The Grizzly, September 13, 2012

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UC remembers Lindsay Budnick

At a candlelit vigil held in front of the Berman Museum of Art, Lindsay Budnick’s fellow Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters hummed a sorority song and recited a poem in her honor.

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Lindsay Budnick, a member of the Ursinus College class of 2011, was killed in a car accident on Wednesday, Sept. 5 after colliding head-on with a truck in Halifax County, N.C. Budnick’s fellow Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority sisters honored her life with a candlelit vigil held in front of the Berman Museum of Art Thursday night.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered around the museum steps, looking on as Tri Sigma sisters hummed quietly. Lindsay smiled in her photograph from behind a purple poster scrolled with the words, “Sigma love and mine.”

“The song we were humming is one we use at important Sigma gatherings,” Kaitlyn Murphy, president of the Ursinus College Chapter of Tri Sigma, said. “Every single sister across the country knows that song. It was incredibly powerful on Thursday, as if the entire chapter was breathing as one. It felt like she was there.”

As the song concluded, Murphy climbed the stairs to eulogize Budnick before the crowd, with Sigma sisters standing at either side of her for support. Murphy listed Budnick’s many contributions to the Ursinus community, including her service as a Bonner Leader, a Campus Safety intern, the Inter-Greek Council President of Sororities, the Residence Hall Association president and the Campus Activities Board president.

“Lindsay was an outstanding member of the Ursinus community,” Murphy said in her speech. “As her sister, I’m proud to say Lindsay was a dedicated member of Tri Sigma who always wore her letters with pride and conviction.”

Murphy said the number of people gathered at the vigil showed the impact that Budnick made on campus.

Lindsay was so loved. When I walked up the Berman steps and turned around to face the crowd at the vigil, I was overcome with joy,” Murphy said. “So many members of the Ursinus community showed up to honor the life of Lindsay Budnick. She touched the lives of so many people."

Budnick was an environmental studies major with a minor in biology. As President Fong said in a campus-wide email noting Budnick’s passing, he expressed a dedication that she fostered as an Ursinus Bonner Leader and later as a Bonner Senior Intern. Fong noted that Budnick, as a Bonner Leader, “Devoted countless hours of service working at a local geriatric center.”

Christian Rice, the coordinator of the Bonner Leaders Program, said Budnick helped take the program to “the next level,” expanding the service group from 7 to 30 students.

“Lindsay was a Bonner Leader at Ursinus if it weren’t for Lindsay’s dedication,” Rice said. “Having an acute awareness that opportunities in life were not equal for everyone and that people of all ages need joy, friendship and companionship, service to others was deeply woven into her life.”

Budnick’s commitment to service continued after graduation with her acceptance of a Teach for America position in North Carolina.

According to a news release from the Roanoke Rapids Herald, Budnick had just begun her second year teaching middle school and she had recently received grant funding to start a school drama club. She was also involved in a local theater company, where she acted and ran a children’s workshop.

Teach for America Regional Director Daniel Riley is quoted in the release, praising Budnick’s “vibrant personality” and perseverance.

“As a first-year teacher, you face a lot of challenges, but she never ceased to find the joy or

"Lindsay" continued on pg. 3
Greek recruitment changes

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This school year marks the start of some major changes in Greek life here at Ursinus. Rushing began Sept. 3, 2 weeks earlier than usual and pledging is now limited to 80 hours per week. "Pledging has become much easier," Chris Urban, a senior member of Delta Pi Sigma said. All pledging activities must end by 11 p.m. and are limited to 5 days a week.

Urban explained, however, that while pledging has become easier for new recruits, the rule changes make the process more difficult for pledge masters. "They are giving us more time by starting earlier in the semester, but we still feel rushed to get stuff done and prepare for all the pledges," Urban said.

"There is much less time to educate the pledges, which makes our job much harder," Gary Boyson, a senior member of Sigma Pi commented. According to the new regulations, Greek life members are allowed to have up to 8 weeks for pledging but they must limit pledging time to a total of 80 hours.

Sean Kelley, a senior member of Sigma Pi, said that the new rules have a negative impact on the recruitment experience. "It's too short and ruins the bonding time between the pledges and the pledge masters," Kelley said. "The experience just isn't the same as when we were freshmen."

Both Kelley and Boyson said if the school allowed freshmen to pledge in the spring, it could actually help improve the retention rate of students from freshman to sophomore year. "It was better in the spring when freshmen could pledge," Boyson said. "Some want to pledge but can't until their sophomore year, and sometimes they transfer out with no chance to do so."

According to the new requirements, none of the events can be party related. This poses another challenge: how does a Greek organization capture the interest of potential pledges?

Urban said that one option is to host events off-campus, but getting approval for off-campus activities is very difficult and expensive. "Raising money has also become too complicated, too many restrictions," Urban said.

