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Admissions updates

Despite a tough economy, UC chooses quality over quantity in its applicants.

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A Jan. 16 article in the Chronicle of Higher Education quoted Vice President for Enrollment Richard DiFelicantonio regarding Ursinus' new, stricter admissions standards and requirements, despite an increasingly difficult market for colleges and universities.

According to the article, "In an era when many colleges are asking applicants to do less, some institutions [such as Ursinus] have asked them to do more, purposely thinning the ranks of prospective students."

DiFelicantonio said more demanding application requirements ensure that prospective students are not only well qualified, but also authentically interested in attending Ursinus.

Earlier this month, the Huffington Post reported that economic prospects for the higher education sector were downgraded when Moody's Investors Service cited the entire sector, even the most prestigious research institutions, with a negative outlook. Factors such as stagnant family income, substantial state funding cuts, declining numbers of new high school graduates and uncertainty about the federal budget were all listed as factors contributing to this discouraging report.

As financial pressures have increased and colleges struggle to adapt to changes in the economy, they look for new ways to align revenues and expenses. Increasing the size of the student body and the related tuition revenues is one way that colleges have re-

sponded. DiFelicantonio said that over the last decade, many institutions, including Ursinus, have tried a "Fast App" approach to admissions, which included reaching out to more potential applicants, reducing admissions requirements and admitting more students. Some institutions deemed increasing enrollment, at the expense of a less qualified student body, a suitable solution for economic hardships.

Unlike many institutions, however, Ursinus is currently taking the steps necessary to maintain educational standards during hard economic times.

"Ursinus has become that rare college that has made it harder for students to apply," New York Times reporter Jacques Steinberg wrote in a 2011 article, "thus ensuring that those who submit applications are more likely to consider attending if accepted."

"Ursinus has become that rare college that has made it harder for students to apply."

— Jacques Steinberg
In a New York Times article

"[Ursinus] moved away from the Fast App concept, which required fewer application materials,"

DiFelicantonio said. "Instead, Ursinus became a sole user of the Common Application, which requires an essay and teacher recommendations. Ursinus also added the submission of a graded paper as a requirement."

DiFelicantonio said Ursinus stopped using Royall & Company, a marketing group that had been brought in to help increase the size of the student body, three years ago. While working with Royall, the creators of Fast App, Ursinus waived the application fee of \$50, eliminated its essay re-

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Prof. to give blackface talk

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Dr. Patricia Schroeder, an English professor at Ursinus, will speak about the history of blackface on Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. in Olin 107. Schroeder will discuss the structure of a blackface performance and the damaging social repercussions it has had for African Americans since it was popularized in the 19th century. The lecture is part of a speaker and performance series honoring Black History Month this February.

"It was supposed to be comedy, but what it did was set in place in the national imagination an image of black people as stupid, bumbling, lazy, lying and foolish," Schroeder said. "Many people who never really came in contact with black people thought that that was what African Americans were really like."

Director of Multicultural Services, Paulette Patton is taking advantage of Black History Month as an opportunity to discuss how the historical pain of blackface has resonated on Ursinus' campus.

"There was an incident last semester with blackface and a lot of students did not know the history and how it impacts African American and majority students as well," Patton said. "I thought that if we did something on blackface as part of the movement then students could understand better."

Schroeder's lecture will address the roots of blackface, some of the key performers and the mark that blackface performances have left on black history.

"The stereotypes set in place linger," Schroeder said. "What it was spreading many people took to be fact."

All of the events celebrating Black History Month at Ursinus are focused on advocating black history as an integral component of American history.

"Sometimes students think



Jillian Goldstein/The Grizzly

Dr. Patricia Schroeder, an English professor at UC, will deliver a lecture on the historical and cultural implications of blackface this Feb. 7.

that Black History Month is just for black students, but it's for everyone," Patton said.

"Everybody should know about this history," Schroeder said. "It's interesting because it wasn't studied for a very long time because people didn't want to look at it."

This year's Black History Month celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and commemorates the March on Washington of 1963, an event coordinated predominantly on college campuses. Patton localized this theme, centering Ursinus' celebration on student activism.

Patton said she plans on bringing back alumni whose activism has extended beyond the Ursinus community. She wants students to be able to relate to the speakers and the work they accomplished both on and off of Ursinus' campus.

"The stereotypes set in place linger. What it was spreading many people took to be fact."

— Patricia Schroeder
Professor of English

One such alumnus is Roger Lee, a 2010 Ursinus graduate who started the Roger Lee Dance Company to benefit young African Americans in the Philadelphia area. He will present "Dancing Through Black History," which will feature current

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Senior gift committee seeks Annual Fund donations

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Members of the senior class will gather tonight at 9 p.m. at the Trappe Tavern for a free one-hour open bar and buffet to celebrate 99 Nights Until Graduation. The 2013 Senior Class Gift Committee is sponsoring the event, which they hope will encourage students to make a donation and, as their logo implores, "Save the Bears."

The open bar is part of the committee's campaign to raise awareness of Ursinus' Annual Fund, the beneficiary of the senior class gift and an essential source of funding for the college.

"The Annual Fund is responsible for much of the day-to-day life of Ursinus as we know it,"



Taylor Manferdini, a member of both the committee and the class of 2013, said. "Gifts go to support the college through many different ways, such as academic innovation, student life, campus maintenance and administrative and operations support."

Maura Brookes, the assistant director of the Annual Giving Committee and the head of the

Senior Class Gift Drive, said the Annual Fund makes for a worthy cause than a physical campus project.

