The Grizzly, November 8, 2012

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Hurricane hits UC, campus evacuated

By Sunday, a majority of students had left Ursinus in favor of their homes or other shelter options. Others decided to stay on campus and rely on the school to provide refuge from the storm.

"Everybody said that the storm was going to be worse in Philadelphia," said Epiphany Summers, a junior who decided to stay on campus during Sandy. "Since I'm from Philly, there was no point in going home if it was going to be worse there and staying on campus was much easier than catching a bus and having to take all my things home."

Those who decided to stay were evacuated from their dormitories on Monday afternoon. Due to fewer people staying on campus than expected, students were housed in Wismer instead of the field house for the strongest part of the storm.

"We were likely to lose power and when you do lose power you lose fire safety capabilities," said Brooks Karns, the Residence Director in charge of the New, North and Reimert dorms. "By regulation we can't house students in a place that doesn't have active fire safety."

"We have a generator for Wismer, so it wouldn't matter if the major power went out because the Wismer generator could keep the building safe," Karns said. "We were going to be able to do that for the Field House if we had to, but we didn't have that many people who decided to stay so we didn't need the space."

To prepare for any unexpected difficulties, students were encouraged to bring food, water, clothes and other necessary supplies for their stay in Wismer. In more than a few cases, students responded by setting up sleeping bags, improvised beddings, hammocks and even a fully pitched tent.

Despite efforts to make the best of their stay, many students had mixed feelings about the storm and the precautions taken by the school.

"I don't see why I couldn't stay in my room in BWC," said freshman Axel Gonzalez. "It doesn't seem necessary. We have a generator for Wismer, so it wouldn't matter if the major power went out because the Wismer generator could keep the building safe," Karns said. "We were going to be able to do that for the Field House if we had to, but we didn't have that many people who decided to stay so we didn't need the space."

Hurricane hits UC, campus evacuated
Alumni give back to Ursinus

Alumni donations are one of the alumni relations office’s main duties. According to Senior Director of Development Laura Armstrong, Ursinus is on par with other private, liberal arts colleges across the country when it comes to participation — about 20 percent.

“We have a lot of engaged, very passionate alumni... in terms of donations, participation and engagement in the college,” Armstrong said.

One recent addition to the alumni community is the Young Alumni Council. Comprised of 25 volunteers, Armstrong said they “strive to create and foster continuous engagement for graduates of the last decade.” They connect with recent graduates through emails and Facebook and encourage them to stay active members of the Ursinus community.

Alumni donations are one of the alumni relations office’s main duties. According to Armstrong, there are three main types of donations: capital projects, such as the recent renovation of the turf field, a restricted annual gift of the donor’s choosing and the Annual Fund.

Many of these donations go through the Phonathon. Students call alumni, parents of alumni and parents of current students and update them about the school, verify their information, and ask for donations to the Annual Fund.

“The Annual Fund is like the checking account of the school,” said senior Anna Domestico, who is a caller for Phonathon. Donations are used throughout the college, from campus organizations to renovations and about half goes to providing students with scholarships.

“It goes to the area of greatest need,” Armstrong said.

Alumni have been major contributors to the fund. Last year alone, over $1 million was given by past students, more than half of all donations. This year, their goal is $1.8 million.

“It’s made up of a lot of small amounts,” Armstrong said. “So it takes a lot of people to make up that amount.”

But relations to the school are more than a check. According to sophomore Eliezer Ayala, one of the Phonathon managers, the calls focus on the alumni’s experience at Ursinus and the memories they have of the school.

“They’re generally very positive of the school,” Ayala said. “They’ll often speak for many, many minutes about how much they absolutely loved Ursinus College when they were there.”

One of Ayala’s favorite Phonathon experiences was with a former student who wanted to make a difference for future alumni. Toward the end of his shift, he called a former student who was very eager to talk about his alma mater.

“He spoke about his business degree and how he really wanted to become a part of Ursinus,” Ayala said.