Todd McKinney, Ursinus' Dean of Leadership Development and Student Activities, said another proposed change that could take effect in the future is the raising of the GPA requirement for membership from 2.33 to 2.5.

"Everything is to streamline the system and make it more effective," McKinney said. "We want to focus on the entire aspect of being Greek and have it grow."

The 13th annual Ursinus College Fringe Festival is set to kick off on Sept. 19 and will continue up to Sept. 24. This year's Fringe Festival will feature a unique blend of professional performers from around the country and members of the Ursinus community. Those involved are confident that the festivities will create quite the buzz on campus.

On Wednesday, Sept. 19, the first event, a movie showing, will be held in the Kalezidoscope Blackbox Studio Theater at 12 p.m. and is titled "Popsciles Departure 1989." It is a solo performance written and performed by Madi Distefano of Brat Productions. The performance recently won Best Solo Performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, which is revered by many as the foremost in fringe festivals around the world.

The second event, on Thursday, Sept. 20, will include members of the Ursinus community who will stage a reading of "8" in the Lenfest Theater of the Kaleidoscope at 7:30 p.m. The play was written by Academy Award winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, and portrays the controversial legal battle of Perry v. Schwarzenegger, commonly known as Proposition 8. Black wrote the play in response to the state Supreme Court's decision to ban television cameras from the courtroom. Most of the play is written in verbatim style, which in "8" means that the exact words from public court records and witness testimonies are used to raise the play's level of historical accuracy.

The play will be directed by Dominick Scudera, the theater and dance department chairman, and will include Ursinus faculty and staff. Ursinus community members involved in the reading will include Dr. Beverly Redman of the theater department; Dr. Roger Florka, chairman of the philosophy department; Dean of Students Deborah Nolan and Director of Campus Safety Kim Taylor. The play will conclude with a question and answer session, which will give audience members an opportunity to discuss the issues of marriage equality with the performers.

Another notable addition to this year's Fringe Festival will be a performance of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" acted by the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) in the Blackbox Theater on Monday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The ASC is based in Staunton, Va. and has received critical acclaim from the Boston Globe and The Wall Street Journal, among others. In addition to their performance, the 12 members of ASC will offer workshops before and after the play.

Scudera, who has been at the helm of Ursinus' Fringe Festival since its inception, is extremely excited for this year's events.

"I'm excited that so many different people are involved from campus," Scudera commented. "It's nice because we're going to have a real cross section of people that are part of this."

The Fringe Festival will also hold events on Friday, Sept. 21 and Saturday, Sept. 22. These events will be finalized within the days leading up to the festival and anyone interested in scheduling updates is encouraged to check in with the box office via telephone number 610-409-3795 or via email at boxoffice@ursinus.edu.

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Film fest to celebrate cultures

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The International Film Festival is returning to campus this semester beginning Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Olin Auditorium.

Each of the six languages taught at Ursinus College—German, Spanish, Chinese, French, Japanese and East Asian Studies—were chosen to be represented in the festival. The films will be shown in their original languages with English subtitles.

A variety of film genres are represented in the festival, from the surrealistic to the representational and from the comedic to the erotic. The films, selected through a collaborative effort of the Ursinus College modern language faculty, were chosen to interest students and engage them in foreign languages.

“Every work of culture that a society produces tells you something about that culture,” Dr. Matthew Mizenko, professor of language faculty, were chosen to interest students and engage them in foreign languages.

“Every work of culture that a society produces tells you something about that culture,” Dr. Matthew Mizenko, professor of Japanese and East Asian Studies said. “I think that [the films] broaden and deepen the students’ experiences of the languages that they are studying.”

“I would like more students to come from outside language courses and to really engage in thinking and discussing and to see it really is fun and exciting to watch movies,” Dr. Colette Trout, a French professor and festival organizer said.

Prior to each film screening, a faculty member who teaches the language in which the film will be spoken will give background information about the film and will point out things to look for while watching.

“How often do you get that opportunity? I know I don’t have that opportunity too often,” Trout said.

After the film is over, students, faculty and members of the campus community will have a discussion that can offer many different interpretations of what was shown.

“Members of the community often bring very interesting perspectives to the discussion of films and I always enjoy that,” Mizenko said.

Trout emphasized that while this is a fun event, the films are also meant to make students think about and reflect on language, culture and film. She hopes the festival will appeal to a wide audience and encourage enthusiasm in foreign film.

“A lot of students are not accustomed to seeing foreign films, and if they come out of it and say, ‘You know, that was not a bad thing,’ that’s a good compliment,” Trout commented.

“We hope to bring the languages to life for students,” Miz- enko said. “You hear the rhythms of the language. I mean, languages are all beautiful in their own ways and here you’re seeing films not dubbed and in their original language. I think that just increases the quality of the experience of what you’re seeing on the screen.”