"We encourage gifts to the Annual Fund because it supports current and future students instead of something that's just nice to look at," Brookes said.

Manferdini said students can donate in person through pledge

Courtesy of Heather Holiday

cards, which committee members will be handing out in Lower Wismer and at senior class events as the campaign drive continues.

"We'll be having more events coming up where seniors can donate, such as the Grad Fair in late April and the Senior Welcome, which welcomes seniors to the alumni association, as well as, hopefully, one more fun event

such as a Quizzo night or something similar," Brookes said.

"Any amount is accepted but we recommend giving a gift of \$20.13 in honor of our graduation year," Manferdini said.

Kaitlyn Ott, a senior and a committee member, said she hopes this year will see a continuation of the upward trend in the gift drive's participation rate.

According to Ursinus' website, 72 percent of last year's graduating class participated in the Senior Class Gift Drive, donating more than \$8,000. Less than half of the graduating class donated in 2011, but the committee still managed to raise more than \$10,000. As of Jan. 27, two

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Lower lunch schedule changes

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Ursinus College students shared mixed reactions after returning from winter break to a slightly modified Lower Wismer schedule.

Ursinus' Student Government Association attempted to create a more flexible Upper Wismer schedule in the fall 2012 semester. USGA Social Chair and senior Christopher Cannito said many students had become frustrated by the limited amount of time in which they were able to eat in Upper Wismer. When students shared these complaints with USGA last year, the organization went to work to amend the issue.

At the start of the fall 2012 semester, many students were surprised by the dining schedules.

In contrast to past years, Upper Wismer had created new hours to remain open throughout the day, while Lower Wismer's hours were cut back to two-hour shifts. After working with President Fong, Dining Services and various other administrators, USGA created this schedule to appease the student body as well as dining services.

The student body still conveyed frustrations.

"I've never been one to go to Lower Wismer for meals too often, but last semester made me want to go even less. At least in years past when Upper Wismer was only open for short blocks of time the lines were still manageable," senior Kristin Cichowski said.

In response to student feedback via the USGA regarding Lower Wismer's shortened

schedule, Dining Services opted to shift the two-hour operating period for lunch by 15 minutes. Now, instead of opening at 11 a.m. and closing at 1 p.m., Lower begins taking lunch orders at 11:15 a.m. and closes at 1:15 p.m.

One student, junior Douglas Hickey, felt the pressure of the shifted schedule in Lower Wismer.

"I really appreciated that USGA and everyone did their best to create a better schedule for us. It shows that they really are listening to us," Hickey said. "At the same time, Lower Wismer is a place I try to avoid now. They shifted the time frame by fifteen minutes, so if we have class until 1 p.m. we can still grab food down here. But it's not like an

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requirement and saw huge increases in its applicant pool. But this did not result in more students choosing Ursinus and, in 2010, the Fast App idea was abandoned in favor of a more rigorous admissions application.

Ursinus is one of the few institutions that have made it harder to apply, with hopes that it will attract the type of students necessary to maintain and improve the college. DiFelicantonio said the changes to the Ursinus application were made to allow for a more substantial means of the evaluation of prospective students.

"Total Ursinus enrollment increased to more than 1,750 total students in 2010," DiFelicantonio said. "With the effects of the 2008 recession, and as the college discovered it might be over-capacity at that number of students, President Fong began planning to 'right-size' the college at 1,700

1,725."

"For the past two years, by replacing larger graduating classes with smaller entering classes of 440 to 460 first-time students, the total college enrollment projection for next year is 1,620 students with plans over the next three years to grow once again to capacity," DiFelicantonio said.

Moving forward, Ursinus is willing to take a hit in application numbers and freshman class size if it means that students applying and enrolling are a better fit for the college community. Ursinus is following the age-old rule of quality over quantity in hopes of maintaining the academic strength of its community.



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Sara Sherr/The Grizzly

After considering feedback and suggestions from the Ursinus Student Government Association, Dining Services opted to shift Lower Wismer's lunch hours by 15 minutes to accommodate students' schedules.

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extra period of time. We still only get those two hours."

While Cichowski expressed frustration about the long lines in Lower Wismer, she said the 15-minute time difference left her feeling optimistic about the future of Dining Services at Ursinus.

"I'm glad they're not ignoring the long lines and are hearing the students who can't make it down here right at 1 p.m. I think this could really alleviate the time crunch," Cichowski said.

USGA also appears to be optimistic about the changes in Lower Wismer.

"The complaints have definitely lessened since

the beginning of the year, and the small changes at Lower have had a positive effect so far," USGA Social Chair and senior Christopher Cannito said.

With fewer complaints about Lower Wismer's new schedule, USGA looks to continue working on the issues surrounding Wismer and attacking other issues on campus. Cannito said USGA is attempting to take on a more active role in creating student-suggested changes on campus.

"The plan is still not perfect, but the campus and administration have a much stronger reciprocal relationship growing than in the past, and issues like the dining one brought about the chance for the campus community to become involved with the administration in new ways," Cannito said.

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percent of the class of 2013 has participated in the class gift drive, raising a total of \$145.91.

"This year we're looking for 100 percent participation," Ott said. "Yes, we have a monetary goal in mind, but more importantly, we'd like to see our entire class participate and make a donation."

Manferdini said the annual class gift drive launched in 2000 as way to not only increase monetary support for the college, but also "as a way for the senior class at Ursinus to pledge their loyalty and support of the college."