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Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

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

Each member of the campus community is permitted to send copy of The Grizzly. Additional copies may be purchased for $1.

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

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Alexa LaMontagne
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Alumni have always been a huge part of the Ursinus community, from attending different events to donating money to campus organizations. According to Senior Director of Development Laura Armstrong, Ursinus is on par with other private, liberal arts colleges across the country when it comes to participation — about 20 percent.

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Alumni continued from pg. 2

Armstrong, who is also in the field of business and have taken Ursinus courses would be ideal for what he wants [in an employee]."

Connections like these are exactly what Armstrong is hoping to develop. She said she wants to network the Ursinus community with current students, in addition to getting more alumni to participate in college functions. "There are a lot of alumni, so we do our best to come up with new ways to reach out to them," Armstrong said.

One way is through Affinity Groups. A big part of Homecoming, groups from across campus from sports teams to Greek organizations to student clubs gather current and former members to talk about the group through the decades.

Above all, Armstrong encourages participation. "A lot of the people think small gifts don’t matter," she said. "But the dollar amount is not the most important thing to us." She went on to say private organizations giving grants and even U.S.

News and World Report look at the percent participation over the total amount of donations. "If you think of it like a business, if an outside group is going to invest in what you’re doing, they want to see how your own people value it," Armstrong said. But the first step is to reconnect with campus. If any alumni are interested, there are many organizations whose goal is to keep people updated on different on- and off-campus alumni events. The easiest way to get connected is to contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

"It’s never a bad time to come home to your alma mater and find out what great work students and faculty are doing," Armstrong said.

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Taliban kills Pakistan politician

According to the New York Times, Fateh Khan, a prominent anti-Taliban politician in northwest Pakistan, was killed on Saturday in a suicide bombing. Police officials said that the bomber detonated the explosives near a filling station while Khan passed by, the Times reported.

According to the Times, Ehsanullah Ehsan, a spokesman for the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Our Mujahideen killed him," Ehsan said. We carried out this noble deed," Ehsan said. He vowed that more attacks on politicians will occur as the general elections approach.

Japan, China dispute islands

According to The New York Times, Chinese patrol ships entered waters around a disputed island group in the East China Sea for the 14th straight day on Friday. The Japanese coast guard intercepted the vessels and warned China to leave via radio on Friday, the Times reported.

According to the Times, tensions over the islands intensified in recent months as the Japanese government announced its plan to buy three of the islands that are still owned by a Japanese citizen.

Algeria turns against Al Qaeda

According to The New York Times, inhabitants of Algeria’s Kabylie Mountains are turning against Al Qaeda’s North African affiliate and helping security forces hunt them down. According to the Times, Al Qaeda has been defeated in much of the rest of the country but still remains active in the Kabylie, partly because the Berbers there, the regions original inhabitants. The Times reported that the Berbers have been deeply hostile to the central government and refused to provide information about enemy whereabouts.

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
Visit ursinusgrizzly.com for an exclusive Hurricane Sandy slideshow that accompanies this article.

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Aside from 20 uprooted trees and some damaged roofs, campus was left relatively unscathed by Sandy.

Sandy continued from pg. 1

ronmental studies professor at Ursinus College, said, “Hurricane Sandy is an example of an event that is of great concern to people who think about climate change.”

“Eleven years after Hurricane Katrina, a year after Hurricane Irene, a few months after an historic drought in the Midwest, there are people pointing to these anomalous weather events and saying that either these things are linked to climate change, and we have to deal with it, or these are an indicator of the types of things we are likely to experience with climate change in the future,” Hurley said.

Hurley said that it is not entirely unheard of for storms of Sandy’s nature to occur in the north, but that “people are arguing that, at the very least, we need to have a conversation about climate change impacts and that we have to decide whether we should just live with the possibility of weather events like Sandy in the future, respond in a way that reduces their impacts when they occur, for example through new engineering or building standards, or to avoid them through committed and sustained efforts that reduce the potential for climate change to generate storms of this kind in the first place.”