The film screenings will be held roughly every three weeks. The first film, a German movie titled “Go for Zucker,” will be shown Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Olin Auditorium. The next one will take place Thursday, Oct. 4 and is a Spanish film entitled “Even the Rain.”

Summaries of all the films featured in the festival can be found online at http://news.ursinus.edu/2012/ursinus-news-events/international-film-festival-set-for-fall/.

“Lindsay” continued from pg. 1

humor in the moment. She thrived off the energy of her students,” Riley said.

Reverend Charles Rice closed the vigil with a benediction honoring the lightness and joy Budnick brought to everyone she met.

“I have had the privilege of speaking to some of Lindsay’s loved ones this week,” Reverend Rice began, “and what I found to be most remarkable is that every person noted the joy—indeed laughter—Lindsay brought to their lives even in the most difficult of moments.”

Murphy said that Tri Sigma wants to express their gratitude for the support they have received from the Ursinus community. A campus-wide memorial service will take place in the coming weeks.

Deadly quake in China

A series of earthquakes rocked southwest China on Friday, Sept. 7, which triggered landslides, collapsed houses, killed at least 80 people and injured hundreds more, according to the Associated Press. AP reported that more than 200,000 residents of the Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, a poor and remote mountainous region, were evacuated. The first earthquake, which struck before 11:30 a.m. on Friday and was of 5.6 magnitude, was followed by an equally strong quake after 12 p.m. According to Yunnan’s seismological bureau, more than 280 aftershocks followed the quakes. Damages from the quakes’ aftermaths prevented rescue workers from aiding survivors until roads were finally cleared on Saturday. Despite the high frequency of quakes in the area, AP reported that buildings in Chinese rural areas and small cities are constructed poorly. In 2008, a magnitude-7.9 quake hit Sichuan province, north of Yunnan, and killed 900,000 people, largely due to unstable structures.

Iraq’s V.P. sentenced to death

The New York Times reported that Iraq’s Sunni vice president, Tariq al-Hashemi, was sentenced to death in absentia on Sunday, Sept. 9 after being accused of commanding the death squads that were responsible for hundreds of killings, including the murders of political and religious opponents of al-Hashemi’s. The sentencing could worsen political crisis among Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds in Iraq, al-Hashemi, who has fled to Turkey, denied the charges against him. The sentencing came hours after a wave of attacks killed more than 50 people, capping off a summer of deadly violence that was triggered by rising sectarian tensions in Iraq.

FBI launches facial recognition program

According the New York Daily News, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has plans to launch a national facial recognition system to law enforcement agencies across the country. The Next Generation Identification program is a $1 billion-program that compiles mug shots, DNA information, iris scans, voice information and fingerprints to match images of known criminals captured in surveillance footage. The FBI has been pilot-testing the program in several states since February. The program is expected to be implemented nationwide by 2014. The new technology raises concerns that innocent people, including controversial political activists, could be unjustly targeted for prosecution. The FBI has not announced whether or not images of the general public will be included in the program.
Rebecca Betts, Michelle Swenson, Junior

Bear Bucks defined

Jillian Goldstein/The Grizzly

Philly Soft Pretzel Factory now accepts Bear Bucks from U.C. students

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What are Bear Bucks?
In the simplest terms they are flex dollars. The program essentially turns your school I.D. into a debit card. You can add money to it and then use it around the campus, but more importantly you can use it at a selection of local establishments.

After being informed of this new development, many students got confused. A senior student who wishes to remain anonymous said, “I originally read the email that was sent out to campus about the new meal plan changes and I was originally excited. I thought, ‘how great, we can finally use meal credits and dining dollar credits at Marzellas and the Diner!’ I quickly realized that I, like many other Ursinus students, had completely misread the email.”

This senior was incorrect about what she thought was Bear Bucks. Just recently, Ruth Anne Allen sent out an email outlining the differences between Dining Dollars and Bear Bucks. This email is the first to plainly say that Bear Bucks was previously Flex Dollars. However, this email also outlined the many other options that are available by using the new system.

Students are limited to on-campus dining services with Dining Dollars, but Bear Bucks can also be used at the Collegeville Diner, Marzella’s Pizza, Primo Hoagies, Trappe Tavern, Palmero’s Pizza, CSV (Collegeville location), CVS (Trappe location), Philly Pretzel Factory, Tortuga’s Mexican Restaurant, Pizza Stop, Rocco’s Brick Oven Italian Restaurant, DaVinci’s Restaurant and Collegeville Bakery.

Sabrina McGettigan said, “It makes sense for me to use it since I don’t have a meal plan, but for others with a meal plan it seems pointless… I use Bear Bucks as a replacement for a meal plan.”