"Giving while still being a stu-

dent helps to start the tradition of giving a gift each year," Manferdini said. "We understand college seniors do not have a lot of extra money to donate, but we want to encourage participation to foster the idea of giving back to Ursinus on a yearly basis."

Brooks said the Office of Advancement has made donating easy for future alumni.

"One massive thing that I don't think students know and isn't emphasized enough is that if they give online or give on a credit or debit card, they can give in monthly installments," Brookes said. "So, if they give \$20.13 in February and split their gift over five months, that's \$4.03 a month. Who can't give \$4.03 a month?"

Ott said she believes every senior can find a reason to make a class gift donation.

"We understand that there have been changes on campus that not everyone agrees with 100 percent, but think back to the last three and a half years here at Ursinus and all the great memories you've been able to make. I'd like to think the good experiences absolutely outweighed the negatives ones," Ott said. "Donating to the senior class gift allows for others to have the same awesome experience."

Seniors, visit www.ursinus.edu/2013 to donate to the class gift.

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Ursinus students, including a vocal accompaniment by sophomore Sasha Carvalho.

In a statement regarding last semester's blackface incident, President Bobby Fong said that students come to Ursinus "to appraise critically their own beliefs and behaviors." Patton said Ursinus' celebration of Black History Month aims to engage students with a history that might challenge their pre-established beliefs and promote understanding.

"I'm hoping that people who attend the events

will come away with a better understanding of black history and why it's so important that we have Black History Month," Patton said. "It would be great if somewhere in the future we won't need a Black History Month because it's so infused in our education system."

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Top stories from around the globe

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Brazilian night club fire leaves hundreds dead

More than 233 people were killed in a Brazilian night club fire on Sunday, Jan. 27, CNN reported. A pyrotechnics show was going on in Kiss of Sao Paulo, Brazil when the blaze began. Authorities have not released an official cause of the fire.

CNN reported that about 2,000 people were in the club when the fire started, twice the club's maximum capacity.

French military invades Gao

According to BBC, French troops invaded and secured Gao, the most populous city in northern Mali, on the night of Saturday, Jan. 26.

Islamist rebels took control of northern Mali last year, but according to BBC, they have been gradually forced out as French military operations have gained increasing control. BBC reported that many of the Islamist militants have left major cities for desert hideouts, making it difficult to identify their location.

According to BBC, French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said that troops will soon begin pursuing the Malian city of Timbuktu.

Egypt in state of emergency

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi declared a month-long state of emergency in three cities on Sunday, Jan. 27, according to MSNBC. Port Said, Suez and Ismailia were the sites of riots this past week, leaving 33 dead since last Thursday.

MSNBC reported that riots across Egypt have resulted in 49 deaths this week. Many of the people who died in the riots were shot by enraged residents after the court sentenced 21 people to

death for participating in deadly soccer violence, according to MSNBC.

MSNBC reported that protesters in Ismailia reacted to the announcement by openly criticizing Morsi and the curfew entailed by the state of emergency. In a televised speech, Morsi emphasized the responsibility of the nation to prioritize the safety of its citizens.

North Korea threatens South Korea

According to CNN, North Korea released statements threatening to initiate "strong physical counter-measures" against South Korea on Friday, Jan. 24. CNN reported that the threats are a reaction to the tightening of U.N. sanctions against North Korea because of the long-range rockets the nation launched last month.

The United States has said that it will "judge North Korea by its actions, not its words" as the country continues its confrontation with the U.S., CNN reported.

According to CNN, North and South Korea have technically been at war since the 1950s, but few violent operations have been launched since then.

Iran warns against attacks on Syria

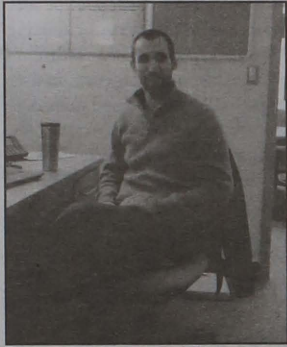
Iranian officials announced that an attack on Syria would be treated as an attack on Iran, Time Magazine reported on Saturday, Jan. 26.

According to Time, Iranian officials said they would protect Syrian President Bashar Assad if his regime was attacked by a foreign nation. Iran is Syria's closest political and military ally in the Middle East.

Assad has been fighting against an internal rebel offensive since March 2011, which has left more than 60,000 dead. According to Time, there has been no foreign intervention in the rebellion up to this point.

UC Sustainability

Brandon Hoover is the new addition



Hoover

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Brandon Hoover, the new addition to the college's Office of Sustainability, has been working with Ursinus students since meeting three of them in West Philadelphia during his time at the Urban Tree Connection.

"When I was at Urban Tree Connection, we came out here to see the farm. We brought a lot of the high school students that had summer internships with us in the city ... just to see the difference of what a farm looks like in a more suburban, rural community," Hoover said.

Hoover said his liberal arts background and Ursinus' support for sustainability guided him to the position.

"I came from Eastern University and after that worked at Messiah College for a few years," Hoover said. "Ursinus is very similar in size and the academic focus and how interdisciplinary it is."

At Temple, Hoover's research focused on urban food systems and access to healthy food and produce, including consumer-supported agriculture, where community members assume some of the risk that small farmers would normally have to undertake.

"We found that in certain neighborhoods, depending on the racial and ethnic makeup of that neighborhood, some neighborhoods had less adequate access to healthy food options," Hoover said.

"A lot of [my research] deals

with policy and politics," Hoover said. "I have hopes of continuing down that road to do research around environmental policy."