Regardless of whether or not climate change is to blame for Hurricane Sandy’s occurrence, there are people and organizations who advocate that it is important to be environmentally conscious. At Ursinus, UC Green is a program dedicated to those who wish to help Ursinus “go green” and make a difference on campus.

UC Green is run by the Office of Sustainability and allows students passionate about the environment to develop and carry out individual projects. Some of these projects include Bikeshare, Move-in and Move-out, Take Back the Tap, the organic farm and EcoReps.

Any student interested in becoming involved in UC Green can do so by participating in Ursinus College Environmental Action (UCEA), Recyclemania or by applying for positions within the Office of Sustainability. Underclassmen can also apply to become a UC Green Fellow at the end of spring semester to be hired for the fall.

More information on campus environmental initiatives can be found online at http://www.ursinus.edu/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=3926.

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Syrian rebels attack airbase

According to The New York Times, Syrian rebels launched an attack on Saturday on one of the main airbases in the northern part of the country, with the intention of trying to disrupt airstrikes that had been pounding rebel-held towns.

This would give the government of President Bashar al-Assad an edge in the 20-month-old civil war, according to the Times. The Times reported that the assault came one day before a key international conference in Qatar.

NY concerned about housing after Sandy

As the damage of Hurricane Sandy is assessed, Governor Cuomo of New York and Mayor Bloomberg of New York City have warned people without housing that they may have to address that very soon because of the impending cold weather, the BBC reported.

According to the BBC, around 30,000-40,000 people are in need of housing. At least 106 deaths have been reported, with 40 of them in New York City, the BBC reported.

According to the BBC, fuel shortages were easing, but Cuomo has urged New Yorkers not to hoard any gas because more supplies are on the way. The city has opened warming shelters in those places without power and has also distributed blankets to those residents who have insisted on staying in their powerless homes.

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Jilligian Goldstein/The Grizzly
Hillel fosters an open community

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Ursinus Hillel, the center for Jewish life on campus, has gained a reputation in recent years for providing an outlet where students of all belief systems can become members of a tolerant and supportive community.

Hillel Co-President Stephanie Breitsman explained that this tradition began with Ursinus alumnae Carly Freedman, who graduated in 2011. According to Breitsman, Freedman "was really good at making [Hillel] a community for both Jewish and non-Jewish people to get together."

Co-President Kathryn Siti said that the current members of Hillel are trying to carry on this tradition of unity and tolerance.

"We try and project warmth as the presidents and try and make Shabbat a really welcoming event that everybody feels like they can walk into no matter what their background is," Siti said.

Every Friday evening, Hillel hosts a feast in celebration of Shabbat, the weekly day of rest. The event begins with the recitation of a series of Jewish prayers followed by a kosher meal prepared by Ursinus students. The meals always have vegan and vegetarian options for students with restrictive dietary needs.

While describing the typical atmosphere of Shabbat evenings, Breitsman said that "there are always people who come a little earlier and kind of hang out in the living room or on the porch and just kind of get conversation going, and that's really, really nice thing. And everyone is always welcome and usually asks if they could help cook."

In addition to celebrating Shabbat, the Hillel community holds prayer services and meals for Jewish holidays that occur during the academic year, Siti said, "I know from experience [from college] in Florence if you're away from home for the holidays it's really difficult, and to have someone who can celebrate with them... it makes you feel a lot more at home."

The Hillel community recently finished celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which are widely considered to be two of the most important holidays in the Jewish faith. Rosh Hashanah, also known as the Jewish New Year, fell on Sept. 16-18, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, commenced a day of fasting and prayer from sunset on Sept. 25 until sunset the following day.