“I do like where they are going with this Bear Bucks program. They have the right idea, but it is poorly executed. At least it’s not being executed in the way a lot of students were expecting,” the anonymous senior who is far from happy with the new program commented. The way many people see it is that this new program turns the Ursinus I.D. card into a debit card. For some, that may be beneficial but for others it may not be.

McGettigan said, “For the amount of money everyone pays to attend Ursinus, you would think they would cater more to the customer. Getting food has become a production and a real problem. From what I’ve heard from fellow students, they are really unhappy. Unhappy customers means poor recommendations and that’s bad for business.”

A new year for Ursinus has started and a new semester is well underway. Time will tell if this new program is worth it. Is it Bear Bucks or Bear Bust?

You can find more information on the Bear Bucks program at http://foodservices.ursinus.edu/locations.html and http://foodservices.ursinus.edu/plans.html.

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Word on the street

“I think the drinking culture is just fine. It’s good that it’s a moderately wet campus and yet the students are really responsible in their decisions regarding drinking.” ~ Rebecca Betts, Freshman

“I think it’s a healthy drinking culture, mainly due to the fact that freshmen aren’t allowed to have alcohol in their rooms. I guess it allows them to make alternative choices.” ~ Melvin Ellis, Freshman

“Personally, I prefer not to drink and I feel that I have that right here. I like that everyone can make their own choices.”~ Eli Jeschke, Freshman

“I think the students here know how to have fun at parties and for the most part are respectful of our campus and know how to enjoy alcohol responsibly. The drinking culture isn’t all Ursinus has to offer, though. There are plenty of other activities going on here on the weekends.” ~ Alyssa Caffarelli, Senior

“I think the drinking culture here is very generous because people want to get to know you, so they offer you drinks to make you feel welcome to their room or suite.” ~ Tess Casper, Junior

“Students are neither encouraged nor discouraged from drinking, but everyone wants to have a good time in their own way. With the privilege to party comes the expectation that everyone takes care of each other and welcomes each other.” ~ Michelle Svenson, Junior

“I feel like it’s split. Some people want to get wasted and some people just want to socialize.” ~ Nick DiMazio, Sophomore

CIE Fellows aid CIE students

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The CIE Fellows Program is new to Ursinus College this year. The student-led program is composed of upperclassmen that have been hand-selected by Melissa Sander Giess, Director of Residence Life, as well as a variety of different professors involved with the CIE program.

Jessica Neuman, senior English major here at Ursinus, is one of the students chosen to be a CIE Fellow. The aim of the new program is to provide a life-changing experience for incoming freshmen that are required to take CIE 100 and 200, Neuman said. Neuman said the goal she and her fellow CIE Fellows seek to accomplish is to “make CIE more relevant to the campus and help students realize while they are still attending CIE classes, that what they are going through and learning about in CIE is really beneficial for their futures.”

The program works by taking each student enrolled in CIE and partnering them with a corresponding CIE Fellow, Neuman said. Typically, the Fellows will be distributed based on housing arrangements of freshmen—for example, all CIE students living in Wilkinson 300 will have the same CIE Fellow.

Each Fellow will hold informal, non-mandatory sessions every now and then and the CIE course material can be discussed outside of class in a lax and pressure-free environment. Neuman said that her first meeting involved “eating brownies, drinking lemonade, and discussing ‘The Matrix’ in a casual and fun way.”

Neuman said that several CIE professors have contacted the group to explain that they have already seen improvement in class engagement as CIE students are bringing thoughts and ideas discussed in their Fellows meetings to their individual CIE classrooms.

The CIE Fellows involvement outside the classroom ties the Ursinus community together by linking freshmen, upperclassmen, and faculty together through discussion of CIE topics. “The CIE Fellows program is a beautiful partnership between faculty and students,” Jess said. “We [CIE Fellows] act as the bridge between what the students are saying about the class material outside of the classroom to what they discuss inside the classroom.” Additionally, the CIE Fellows Program aims to act as a sort of welcoming committee to Ursinus freshmen. The Common Intellectual Experience was incorporated in Ursinus College’s core curriculum years ago, and the CIE Fellows Program is going to use the program in order to create a sense of community among incoming students and upperclassmen.

Neuman said a forum is currently being prepared on the third floor of Myrin Library. The room will be shared between the CIE Fellows and the Center for Science and the Common Good. Once ready, the CIE Fellows plan to use the forum as a space where “students can gather for various events run by the CIE Fellows.” Neuman said that the program’s usage of the forum will “bring students out more from the dorms and introduce them to the community.”