Ursinus, too, can influence the local economy through sustainability practices, Hoover said.

"I think the more the college emphasizes [sustainability] in their own boundaries, or in [the] Ursinus community, the more the Collegeville community might see that and kind of adopt some practices as well to help their own economy," he said.

"In order to be sustainable, so to speak, you have to meet all three of those [environment, equity and the economy]. You have to be concerned about environmental quality and/or degradation, how that affects people and how that might impact the local economy as well," Hoover said.

Hoover's time will be distributed evenly among campus sustainability initiatives, many of which are seasonal.

"Obviously the farm will take up a lot of my time in the summer," Hoover said, while move-out "will take up a lot of time at the end of the semester."

For the past few holidays, Hoover has made a habit of volunteering.

"Most recently it's been a lot of MLK days, Thanksgiving. My family has always been service-oriented and we went to soup kitchens ... to serve hot meals or wash dishes," Hoover said.

Shannon Spencer, climate action manager for the Office of Sustainability, said that Hoover is well-rounded when it comes to sustainability.

"I think either of us could do either of our jobs," Spencer said. "I'm delighted to have a partner."

Spencer said that her efforts will focus on administrators, faculty and staff, while Hoover will "complement that work [by] working with students."

Hoover also enjoys kayaking, the perks of biking to work and music. He used to play the bass.

"Really, just about anything that involves hanging out with my family, I would enjoy doing," Hoover said.

Word on the Street

If you could change one thing about Ursinus, what would it be and why?

"Wismer: the food has gotten progressively worse since I've been here. Hometown has wilted vegetables. I don't ever want to touch the fish. There needs to be more people at the sandwich station." -Bri Brukilacchio, Senior

"My biggest complaint is the lack of communication between departments. I did an internship last semester for the year, and I tried to add it for both semesters after talking to my advisers. The Registrar wouldn't let me add it even though my internship adviser okayed it. Thank God I didn't need those credits to graduate." -Cydne VanDyke, Senior

"Tuition: decrease it." -Jayant Velagala, Senior

"The hours of Lower Wismer. It's hard for athletes to get food during those times." -Elizabeth Cooley, Freshman

"There are so many things coming to my head right now. Wismer: the food could be better." -Mike Agiorgousis, Senior

Students make alternate majors

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Ursinus formally offers 32 majors, but some students have proven the flexibility of that sum. Students are taking advantage of the opportunity to create their own major in order to tailor their education to their specific career interests.

Student-initiated majors (SIM) can be proposed by anyone who is at least in his or her sophomore year with a GPA of 3.00 or higher and feels that a pre-established major cannot sufficiently prepare them for their chosen career path.

Cecelia Marquez, a sophomore, began her freshman year with a strong interest in art history, but her interests extended beyond the reaches of the major. "I felt that art history wasn't enough. By also taking the history of performing arts, you get a much broader scope of understanding," Marquez said. Marquez is currently pursuing a self-created major entitled The History of the Visual and Performing Arts.

Once a student has developed a potential course of study, the next step is to discuss the major with the chairperson of each department from which the student is proposing to draw courses. Each department head must approve the student-initiated major and accompanying coursework

that would satisfy its requirements.

Sarah Godfrey, a sophomore in the process of creating a dance therapy minor, said that this part of the process is the most difficult. "There aren't many self-created majors or minors to reference," Godfrey said. "There was no precedent for me to base the process on."

Godfrey and Marquez identified the coordination of communication between department heads as a challenge. "My academic advisor [Dr. Victor Tortorelli] has been so wonderful helping me set up everything, but the hardest part is definitely getting the department heads to respond so that everything can be finalized," Marquez said.

After a self-initiated major is finalized by all relevant department chairpersons and the Dean's Office, the student continues his or her education as one would on a typical major track. The student would graduate with a degree in the proposed subject.

Due to the length of time required to advance through the steps in creating a major, Marquez recommends starting this process as early as possible. It takes time for "department heads to collaborate with each other [especially] on some student that they don't know," Marquez said.

Despite tedious steps along the

way, Godfrey strongly believes that a customized course of study can enhance both the proponent's and other students' educational experiences. "It's so rewarding to see your ideas and your passion be transformed into something that you can go on to study and inspire others," Godfrey said.

Godfrey's proposed Dance Therapy minor is motivated by her deep interest in alternative uses of dance and movement. "I wanted to bring out dance as a way to express yourself psychologically more so than strictly performance," Godfrey said. "Dance has great therapeutic elements."

Marquez said her CIE course was one of the elements that influenced her decision to expand her art history major. "A lot of it has to do with CIE and reading the 'Rite of Spring' and Romantic poetry. I realized that there really are many ways for individuals to express themselves beyond painting and sculpture," Marquez said.

Marquez and Godfrey agree that the individualized education Ursinus offers allows them to translate their interests into plausible career paths. "I'm really passionate about this," Godfrey said. "It's something that I want to share with other people and I think that's the whole point of having a major and being prosperous in life."

UC welcomes Beaman

Beaman joins Center for Academic Support

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Beaman

This semester, Ursinus welcomes Yuriko Beaman, the new assistant director for the Center of Academic Support. Beaman is replacing Ellen Matthews, who previously worked as the director, beginning in February 2007.

Beaman, who is a Maryland native, attended Salisbury University for her undergraduate education, where she majored in psychology. After achieving her degree, Beaman attended graduate school at Millersville University in Pennsylvania with a concentration in clinical psychology.