Breitsman and Siti, both seniors, hope that students will sustain these traditions at Hillel after they graduate. "Because there are a lot of people that enjoy this community, it means a lot and a lot of different things for a lot of different people. But it always needs someone to take care of it, to know that this is worth keeping," Breitsman said.

Hillel is in need of volunteers to prepare meals and clean the kitchen during Shabbat. Cooking begins a few hours before the meal is served at 7 p.m. If you have any questions about participating in the events at Hillel, you may contact Stephanie Breitsman at sbreitman@ursinus.edu, Kathryn Siti at kstsi@ursinus.edu, or Rabbi Danielle Stillman at dstillman@ursinus.edu.

New faculty members in residence 2012

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Ursinus College welcomes Dr. Jennifer Stevenson and Dr. Garrett Hope as the two new faculty members in residence this school year.

Stevenson, a psychology and neuroscience professor, and Hope, a music professor, underwent an application process involving personal statements and interviews with the Student Affairs Committee to be chosen for the Faculties in Residence program. They look forward to interacting with students beyond the classroom with focus programs that will "enhance the living and learning environment of the students," Stevenson said.

Stevenson's programs for this year revolve around the cravings she experiences during her pregnancy. The month of October, she said, was used for setting up discussions concerning human cravings, as well as eating ice cream sundaes and other foods she craves. The craving for tradition is one example she provided, and she hopes to get international students and members of Greek life involved for additional insight into this idea.

Hope's programs focus on issues within arts and culture. With Mike Mullens, residence director of Main Street houses, Hope hosted a discussion about talent and whether or not it was necessary for success within popular music. Hope was impressed with the students' approach to the subject matter. "Students were really interested and involved in participating in these topics and relating them to their life and the world, trying to answer the big questions," she said.

Neither Stevenson nor Hope has complaints about living among college students. "The students are really respectful," Hope said. Stevenson said, "When I'm inside my apartment, it's not like I know that I'm in a dorm. It's kind of like apartment living."

Stevenson said she and her husband love being active in the Ursinus community. "We wanted to be able to take advantage of what the college has to offer," she said. She added that it is easier to meet with students beyond office hours.

Hope said that being more available to students is a benefit of being a faculty in residence, but said it was a "double-edged sword." He noted that he has to be wary of how available he makes himself to students or he will find himself working all the time.

Hope lives in Richter North Hall with her husband and three-year-old daughter, who loves to ride her bike around campus. He said walking around campus is a good way to meet students. Stevenson said her dog, who is often outside, attracts students to stop by, and she likes the interaction with people outside of the classroom.

Stevenson, who moved into her apartment in New Hall in August, is anxious to get settled. "I'm still unpacking," she said. "We're finally starting to hang pictures on the walls and it's starting to really feel like a home." She said the campus will be a good place to raise her child.

Both professors encourage all students to attend their programs that occur twice a month in order to discuss interesting topics and meet new people. Hope said, "When I was an undergraduate, I had some professors who really invested in me outside of the classroom, and I want to do the same for students here."

Christmas mall

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As the holiday season draws near, Trinity United Church of Christ, located on Main Street across from Ursinus' campus, will be holding "Christmas Mall on Main Street."

The activities will begin on Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will continue on Sunday, Nov. 11 from noon to 3 p.m.

The church will host a variety of activities, including a visit from Santa Claus, arts and crafts tables, food and drinks, as well as a raffle selling an assortment of items.

In addition to the family-friendly activities, the festivities will include multiple raffles for visitors to take part in. The raffle items will be donated by local businesses and will be raffled off throughout the weekend.

According to a letter sent by Dr. Martha Kriebel, pastor of Trinity Church, members of the Collegeville community that do not will also be recognized at the fair. "We will create a flyer that will be given to each person attending the Fair that day that will identify local businesses that supported our event," Kriebel said.

In addition to the events, the food at the fair has Church members buzzing. "Benevolent Buns" will be for sale at a booth on the church lawn. The buns are reminiscent of Collegeville's Depression era sticky buns and will be for sale during the fair as well as the following Sundays leading up to Christmas for five dollars.