Those who wish to get involved with the program are encouraged to do so—although the actual process of new members joining the Fellows has yet to be set in stone. Neuman’s said, “it’s a work in progress.” More information will be available as the school year progresses and the program continues to develop.
CAB welcomes new executive board and events

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Back to school means a lot of new things for the members of the Ursinus Campus Activities Board (CAB). While plans for new activities are underway, the members of the CAB executive board are also working on settling into their new roles.

CAB’s executive board underwent some major position changes in the first two weeks of the semester. CAB now has a new president, sophomore Samantha Doman. Because CAB’s current president is abroad, sophomore Olivia Schultz is acting as interim president for the organization, while sophomores Brian Kennedy and Matt Burns are also on the executive board.

CAB held its first official meeting Tuesday, Sept. 4 and discussed all the new changes happening within the committee as well as for the campus. The meeting also focused on some of the upcoming events that will occur throughout the semester.

Doman said that there are several new events that students can look forward to, including an upcoming Russell Dickerson concert on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Another event that Salomon believes students will enjoy is CAB’s ever-popular outdoor music event, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 29.

CAB members have also been brainstorming new activities. One of these new events will take place during Homecoming weekend. This event is called Headphone Disco Night, and many of the CAB members believe that it will be a big hit among students.

Salomon is enthusiastic about the new event and said, “Instead of putting the music on the speakers, everyone has their own set of headphones on. The cool part is that each person had their own individual music on, so one person could be jamming out to the ‘Cotton Eye Joe’ and the ‘Cha-Cha Slide’ at the same time.”

CAB will also be following through with traditions. Jazz Night, which is popular at Ursinus, will return to campus on Saturday, Nov. 10. Casino Night, another fan favorite, will take place near the end of the semester on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Salomon is dedicated to making this year extremely memorable for the student body. She said, “CAB has the potential to bring the Ursinus community together and that really is my main goal.”

Not only is CAB excited about their events, but other students on campus are anticipating a great semester. Sophomore and CAB member Haylee Mevorah said, “I can’t wait to see what campus activities they have planned because there were some very interesting ideas popping up in the first meeting.”

CAB wants to provide many fun activities for Ursinus’ students. Salomon said that CAB has the funds and the potential to bring Ursinus together like no other club. As a result, Salomon is going to try and get more people out at the events by teaming up with different clubs and teams at Ursinus.

Senior Andrew Stacy said, “It is a great idea to combine groups with CAB. I think if the students see that fraternities and sororities are getting together with CAB or any other group on campus, more students will be excited and willing to attend the events.”

CAB welcomes anyone to attend meetings, which are held every Tuesday at 9 p.m. in the Bear’s Den.

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Free planting efforts along the Perkiomen Creek

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On Saturday, Sept. 8, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, a non-profit organization founded in 1964, hosted an event in which volunteers planted about 150 native trees and shrubs to restore riparian habitats along the Perkiomen Creek.

The event is part of an ongoing project sponsored by a grant from TreeVitalize, a public-private partnership that aims to restore tree cover in Pennsylvania and educate citizens about related issues. TreeVitalize aims to ultimately plant one million trees in the state by 2022.

According to Conservation Coordinator Krista Scheirer, the primary goal of this event was to create a vital buffer of trees along the stream bank between the Perkiomen Creek and Schwenksville Meadows Park.

Scheirer said, “For stream health, you want a buffer of trees at least fifty feet wide on each side of a stream, and in Schwenksville’s park, there is barely one line of trees along the stream bank. Trees help to hold stream banks in place, and an adequate buffer prevents many pollutants from reaching the stream.”

This conservation effort is part of a number of restoration projects and long-term goals for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. In addition to restoring this habitat, the organization hopes to continue promoting awareness about sustainability, particularly among the area’s youth.

Scheirer said, “With all of our projects, there is an educational component. We want people to learn how to protect waterways, and by having volunteers plant the trees, we hope they will leave with a greater understanding of how important trees are.”

This tradition of environmental stewardship and community outreach resonates with the Ursinus community. Students majoring in environmental studies are required to undertake an internship that allows them to participate in such environmental outreach programs. Students have

Happening on Campus

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<td>MBA in Kaleido­s­cope, 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Greek Life Recruitment, All day</td>
<td>Collegeville Farmers’ Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Voices in Praise, in Bomberger basement, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Presentation by Berman Museum Director Candidate, in Berman Museum, 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Presentation by Berman Museum Director Candidate, in Berman Museum, 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>LinkedIn Tutorial &amp; Photo Shoot, in the Bear’s Den, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Anxiety Coping skills for Freshman students, in Wellness Center, 10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat Dinner, in the Hillel House, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Book Signing with Tony Danza, in Bomberger Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>AccessAbility: Deconstructing and Reconstructing Art for Access, Berman Museum, All day</td>
<td>Bi-Textual Writers Series: Jacqueline Jones LaMon, Pfahler Auditorium, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Study Abroad Information Session, in the Bear’s Den, 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>International Film Festival: ‘Go For broke,’ 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shuttles to Providence Center provided by CAB, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.</td>
<td>Performance by Russell Dickerson, 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thirteenth Annual Ursinus Fringe Festival, All day</td>
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Sustainability encourages all students to participate in on-campus programs such as the organic farm, the wetland, the Bike Share program, and recycling and composting efforts. UCEA (Ursinus College Environmental Action), which is dedicated to making Ursinus students aware of environmental issues and projects, held its first meeting of the semester on Monday, Sept. 10.