While at Millersville, Beaman worked in the psychology field by testing and diagnosing students with learning disabilities. After completing her master's degree, Beaman worked at Penn State for six years before coming to Ursinus.

At Penn State, Beaman held a similar job to the current one she has at Ursinus, while simultaneously teaching a first-year seminar. Beaman's experience at Ursinus will be a little different, because while working at Penn State, she worked with about 150 students, over twice as many as the 60 students she will work with here at Ursinus.

As the new Assistant Director, Beaman hopes to start more peer initiatives with her students. One of her jobs is to work with students who are on academic probation. With doing this, she said that she hopes to be "as positive as possible."

Another part of her job is to guide first-year students. Beaman said, "Students of all years and learning levels are not aware, but they can come down if they need help with studying as well." She hopes to meet with the students who come to the Center for Academic Support office on a weekly or biweekly basis.

As a new member of the Ursinus faculty, she faces the challenge of learning the

way Ursinus works. Beaman said, with the school being a lot smaller and having different procedures in its Center for Academic Support, getting used to it will take a little time. Even with these upcoming challenges, Beaman said she is excited to get acquainted at Ursinus.

In preparation for her new role in the Ursinus community, she hopes to make a few changes in the program at the Center for Academic Support. To do this, one of Beaman's goals is to promote a "sense of community" for students with disabilities. She is encouraging the students to bond with one another.

One way she plans to establish this sense of community is by starting a new honor society at Ursinus for students with disabilities. She started such a society at Penn State, called Delta Alpha Pi. Beaman hopes that this honor society will help connect students with one another and help them relate to each other.

Not only is Beaman excited to work with the students, she also looks forward to working with and getting to know the faculty and staff members at Ursinus.

Beaman welcomes all members of the Ursinus community to stop by the Center for Academic Support, which is located in the basement of the library, to say hello and introduce themselves.

Study abroad tips and advice for UC students

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Ursinus students and an Ursinus faculty member.

The opportunity to study abroad is one of the many advantages to being a student at Ursinus. While the process can be overwhelming, Ursinus' Center for International Programs is available to support students throughout the entire process.

Going to the study abroad website is a great way to start off the process. Dr. Melissa Hardin, the assistant dean for International Studies and visiting assistant professor of Spanish, said, "First thing you should read is the policies and procedures. It covers all those basic sorts of questions about getting started with the study abroad process."

When browsing the website, the best thing to do after reading the procedures and policies is to fill out the questionnaire. This questionnaire hits the five main concerns of choosing programs such as what time of the year is preferred, how to choose between the four academic programs, language goals abroad, interest in extras besides coursework and housing. From the questionnaire, the study abroad staff can then pinpoint appropriate programs for the individual.

Hardin said that starting just a couple years ago, the study abroad department enacted a new policy that requires students to choose from the list of 250 pre-approved programs. They enforced this policy because there were numerous instances in the past where students were choosing programs for solely travel and recreational agendas.

While there are over 250 pre-approved study abroad programs, there are four main types of programs that students can choose from. Each program gradually lessens their abroad support.

The first program is an faculty-led Ursinus College program. This type of program can differ in destination. It allows students to go with a group of other

The second option is a hybrid and facilitated direct enrollment program. This program allows students the access to the full curriculum available at foreign universities, but there is an extremely high level of overseas academic advising and other support.

Another option is the academic center program. These are educational organizations students attend, usually right next to a university designed just for students studying abroad. To integrate students into the culture, Ursinus usually encourages homestays with these programs.

The final program type is an exchange program. The exchange program allows students to completely enroll at a university abroad. They will be treated like any other student on campus at that university.

After students choose the program they want, they sit down with their academic advisers. The adviser helps choose the right academic courses to pick while abroad.

After everything is approved and students are cleared to study abroad, there is a requirement by Ursinus for those students to take the one-credit, pre-departure orientation course, IDS-210. The class meets once a week for the last seven weeks of the semester, and it will prepare the students for their upcoming abroad experience.

Caitlin Harley, a senior and ambassador of the Center for Academic Programs Abroad for the study abroad office said, "Going abroad is a life-changing experience, and that is why I love helping students choose the perfect program. All of my friends who chose not to go abroad always say how much they regret not going."

Students who are interested in studying abroad should visit the study abroad office in Bomberger 104. The office offers drop-in hours, but students can also schedule an appointment online.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Senior Stress Support Group, at the Wellness Center, 3:30-4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Dinner, at the Hillel House, 7-9 p.m.	Tau Sig / Beta Sig Dated, 7-11:45 p.m.		Grizzly meeting, in Ritter Lobby, 6:30 p.m.	Resumania, in Career Services Office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	American Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Center for Science and the Common Good: Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, in Kaleidoscope Lenfest Theatre, 7 p.m.	For more information about Ursinus events and meetings, visit the Ursinus Events Calendar, a link for which can be found on the Ursinus home page.			Black History Month 2013: Dr. Ibram Rogers, in Musser Auditorium, 7-8 p.m.	Literary Society meeting, in Olin 104, 7 p.m.	Free Screening of "Vegucated," in Pfahler Auditorium, 7 p.m.
				UCommunity Bike Shop, in BPS, 7:30-9:30 p.m.	Rethinking U.S. Farm Policy, in Pfahler Auditorium, 7-8:30 p.m.	

Take advantage of the study abroad program

Melissa Kopel
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There are more than 200 countries in the world, more than two million cities, and an infinite amount of opportunity within all of them. If I could wish happiness on the world in one way, it would be to let everybody study abroad.

Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime. For many college students, it is the only time that they can be in another country without having the restrictions of a full-time job post-graduation. It enables students to learn about themselves, other people, other cultures and other languages, while immersing themselves into every aspect of life in a country outside the U.S.

But the study abroad experience is drastically different for every traveler who embarks on his or her own journey. For my last semester in Costa Rica, the endless differences that became my everyday life were the most memorable.

For instance, if you are in a country where the official

language isn't English, every waking moment holds potential for learning. Passing street signs, reading food labels in supermarkets, asking for directions- each part of your day plants more information in your brain in another language, which, in my case, was Spanish.

You pick up on nuances of the language and its slang and learn how different one country's version of a language can be from another. You might even see how different one language can be from region to region. Put yourself out there, and you can make friends with locals. There is no better way than that to learn about the language and culture of the country you are visiting.

Going abroad also allows many students, depending on their location, to travel outside their new country. You'll learn about even more people and places, and enjoy the beauties in each one. Traveling alone also fosters one's independence: you will learn how truly capable you are. Traveling with family is wonderful if you've done it, but there is a sense of strength,

resourcefulness, fun and adventure that is unparalleled when traveling alone.

If I could give one piece of advice, it would be to let nothing stop you. Studying abroad is within reach for anyone who gives it proper planning. Begin saving money in advance, plan a budget for your time away and if need be, choose a destination where living might be less expensive. Start speaking with your adviser now about how to plan your classes for the next few years, because students majoring in any subject at Ursinus can study abroad.

Find a country or city that appeals to you and do your research. No matter where you go, your experience will be completely unique from the next.

Salsa dancing, interacting with the wildlife and learning Spanish with new friends were what made my experience special. For others, such as senior Tara Harvey, who studied in Ireland, it was the relationships she formed with other students as they traveled throughout Europe and the friendliness and warmth

of the Irish people.

Wherever you go, each facet of your life will differ from the next study abroad student. But along with living in a new place lies all of the incredible richness of a culture for you to take in, and when you are in a country with constant new stimulation, thousands of things to do and an influx of new people to meet, life will never get boring. You will never have so much fun as when you are studying abroad.

Every person's experience is different, but if you keep an open mind and heart, you will come back with new outlooks on the

world and will have had the best time of your life. It may be scary for some at first to leave what is most comfortable to them at home, but I can guarantee that it will be worth it. Wherever you think about going, just go. You will see the world and yourself with new eyes.

So if you love to learn, travel and experience new things, I cannot think of anything more exciting than studying abroad. While everyone who goes comes back having had a very different experience, there is not a chance that you won't come back a changed person.

For more information about how to get involved in study abroad, check out "Study abroad tips and advice for UC students" on page 5 in the Features section

Students should be better informed about parking

Keith Miles
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Having a car on campus offers a lot of freedom to students of Ursinus College. If Wismer just isn't cutting it, they can drive elsewhere to get food. If the parties just aren't cutting it, they can drive elsewhere to have a drink. If college life in general just isn't cutting it, they can drive home for the weekend to take a much needed break.

But for a college that dedicates a section of its homepage to say how it is "located in the lively suburbs of the historic city of Philadelphia," there's not much "liveliness" to experience in the area unless you were to drive 30 minutes down Route 422 and end up in the city itself.

Luckily for us, Ursinus allows its students to have their cars on

campus, so long as you're not a freshman, of course.

In comparison to the cost of tuition, the low price of \$100 for a parking pass at Ursinus College is well within reach. If you can afford to pay the hefty price for an Ursinus education, how badly will another \$100 dent your bank account?

It won't, assuming you manage follow all of the rules in regard to your parking pass. There are actually several ways in which the proud owner of a green decal could end up being ticketed by Campus Safety, especially if, like me, you jumped right into the world of Ursinus' parking with no preparation.

I received my first parking ticket freshman year. I had my car parked on campus without a parking pass at all. I'll admit that this was a ticket I deserved.

In order to make sure I wouldn't get another ticket, I obtained a temporary parking pass the next time I brought my car to campus. I thought I was good to go when I parked my car in the Reimert parking lot with the pass placed on my dashboard.

But unfortunately, I was not. I ended up returning to my car later that week to find that, although I had gotten a temporary pass, I still managed to do something worthy of another parking ticket. This time, it was for parking in the lines painted yellow rather than white (I'm not sure how I missed the blaring difference in color tone).

Unsurprisingly, I received my third parking ticket the next year. After spending my \$100 to purchase a parking pass as a sophomore, I had been parking legally in the muddy gravel lot

behind New all semester.

But one morning, I decided to drive my car over to Corson lot and park it there for the duration of my 50-minute class. I had work at 10 a.m., and since my class ended at 9:50 a.m., I wanted to avoid being late to work by parking closer to Olin.

But you guessed it, this was breaking another rule. I came back to my car to find a \$50 fine for parking my already-decaled car in an empty lot which is apparently dedicated to visitors for only 50 minutes.

Looking back, it would have been smarter to cover up the decal for fifty minutes and pretend like I hadn't spent \$100 on it and was merely a visitor! Needless to say, I was enraged because the money I made at work that day went entirely to paying off the ticket.

In hindsight, all of these tickets could have been avoided if I had only navigated the Ursinus website and stumbled upon the section pertaining to parking.

But it's almost as though all of the information regarding parking is banished to the internet for the sole purpose of fining students sums of money for parking in spaces they were never formally advised against.

