that while the road out of the Great Recession is arduous and seemingly never-ending, there is light at the end of the tunnel for all if the “flock” sticks together.

What Springsteen has created is another masterpiece. Wrecking Ball is strong and profound lyrically and musically.

Though not on the same level as his material from the 1970s and early 80s, it resonates well with the times and gives many who have been hit hard by the Great Recession ideas to look to such as hope and belief in the future of America.
Softball prepped for successful season

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The Ursinus softball team has recently returned from their preseason tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Rachel Vietheer, a senior catcher/second baseman, described the tournament in Myrtle Beach as simply, amazing.

"We performed extremely well as a team and even single girl contributed in every game. Whether we won or lost, we were never out hustled or out classed. We experienced some adversities while in South Carolina but I believe they have prepared us for whatever may be thrown at us during the season," Vietheer said.

Winning six out of their nine games, the team is headed in the right direction for the 2012 season, a season with both a great deal of expectations and promise. The team was picked as the favorite to win the conference in a recent preseason poll.

"I expect this season to be a lot of fun. I believe that we all have rediscovered our love for the game and have worked extremely hard for that reason. As my last season, I expect this one to be the best of my four years," Vietheer said.

Being picked as the favorite this year was no mistake, the team has worked hard year round improving every aspect of their game.

"The team has worked harder than they ever had in this past off season. We have trained, mentally, physically, and emotionally in order to put us ahead of any other team we may face. Thanks to our coaches, we are always improving these aspects of the game, even when we don't know we are," Vietheer said.

Last year, the Bears finished at 10-6 in centennial conference play and 18-18 overall. This year the Bears are geared up to insure a more successful season.

"I think that last year's season was a great transition to the season we have upcoming. It was the first season with our new coaches and now that they have had time to implement all of their coaching philosophies, I believe we are the team that will be the most successful on the field," Vietheer said.

Every member of the Ursinus softball team plays an important role all year long. Everyone including starters to role players are key for the success of the 2012 bears.

"I do know that each game we play, 100% will be given from every player, whether they are in the game or cheering for those who are," Vietheer said.

In order to have a championship season, teams need strong leadership.

The Bears are unique in that every player acts as a leader, in their own way, per the philosophy of head coach Jen Croneberger.

Vietheer described the overall leadership as amazing, citing that everyone has the opportunity to be a leader.

"Every girl steps out as a leader and possess the qualities that define a leader. They may be silent leaders or vocal leaders, but every girl definitely is one," Vietheer explained.

The "stepping out" as Vietheer puts it is a unique motto used be the team as a whole. Implemented by Coach Croneberger, this term is constantly used by the players to remind them that they are all leaders. Leaders tend to "step up"

but since they are all at the same leadership level, it is up to someone to "step out" occasionally.

The Ursinus Bears Softball team opens their centennial conference schedule against rival, Dickinson, on Mar. 24th.

Eachus: March provides viewers maddening options

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It's the most wonderful time of the year. Even though it is so cliché and so difficult to think of this phrase being used outside of the traditional winter holiday season, sports fans have a wide array of reasons to be thankful that March has finally rolled around.

We have a number of reasons to be ecstatic and enthusiastic for the weeks of insanity to come. March means several things to sports fans across the country. However, one March tradition sticks out above the rest, and this tradition is simply madness.

The state of being in extreme ecstasy or enthusiasm, this is madness, and this is perhaps the best way to describe the 48 basketball games that unfold over the course of just 96 hours, during the opening weekend of the NCAA division one men's basketball tournament.

This March tradition is so mainstream and captivating that even our nation's President affords time to do something "Barack-etology" of his own.

"I was actually watching games during class on my laptop, my professor didn’t say anything to me, but I was pretty zoned in, I’m surprised she didn’t notice," said one senior student who wished to remain anonymous (for obvious reasons).

This year’s Friday set of games may have been the best example of what exactly makes March so maddening, seeing two #2 seeds [Missouri and Duke] eliminated within hours of one another.

So many brackets busted, thousands of dollars lost in legal and illegal gambling, and so many dreams collectively came true and were crushed at the same time with these behemoth upsets.