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy intends to host similar volunteer opportunities in the near future. The organization will host more tree planting events along the Perkiomen Creek and its tributaries on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Hoy Park in Lower Providence and on Oct. 5 and 6 at Skippack Meadows. There is also an ongoing demand for volunteers specializing in office assistance, fundraising, special events, conservation projects, facilities, and environmental education.

For more information about the organization and its projects, visit www.perkiomenwatershed.org.
SPINT (Special Interest) is a housing program designed to "provide upperclass students with an opportunity to live and interact with others who are committed to working towards a common goal and who share in common interests," according to the Ursinus webpage.

These common interests can be anything from community service to international cultures, with houses representing each area of interest.

However, budget cuts are hitting Ursinus this year, and while most have recognized this lack of funding, few have realized that the student body as a whole is going to suffer because of it.

Among those especially concerned about the cuts' impacts on the Ursinus community are members of the various Special Interest houses on campus.

This is because the cuts have hit SPINT hard, forcing many members into a tough position.

"I'm not sure what the budget was my freshman year, but it's been cut significantly this year," Megan Giroux, a junior and the program coordinator of the Wellness House said. "It was $25 a year before and now it's $16 a year, so it's been cut $9 a person."

"It's pretty near impossible to put on a decent program that can be opened up to the whole campus ... [It's] not even enough to buy food," Giroux said.

In order to live in a SPINT house, students have to host two events a year that relate to the theme of their houses. The events can be for residents of the respective house, all SPINT residents or opened up to the entire campus.

Due to the recent budget cuts, students involved in SPINT are finding it difficult to plan a successful program for their house, let alone for the campus.

Brian Kennedy, a sophomore member of the International House said, "It just limits your options as far as what events you're going to do and puts a higher tax on the people who are living in the houses. Now if they want to do something that requires a lot of supplies they need to buy all the supplies themselves."

By forcing members of SPINT to purchase their own supplies, the school is both putting a strain on participating students and is limiting events that would normally be open to the entire campus.

"We have all these people ... that are really passionate about their themes, so they're going to obviously put their own money into it," Giroux said. "Do I think that's fair? Not really."

This passion has definitely proved successful in the past. In the last year alone SPINT has put out some awesome events that appealed to a wide array of students. Some events were pumpkin carving with the Wellness House, midnight waltz with the Outdoor House, or even food nights with the International House. SPINT has provided a commonplace for students to bond over shared interests and boost the Ursinus community as a whole.

There's no question that the events have had an effect on campus. Many students like Giroux and Kennedy were drawn into the SPINT program through these events and were hoping to continue holding them for others. Unfortunately, there's a good chance that the effects of these SPINT events will suffer with the new funding limits. Without strain on SPINT's members and events, hopefully the Ursinus community, and SPINT's future participants, won't suffer as well.

DNC speakers successfully promote Obama

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Four years ago, the U.S. entered the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and was involved in 2 wars that the majority of Americans were slowly turning against. Hoping for a transformation, voters across the country elected Barack Obama based on the promises of "Hope" and "Change We Can Believe In."

Today, with the election for our next commander in chief just around the corner, we wonder whether or not the president has delivered enough to earn our votes again.

This past week, the Democrats once again stood by their candidate at the 2012 Democratic Convention in Charlotte, N.C. President Obama is campaigning on his new slogan "Forward," and, honestly, some of the numbers that were thrown around at the convention sound impressive.

Deval Patrick, Mitt Romney's successor as Governor of Massachusetts, said that "Mitt Romney talks a lot about the things he's fixed, but Massachusetts was not one of them." He added that Massachusetts struggled with job creation and debt during Romney's time as governor there.

Former President Bill Clinton had a colorful speech in which he gave a scorecard for the Democratic and Republican Parties. Some standout numbers were the 500,000 new manufacturing jobs created under President Obama, the first increase since the 1990s, and his claim that "ObamaCare" has resulted in "more than a billion dollars in refunds from insurance premiums," and "put health care spending under 4 percent for the first time in 50 years.

In his speech, Vice President Joe Biden reminded the American people that "Osama Bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive," and President Obama reiterated that he is committed to reducing our deficit, keeping diplomacy alive and strengthening the economy, education and health care.