Anyone interested in learning more about Christmas Mall on Main Street are encouraged to call Trinity Church at (610) 489-4223 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Church can also be reached via email at trinityucc1854@verizon.net.
Photography club returns to campus

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If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a whole club full of photographers must be something worth talking about.

Photography Club has faced a rough start this year as it has struggled to reestablish itself after last year’s ineffective workshops. However, the club anticipates a rise in student involvement as it becomes more worth talking about.

One of TWLOHA’s messages is “love is the movement,” said senior Kait Vanderlaan, founder and president of the Ursinus chapter of TWLOHA. This is a message that the group hopes translates into the event.

Vanderlaan wrote in an email that the purpose of writing “love” on one’s arm represents both the organization and the movement. She said that people are supposed to “explain that you are not only supporting those struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury, etc., but you are supporting the love of all types of people.”

So far, the club has held a few events, including an outdoor night time photo shoot and a camera function workshop.

“When you do night photography, you can use lights, and you can make the designs and the names and stuff,” Crowley said. “It seems like something kind of trivial and non-important, but I thought it was really interesting to know.”

Eble said the camera workshop, taught by Professor Sarah Kaufman to cover the basics of flash, shutter speed, aperture and ISO in cameras, was an overall success that gauged interest in both students and faculty members. She said that one of the faculty members was actually sent by Alumni Relations to learn how to work the department’s camera. Eble described it as a comical “we don’t know how to use this so we’re going to send someone in Charge.”

The club also held an event nearby Valley Forge, Pa. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Eble said the focus of the trip was on nature, with an emphasis on landscape and macro photography.

Despite its title of “Photography Club,” Eble said, “you don’t have to have a huge, awesome camera,” to be in the club. In fact, Eble said you don’t need a camera at all. She said that photographers, friends, and art appreciators alike are all welcome to the events.

“You can have a camera if you want, and take pictures, or you could just go, just to go,” Eble said. “You can be in someone’s pictures or you can just go and explore...you can appreciate photography without being a photographer.”

Students can join photography club anytime of the year, and Eble and Crowley both said they invite and encourage students to come out to the club. Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, at 7 p.m. in Olin 103.

Henna event in celebration of TWLOHA day

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On Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the members of To Write Love on Her Arms will come together to do free henna of the word “Love” on people’s arms in Lower Wismer. This event is for the annual To Write Love on Her Arms Day, which occurs every year on Nov 15.

One of TWLOHA’s messages is “love is the movement,” said senior Kait Vanderlaan, founder and president of the Ursinus chapter of TWLOHA. This is a message that the group hopes translates into the event.

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She said that the purpose of using henna is that it lasts longer than sharpie does. It also serves as an artistic way to display their particular message.

TWLOHA is not only using henna as a way to make students aware of their mission. Vanderlaan said, “We also plan to chalk the campus with positive messages on TWLOHA Day just to brighten someone’s day and spread love and hope.”

The event has gotten the attention of some students. Sophomore Rebecca Fong remembers the event from last year. “I think it’s great. It gets a lot of attention,” Fong said. “My previous RA always encouraged us to do these activities together.” Fong also said that she liked the concept of the henna event because, “I think it’s creative...fun...it’s a good way to engage people in the group.”

Fong thought that people would become more aware of the group, and the group’s messages through the event, “I think it’s a good way to show people what you’re doing, and it’s expressive too because then people say ‘oh what’s that?’ and you get more people to come and be interested as well.”

According to the TWLOHA website, 350 million people in the world suffer from depression, 18 million of which are in the United States. It also says that two-thirds of those who have depression do not seek help.

TWLOHA is a national movement. According to their website, TWLOHA is “a non-profit movement dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide.”

The organization began when Jamie Tworkowski the founder of TWLOHA published an article about the struggles of a 19 year old friend of his who was struggling with drug addiction, depression, self-injury and thoughts of committing suicide.