Ask your friends, I'd bet a lot of them with cars have received at least one parking ticket before. There's even a parking ticket appeal system on the Ursinus website because so many parking tickets are issued each semester.

To me, it's ridiculous that a warning ticket doesn't even exist for a first-time offense. In the end, I can only hope that the school is enjoying my spare cash more than I would have.

Wrestling pushes forward for success

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The Ursinus College wrestling team finished the first half of the season with an overall team record of 3-1. Having this record is surprising to some because of how young the team is, with only two seniors, but not to Head Coach Bill Racich.

"We're very young, but we're very excited about the possibilities if they are able to grow together" Racich said. "They are great guys to be around, win or lose, and now the young kids have to step up because of some veterans having some injuries."

Senior Bill Rieck, who has an individual record of 13-11 in the first half of the season, shared the same thinking as Coach Racich. Rieck is aware of the squad's ability and thinks this Bears team has quite a future.

"This is a really young team and not much was expected from outside sources," Rieck said. "Being a four-year veteran, I

came into the season very excited because I knew the freshmen were very skilled and had a lot of potential."

"We're doing a lot better than what I had originally projected" Rieck said. "But we are continuing to improve every day."

Ursinus starts Centennial Conference match-ups in the second half of the season.

"We always have high expectations" Racich said. "Go to every class, do the right thing socially. We want them to meet their individual daily goals. By achieving those small goals, the big goals will take care of themselves. Just let it happen."

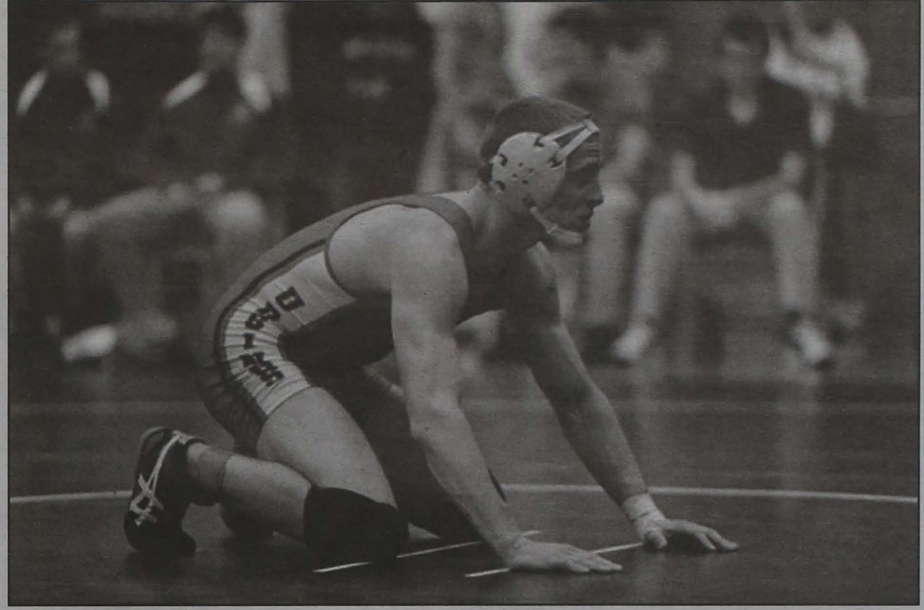
Rieck remains in high

spirits as the season reaches a turning point. The senior believes this is his best year of wrestling to date.

"I helped Coach at a club that helped me to fine tune my technique and other skills" Rieck said. "My goal for the team in the second half of the season is for us to go 8-0 in our next matches, to win the conference championship and then expect a few guys to

"My goal for the team in the second half of the season is for us to go 8-0 in our next matches, to win the conference championship, and then expect a few guys to make it to nationals."

— Bill Rieck
Ursinus wrestling team



Courtesy of Athletic Communications

Junior Elisha Gaylor and the Ursinus College wrestling team hit the mat vs. Johns Hopkins and Stevens at the Floy Lewis Bakes Center on Saturday at 11 a.m.

make it to nationals. And I expect the same from myself."

Coach Racich is really excited for the Centennial match-ups to start. The Bears defeated Gettysburg on Saturday 32-12 in their conference opener.

"Now it's becoming business," Racich said. "Every match is intense and it should be a blood bath."

With the wrestling team

achieving so much this year, and it only being halfway through the season, it is no surprise that Coach Racich and the wrestlers are very excited to begin conference matches.

"I and the rest of my staff are incredibly happy with the kids' progress," Racich said. "And leadership is an absolute key to that success. Mike Williams, one of our senior co-captains is crucial

to that success. He is a pure leader and those are especially hard to find."

In any case, the Ursinus wrestling team is looking to build on a great first half of the season and make a push towards a Conference championship later in the season. The next wrestling match is on Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. where they will take on the Johns Hopkins Blue Jays and the Stevens Ducks.

Lewis, Harbaugh headline Super Bowl XLVII

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Every writer in Hollywood began to kick themselves after the matchup for Super Bowl XLVII was set. This Sunday, Feb. 3, the Baltimore Ravens will play the San Francisco 49ers in New Orleans, La. for the Lombardi Trophy.

The Ravens field the oldest defense in the NFL. Led emotionally and physically by 13-time Pro Bowler-Ray Lewis, the Ravens' defense has the reputation as one of the most feared opponents in the league, especially now because this is Ray Lewis' last hoorah.

After tearing his triceps in a mid-October game against the Cowboys, the 37-year-old missed

the remainder of the regular season. Lewis announced he would be retiring after the 2012-13 playoffs on Jan. 2, and returned for a Jan. 6 playoff game against the Colts. The Ravens won the game 24-9.