However, can Obama's time in office back up his vision of the future, and did the Democrats do a good job proving that they deserve this election?

As stated earlier, the U.S. economy was suffering a disastrous economic meltdown with banks failing and debt spiraling out of control, all while the country was mired in 2 questionable wars.

Unemployment soared from 7.3 percent to 10.8 percent in the middle of 2009 but now is back down to 8.1 percent, although the rate has remained above 8 percent for much of the Obama presidency. The U.S. added 4.5 million new jobs, leading to a net increase of 300,000 new jobs.

In addition, the president supported the restructuring of General Motors Co. and Chrysler. While Chrysler has paid off most of its loans, G.M. still owes the American taxpayer $25 billion, although it recently had its most profitable year.

The debt-to-GDP ratio rose to 105 percent, despite Obama having the smallest increase in spending of the last 5 presidents (1.4 percent).

As for Obamacare, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that it will reduce the deficit by over $210 billion over the next 10 years, despite Romney's protest that it adds trillions to the deficit.

Regarding foreign policy, Obama may have hit the nail on the head. In 4 years he managed to put Osama Bin Laden to justice, pulled American troops out of Iraq and built international support for strong sanctions against Iran.

In my opinion, it is clear that Obama had modest but noticeable success as president. He is facing a Congress that blocks his every move, even when he made concessions regarding spending decreases and tax cuts.

The Republicans were even willing to let the U.S. default on its financial obligations during the debt ceiling debate. However, President Obama will have no flexibility in his 2nd term with without worrying about prospects for reelection.

Now we head into the final months of debates and election. The question of who will win remains to be seen, as does the question of who would be more successful president.

However, between his past experience and the points brought forward throughout the Democratic National Convention, there are more than enough reasons to give Obama a second term this election year.
The Ursinus women's soccer team looks to put the past behind them and get off to a fresh start as the fall season approaches. This off-season, the team's former head coach Jeff Ykoruk resigned after nine seasons.

In August the team introduced their new head coach Kelly Wakeman. Coach Wake­man was formerly the head coach at Montgomery College where she had a prolonged period of success.

"I was looking to come to a four year program," said Head Coach Wakeman. "I was looking for some of the success that I had at Montgomery but with two years every year is brand new. You lose half of your team if you lose half of your team if not more than half of your team. I think a young woman who comes in as a freshman and who they leave as a senior when you're talking about a four year school, is a remarkable difference."

Having a new coach does not change the goal or expectation for the players this season. "The first goal for everybody is play­offs and doing what we need to do to make conference play­offs," stressed coach Wakeman.

"Everyone looks at us like we lost a lot of seniors, and we lost our coach and it's a rebuilding year," said junior MaryKate Mc­Crea. "But for us it's completely opposite. It's the same as any other year, conference finals in our heads."

The team lost 11 seniors last season who were productive and key to the success of the 2011 team. Although there are only three seniors this year, accord­ing to head coach Wakeman the leadership of the team couldn't be better.

"The leadership is good. We are small in our upper classman numbers but they are strong in their voice and their unity," said coach Wakeman. "We have a total of three seniors and four juniors. So it's a small upper class group but they represent themselves very well and are a good strong group."

"It's very different from last year where we had eleven seniors trying to talk over everyone," se­nior Leah Shaw said. "This year I feel like there's a certain leadership and all of the freshmen are looking up to us."

"It's a shared leadership amongst the seniors and cap­tains and it's a shared leadership amongst the team," senior Natalie Massari said. "Everyone is look­ing to make practice better."

Most successful seasons began before anyone else is even on campus. While everyone else enjoyed the end of their summer, the women's soccer team hit the ground running during training camp.

"Training camp, I thought, went really well. The team came in very fit," said coach Wakeman. "We are going to work on our strength. We could be stronger as a team but overall the fitness is there and we are going to need it."

"We focused a lot more on full body strength," said senior Lisa Pan. "So we were doing a lot of abs, a lot of arms, and a lot of running."

The women's soccer team was picked eighth in the centen­nial conference this year making every game this season a key matchup. "Johns Hopkins is al­ways sitting on top of the confer­ence. They came in ranked num­ber three in the nation so I think that is a good gage on where you stand when you play them," said coach Wakeman.

The women's soccer team is currently 2-3 this season coming off a 4-3 win over Stevens Tech.

Coach Profile: Kelly Wakeman, Women's soccer

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For the first time in nearly a decade, there is a change at the helm of the Ursinus Women's Soccer team.

After five seasons at Montgomery College (Md.), Kelly Wakeman takes over as the new women's soccer coach from Jeff Yhoruk, who resigned in May.

Wakeman has twice been recognized as Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America South Region, and was also named Coach of the Year by the National Junior Coach D-III in 2011.