“This organization is really important to me,” Vanderlaan wrote. “TWLOHA Day is one of my favorite days of the year because people really come together and show their love and support for those struggling with these issues.”

Happenings on Campus

Thursday

Annual Clasp Meeting, 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

English ‘S’mores Extravaganza, behind Olin, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Afro-Futurist Music in Cloake House, 7 - 8 p.m.

Friday

Collegeville Farmers’ Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Christmas Mall, at Trinity Church, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ursinus Hillel goes to Philly, 4 p.m.

British Women, Chemistry, Poetry, in Musser Auditorium, 7 p.m.

History Department lecture, in Berman Museum, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Monday

Christmas Mall, at Trinity Church, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ursinus Hillel goes to Philly, 4 p.m.

British Women, Chemistry, Poetry, in Musser Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Tuesday

TWOLHA day: free henna event, in Zack’s, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Bi-Textual Writer Series: Nadine Patterson, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Merck Information Session, in Bears’ Den, noon - 1 p.m.

Photography Club Meeting, in Olin 103, 7 - 8 p.m.

See UC Link for more information!

WWW.URSINUSGRIZZLY.COM
Sandy victims deserve respect, support

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This past homecoming weekend was a memorable one for the Ursinus College community, although not in the matter that anyone would have expected. The effects of Hurricane Sandy were destructive and widespread, causing a litany of serious problems such as power outages, flooding and destruction of some homes along the east coast.

The Ursinus campus was luckier than most places in terms of avoiding destruction; however, it still did not make it out of the storm completely clean. According to an email from Ursinus President Bobby Fong, 20 trees were torn from their roots around campus and several roofs across campus were damaged. While the campus may have avoided serious damage, some of its students were not as lucky. Many of the students who attend Ursinus are from New York, New Jersey or Pennsylvania, and their homes experienced several problems. My home, for instance, was without power until Nov. 3, and the storm did not affect my town nearly as much as it did my fellow students.

I personally know several students who reside along the New Jersey beaches where the hurricane first touched down and much of the serious damage occurred. The pictures and videos that surfaced from the storm showed unprecedented horror for this region of the country, so I can only imagine what my friends and their families are going through.

With all of that being said, there were several actions and statements that disturbed me. Several students posted statuses celebrating the fact they received off from school and that work was postponed because of the hurricane.

I even heard one student say that “those days off were nice, it was like another fall break.” These people were failing to take into account that many of their peers’ homes were in danger of being destroyed. This attitude towards the events was not limited to the Ursinus campus. There were many tweets and re-tweets cracking jokes about the effects of Hurricane Sandy from parody Twitter accounts.

One popular Twitter account, @OffensiveWonka, posted several tweets such as, “Who lives in the Big Apple under the sea?,” and, “I’ve always wanted to go to New York, and even more so now. Those underwater submarine trains look cool.” I also recall another tweet that was posted by one of my followers, stating, “Who wants to go on a romantic boattrade with me down the streets of Atlantic City?”

I immediately thought of my friends and what they were going through. These tweets, and others like them are just rude! If I were a resident of New York or New Jersey and saw these tweets, I would feel outraged and hurt.

The final occurrence that disturbed me was that several students used the storm for their own gain. One student admitted to using the grace day granted by President Fong to skip his classes and have assignments moved. It should go without saying that this is extremely disrespectful to the students who were unable to make it back to campus on time and needed assignments moved because of serious problems at their homes.

I am imploring the Ursinus community to refrain from supporting and enacting in such offensive material and actions in the future. I am asking them to consider those fellow students, educators and administrators who experienced loss over the weekend and be respectful.

Let us not forget that we at Ursinus are all part of a community consisting of 1750 students. If none of our friends were personally affected by the storm, which is highly unlikely, remember that you probably have had a class with at least one person who was.