It’s truly captivating, and that’s not all...

The NHL and NBA are both currently careening down the final stretch of their respective regular seasons, as the playoff pictures are decided and tend to shape up by the conclusion of the month of madness.

For Philadelphia fans, this March is particularly intriguing.

Thanks to Ilya Bryzgalov's recent assertion of his elite status as a net minder, and some inspired defensive play, the Flyers appear destined for a playoff appearance and possibly a lengthy run towards Lord Stanley's Cup.

The 76ers appear to be on a collision course with postseason play, as they have shown to be a formidable threat to win the Atlantic Division crown, thanks to the rise of former second overall pick Evan Turner.

All of this while the now perennial powerhouse Phillies are finishing spring training and preparing to begin their regular season.

Also, don’t forget about the Eagles following Tuesday’s trade for linebacker DeMeco Ryans ahead of their final preparations for the NFL draft.

Even here in our little town of Collegeville it’s a wonderful time to be a sports fan.

Spring sports have begun their seasons, winter sports are wrapping up with their championships, and our fall sports teams have returned to the practice field for their out of season training.

In the sports world, March seems to antagonize everything we’ve always heard. March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb [atmospherically speaking]. However, as we head towards April the sports world seems to go off the tracks, to accelerate towards chaos and unpredictability, to captivate fans with a wide array of adrenaline educating appeals.

It really is a wonderful time of year that should have sports fans everywhere being thankful...for the madness that is the month March.

So watch out professors, the weather outside isn’t the only thing distracting your students.

*The views expressed by Eachus in this column are in no way reflective of those of The Grizzly or its staff.
On Wednesday the Ursinus College gymnastics team will depart for Brockport, New York where Brockport University will play host to the 2012 NCGA national championships.

Ursinus will be sending nine ladies to the national competition thanks to some strong performances at the ECAC championship meet held on just two weeks ago at Ithaca College in New York.

At the ECAC championships, the Lady Bears finished fourth overall, with three team members being named All-ECAC in the process.

For several of the Lady Bears, Friday and Saturday will mark the final meet of their collegiate careers, and obviously will hold a special place in their hearts.

"Finishing four years as a collegiate gymnast is an accomplishment in itself. Being able to qualify for the NCGA competition the past two years, and especially in my last year as a senior, is an honor that makes all of the aches, pains, and injuries endured throughout the career worth it," said senior co-captain Danielle Michelli.

Fellow senior co-captain, and three time NCGA qualifier, Katherine Gelinne echoed Michelli’s sentiments.

"This Friday will be my last meet ever and so this year’s opportunity to regain All American status, or earn the honor for the first time.

Junior Johanna Warren has qualified for NCAG’s twice before, and garnered a total of four All-American honors.

She hopes that she can finally reach her goal of an individual championship this weekend.

"Since my freshman year, my personal goal has been to win the bar championship title. Although I’ve made it to event finals and received All-America Honors on bars both years I’ve gone, I’ve fallen on the second day every year. I hope this year will be the one," Warren said.

Sophomore Monica Durham, who qualified for the competition as an all around gymnast competing in the Vault, Bars, Beam, and floor exercises, feels confident that she and her teammates can hold their own on the national stage.

"I think that we’re all expecting to go out on Friday and really be able to enjoy ourselves, we are all celebrating the fact that we made it all the way through the season and are finishing up at Nationals, where we can show off our best events. Every single girl has a great chance of qualifying to event finals on Saturday," Durham said.

Riley Acton, a freshman and qualifier in both the Vault and Bars competitions, is excited about the opportunity she has thanks to a stellar first year for the Bears.

"Personally I am striving to hit both of my events and concentrate on the small details that will set my routines apart. Making an event final would be icing on the cake, but that also depends on other gymnasts’ performances which are completely out of my control. As long as I do the best I can, I will walk out completely satisfied," Acton said.

Surely, head coach Jeff Schepers and the gymnastics team have a great deal to look forward to this weekend, seeing as the Bears will also have an opportunity to turn some heads in the overall team competition, which gets underway on Friday at 4:30 p.m.