While Wakeman enjoyed her stay and her run of success at Montgomery, where she posted a 72-19-1 record over her five seasons, the lure of Ursinus and her desire to be a part of a four-year program proved too much.

"It was awesome the amount of success I had at Montgomery College but with two years every year is brand new you lose half of your team if not more," Wakeman said.

"I think a young woman who comes in as a freshman and who they leave as a senior when you're talking about a four year school, that's a remarkable difference and you get to have a real impact not only in soccer but on their life, and that's what I look forward to."

Wakeman was able to transform the Montgomery women's soccer program into a nationally ranked Division III mainstay. During her tenure, Montgomery made the championship for the first time in their history, as the Knights were the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) champions in 2011. She also produced five All-Americans and 17 All-Region during her years at Montgomery.

"She is intense, but awesome," McCrea said. "She challenges us everyday, that's what we need to grow as a team."

According to the team's captains (Leah Shaw, Natalie Massari and MaryKate McCrea), it didn't Coach Wakeman long to pick up on the closeness of Ursinus' women's team. She has quickly become involved with all the players both on and off the field.

"Preseason involved high energy drills that pushed us to our limit," Massari said. "She puts us to the test but we always leave the field feeling fulfilled."

However the players are not the only ones who are excited with the arrival of Wakeman. The Ursinus Athletic Department is also excited to have her on board.

"I'm excited to see, because they are a tightknit group, what they do with her leading them and then how they're going to continue to grow," Laura Moliken, Director of Athletics, said.

Wakeman is originally from Easton, Pennsylvania. She played goalkeeper for Moravian College's women's soccer team during her undergraduate years, where she graduated cum laude in 2004.

Wakeman previously coached at her alma mater, Easton Area High School, Whitehall High School, and Muhlenberg College. Wakeman is currently enrolled in a Masters of Education Program at Edinboro University in Edinboro, Pennsylvania.

Only a few months into her new job, Wakeman is already impressed with Ursinus and looks to keep the unity that the program under Yhoruk possessed.

"It's very much a family envi­ronment and that's what I'm all about," Wakeman said. "I think that is important to them and it's important to me and that's a tradition, that family piece that we'll keep for many many years."
Men’s soccer goes young for success

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The Bears soccer team is coming off from one of their more successful seasons over the past few years. After earning three wins in the 2011 campaign, the Ursinus men’s soccer team is looking to continue their forward progress.

Under head coach Kyle Rush, who is now in his sixth year, the Bears have kicked off and are underway in the 2012 season. Though they dropped the season opener to a talented Misercordia team, they picked up a key win over Widener in their home opener by a score of 3-2.

This year’s team features many new faces as Rush and his coaching staff have brought in nine freshmen in this recruiting class. Rush said, “This year’s recruiting class was a really good class for us. In terms of the level of player that we brought in, and also in filling some spots that in the past we didn’t necessarily have the talent that we needed.”

One of these spots to fill was at the goalkeeper position. The Bear lost Mike Alfieri, a first-team All-Centennial selection last year, to graduation. The 2011 Ursinus grad was just the third player in Ursinus men’s soccer history to earn a first-team All-Centennial nod.

Rush said freshman goalkeeper Kieran Keyser is already in the process of filling that spot. “We are extremely confident with him between the sticks,” Rush said.

Along with Keyser, more newcomers are quickly making an impact on the pitch. Rush said players like Ryan Butler and Dean DerSimonian have brought more fire-power to the offensive side of the field.

Rush said, “In the past, we were a really defensive minded team because that was where our strength was. But this year we’ve had the ability to focus on scoring goals. Senior captain Mike Jansen said this year’s team has a slight edge over last year’s. “I think we are technically better this year. Skill-wise,” Jansen said.

Some returning players that will be making an impact on the field include Jansen and his co-captains Garrett Shanker and Colin Kunkle.

“[Shanker and Kunkle’s] experience now as seniors is proving to be something that is really helping us defensively,” said Rush.

Two more players to keep an eye out for this season are John Schoell and Stefan Johnson. Schoell came off an ACL injury last season and is expected to strengthen the Bears defensive unit. Rush said Johnson has been playing a big role in controlling the tempo of the Bears’ offense so far this season.

With the season underway, Rush said there are a couple games that will be circled on the schedule. One of these games is an away match against Swarthmore College on Oct. 13. “We get up for Swarthmore every year,” Rush said.

Last season, the Bears earned a 2-1 decision over Swarthmore. At the time, they were ranked ninth in the nation.

Jansen said, “For the season we’re just going to try to keep winning games and make the playoffs.”

Along with the Swarthmore game, Rush said all of the conference games will be exciting. Regarding the Centennial Conference schedule, Rush said, “You can’t take a break because every game is intense, every game means something. There’s really no cupcake games, everybody good.”