Please be respectful and supportive to your classmates in this difficult time.

Gender roles changing in America

Amanda Frekot
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While scrolling through the news on bbc.com, I came upon a story addressing the role of masculinity in the presidential election. As a woman, I read the headline and suspected the article that women found the most attractive.

Ronald Reagan, arguably one of the most well-liked presidents of our time, exhibited manly qualities. He was not afraid to get down and dirty to do physical labor or toss a football and, as a result, the public felt safe giving him the reigns of the country.

Already a known supporter of Reagan, Mitt Romney emits a symbol of masculinity. The image of a man at the basketball court, but his support for women and homosexuals expands beyond the traditional manly image.

According to the BBC video, Obama represents a modern, “metrosexual” symbol of masculinity, but he still managed to win a majority of white, middle-class male Democrat votes, the most since the election of Jimmy Carter.

The image of a man has transitioned over the past 25 years, but the question of whether this change is happening in American women still rises. An article from CBS News reports that women have been performing better in school and valuing their education more than men.

Women have finally penetrated the work force, yet we still earn less money than men. The road to equality still has a way to go, but within the classroom it can be seen that it is “cooler” for women to be smarter than men.

Sociologist Michael Kimmel told CBS News that “academic disengagement” has become a symbol of masculinity. The value of education is no longer associated with masculinity in today’s youth, and colleges have noticed.

Some schools have invoked an indirect “affirmative action” in which they attract males by installing a new athletic building or recreation centers to compensate for this growing trend across the country. Although females are more academically capable than males, men still dominate the political world. The traditional view of masculinity may be evolving, but women still have not penetrated the political sphere of the United States.

The image of a man at the helm of the nation still holds strongly in the minds of Americans. Gender roles may not play the only role in the presidential election or, for that matter, the rest of the world, but their significance in America cannot be ignored.

Send your column ideas to Opinion Editor Dave Muoio at damuoio@ursinus.edu

The Grizzly Opinion Section welcomes submissions from members of the Ursinus community.

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Spotlight: Chris Rountree, football

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Senior cornerback Chris Rountree has seen a lot in his four years on the Ursinus football team. Whether celebrating a win or walking off of the field in defeat, Rountree continues to be an integral part of the team.

“He’s a great teammate. He’s always leading by example, making plays both in practice and in games, getting us excited and keeping the teams spirits up,” fellow player Mike D’Amico wrote in an email.

One of Rountree’s biggest accomplishments came in the Bears’ win against Susquehanna on Oct. 19, when he recorded his 21st career interception, which tied the school record in the department.

“H e’s a pretty big deal for me,” Rountree said. “It was an exciting moment.”

“People always talk about the ‘it’ factor, the ability to change a game. He has ‘it.’” D’Amico said. “All of the accomplishments he has attained, he has earned. There is no doubt about that. He works his tail off day in and day out.”

He started playing football at a young age after his parents signed him up for a team, and fell in love with the sport.

“I just like the whole team aspect, working together for a common goal,” Rountree said.

He is hoping for a future in sports, including playing for a professional team, possibly his favorite team the Carolina Panthers. Though he didn’t plan on it coming into college, his success during his sports career has made coaches and other professional affiliates pay attention. “If sports happens, it happens. Obviously that’d be great, but it’s not my main goal. It’s a long shot, a dream.”

According to Rountree, his more realistic goal for the future is to become a sports broadcaster or journalist, both ways to stay involved in the sport he loves.

Rountree and the rest of the class of 2013 play in their last game on Saturday versus Dickinson at Patterson Field. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m.

Men’s swimming looks to have big 2012 season

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After winning their first two meets of the season against Dickinson and Salisbury, the Ursinus men’s swimming team is set to take on conference foe McDaniel this Saturday, Nov. 10.

After finishing fourth last year, the highest finish in the school’s history, the men’s swim team enters the new season looking to finish even higher, especially after a strong start to the season.