It seems that the Ravens offense has been taking notes on their defensive teammates. Not typically known for being a threatening team on offense, the Ravens, led by quarterback Joe Flacco, have outplayed Peyton Manning and Tom Brady during these playoffs.

Offense and defense aside, the Ravens' success has been crafted by their coach who goes by the last name of Harbaugh.

The 49ers, who feature a much younger team than the Ravens, have also had their success

crafted by their head coach, who also goes by the last name of Harbaugh.

That's right. Two brothers, John (Baltimore) and Jim (San Francisco), are pitted against each other to coach the most important game of the year. According to Kathy Ensor, a member of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the statistics department chair at Rice University, the odds of this event happening are 1 in 11,175.

The combination of a once-in-a-lifetime coaching matchup with emotional appeal behind Ray Lewis' retirement makes Super Bowl XLVII a blockbuster hit. It will be one of those moments when people say, "You just can't write this stuff."

As far as the play itself is con-

cerned, the game will come down to the 49ers offense against the Ravens defense.

Since taking over the starting quarterback role, second-year Colin Kaepernick has made a name for himself as one of the best dual-threat quarterbacks in the league. His ability to run the ball has been compared to an early Michael Vick.

In their playoff game against the Green Bay Packers, Kaepernick rushed for a record 181 yards and threw the ball for an additional 263 yards.

The Kaepernick experiment has gained similar attention to Tim Tebow and Jeremy Lin. However, it seems that Kaepernick might be able to do something that the latter could not: win when it matters.

Then again, the emotion from the Baltimore locker room may be too much for the young 49ers to handle. As one of the most well-known figures in the NFL, it's hard to see Ray Lewis not end his career with a win. It would be the storybook ending that the media goes crazy about.

Two brothers, the final game to add to the Ray Lewis legacy, two up-and-coming quarterbacks, Torrey Smith playing for his brother (who passed away earlier in the season), a great rushing game on both sides and most importantly, the Super Bowl. Sunday's game will have just as much drama as it will have highlights.



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Lofty goals set for UC gymnastics

Al Weaver
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As the old adage tells us, slow and steady wins the race. The Ursinus gymnastics team hopes that rings true as the season pushes forward with three meets already in the books.

While the Bears have gotten off to a solid start, Coach Jeff Schepers believes this team has a great chance of making it to the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships as a team for the first time since 2008. Though the team has had a run of brilliance in recent seasons, their success has largely been marked by individual achievement.

"I think this year, we have a good shot at making it back there," Schepers said. "The past two years, we've had enough girls for a team score in each event [at the NCGA Championships], but we weren't technically a team. We would have gotten fourth place last year, but we weren't a team."

Leading the squad this season is reigning National Champion Monica Durham. Durham scored a 9.600 to win on vault at the NCGA Championships last March in Brockport, N.Y.

"It all comes down to staying focused on my team and working hard in order to ensure the best possible outcome at the end of the season," Durham said. "Personally, I want to qualify as a team to the NCGA Championships. That is the ultimate goal. After that, everything else would just be icing



Junior Monica Durham looks to lead the squad to the NCGA Championships for the first time in six seasons while defending her National Championship in vault. The Bears compete at Temple Saturday at 1 p.m.

Courtesy of Athletic Communications

on the cake."

Durham exemplifies the individual accolades the Bears have garnered over the past few seasons. Last season, senior Jo War-

ren (all-around and floor exercise) and sophomore Kristin Aichele (beam) received All-American honors.

"It's still early in the season

and Monica usually peaks later on in the season. She knows how to manage herself also," Schepers said. "She doesn't come out of the block too fast, and our big-

gest meets aren't until the end of the season. I think she has a great chance to capture that first place spot at [NCGA] nationals."

Through three meets, the gymnastics team has already experienced its ups and downs. In their first two meets, the team posted scores of 180.675 and 182.725, respectively, a two-point improvement. However in their latest meet at Towson University, the team dropped their overall score to 181.150.

Senior captain Erica Schnebel believes this is a learning experience for this Bears squad, which features only three seniors and two juniors.

"Overall, our performance was better than most first meets of the season," Schnebel said. "Competing against large Division 1 gymnastics programs can be intimidating for some girls and, at our third meet, I think this got the best of us. After having a slip in our overall team score, we are evaluating what happened and where to go from here."

"We are looking to get back on track and increase our team score with each meet that is left in the season," Schnebel said.

With less than two months left until the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) and NCGA Championships, Schepers is looking forward to seeing his team reach their potential, and together in Brockport on March 23 as a team.

"I really want to see them reach their goals, make it to nationals as a team and I really want to see them have a good time doing it."

Upcoming UC Athletics Schedule

1/31 Women's Basketball @ Bryn Mawr 7 p.m.	2/2 Men's Track and Field Frank Colden Invitational @ Ursinus, 9 a.m.	2/2 Wrestling vs. Johns Hopkins/Stevens 11 a.m.	2/2 Women's Swimming vs. Washington 1 p.m.	2/2 Women's Basketball @ Gettysburg 1 p.m.
1/31 Men's Basketball @ F&M 7 p.m.	2/2 Women's Track and Field Frank Colden Invitational @ Ursinus, 9 a.m.	2/2 Men's Swimming vs. Washington 1 p.m.	2/2 Gymnastics @ Temple 1 p.m.	2/2 Men's Basketball @ Gettysburg 3 p.m.