David Wagner, a senior swimmer, talked about the excitement surrounding this year’s team.

“With our new freshman class we are expecting a more skilled, faster team. Because of this we have high expectations for the upcoming season,” Wagner said.

The players are not the only people who expect great things from Ursinus this season. According to the recent coaches’ poll, Ursinus is picked to finish third in the conference behind Gettysburg and Dickinson.

“Every year the team advances in the conference, and beats teams that we have never have before. This year is just the next step,” David Yarbuck, a senior swimmer said.

The Bears are returning two all-conference players this season: senior Scott Paine and sophomore Jacob Robinson. Paine finished last season by taking second in the 1650 freestyle. Robinson finished last season by also taking second in the 400 individual medley.

With great swimmers returning and high expectations, the team looks to have great leaders to hold the team together. The men’s swim team is returning six seniors and seven juniors on a team of 24 swimmers. More than half of the team is made of upperclassmen with a lot of swim experience.

“In addition to our captains, we have a lot of great underclassmen who are stepping up in and out of the pool to be excellent student-athletes. Additionally, our freshman class has taken it upon themselves to really challenge themselves and older swimmers alike to work hard,” Wagner said.

Head Coach Mark Feinberg has a lot to do with the success of men’s swim team. Feinberg is just as excited as we are to really hit this season hard and move up in the conference,” Wagner said.

The Men’s swim team heads into the season ranked high and with high hopes.

“We hope this is another big year for Ursinus swimming,” Wagner said.

Please see the Upcoming UC Sports Schedule to find out when the Men’s Swimming team swims next.

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Team preview: women’s swimming

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The Ursinus women’s swimming team is looking to continue its success from last season during this upcoming winter. Last season, the Bears finished third overall in the Centennial Conference, and are looking forward to competing for the conference title in this upcoming campaign.

Under head coach Mark Feinberg, who is entering his eighth year, the Ursinus women’s swimming team started the 2012-13 season with a 113-92 win over conference opponent Dickinson.

The Bears continued their hot start to the season on Saturday, as they defeated Salisbury in a non-conference affair, 116-80.

At the conclusion of last season, momentum was high for the Bears. The team was able to accomplish many of the goals that it had set and was able to successfully compete throughout the conference.

Feinberg was named “Coach of the Year” on the women’s side for the Centennial Conference. Conference records were shattered, two B-cut National times were set and a handful of gold medals were awarded to members of the team.

Senior Captain Sarah Kolosky is eager to get this season underway and build on the momentum that was established at the end of the last swimming campaign.

“Expectations are higher than ever. We have a bulletin board on the pool deck that we decorate every year, and usually has a list of individual and team goals posted during the season. For the 2012-2013 season we have a giant ‘?’ with the phrase ‘What will you do to be extraordinary?’ below” Kolosky said.

Kolosky said that the team has looked to former Ursinus swimming greats, such as Jen Derstein, who was named an All-American in 1991, as an inspiration for the team to aspire to reach its maximum potential.

Kolosky and her teammates wish to reach the success that previous classes have experienced and continue the proud line of Ursinus swimming.

“We come from a long line of pride, and swimmer alumni who return to watch the meets, you can see the look in their eyes and that they are truly proud to be part of this family” Kolosky said.

The Bears have an experienced roster of returning swimmers who will be looked at to provide the needed leadership for a successful season. Senior Captain Kaylani Wertman, a junior, and sophomores Molly Sefass, Chelsea Kozior and Malena Lair-Ferrari are a few of the key returning swimmers who will hopefully lead the team to a conference championship.

Among the fresh faces is Micaela Lyons. The freshman is eager to put on the Ursinus uniform and help contribute to the team’s success.

“I’m really excited. We have some really strong girls and I can tell that together we can do great things. The team dynamic is awesome,” Lyons said.

The men’s and women’s swimming teams look to top expectations and last season. The Bears face McDaniel on Saturday afternoon at home.