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AFAC to fund ESPN

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After several weeks of student feedback, members of the Ursinus Student Government Association and college administrators made a decision in favor of maintaining ESPN cable services for the school.

When ESPN was initially placed on the chopping block, students reacted strongly. Some were so enraged by this possibility, they created a change.org petition, which they encouraged other students to sign via social media. Although the online petition was only signed by 75 students, it was one of many outlets for students to express their opinions. Disgruntled students have also reached out to administrators as well the USGA and President Bobby Fong to gain insight into this decision making process.

“We are evaluating whether the money that we are spending on cable TV is being allocated in the way that most benefits the student body as part of a routine revaluation of the services we provide,” Network Technologies Manager James Shuttlesworth said.

Shuttlesworth was involved in the decision making process from an early stage.

“We have heard from many students that indicate that ESPN is an important part of their day and something they would miss terribly. We have also heard from some students that they are shocked at the cost of the package and the amount it has increased and feel strongly there are better options. Disgruntled students have also reached out to administrators as well the USGA and President Bobby Fong to gain insight into this decision making process.

See ESPN on pg. 3

No tolerance for open containers

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Ursinus is a wet campus. Outside of specific housing arrangements, students of age are allowed to possess alcohol and imbibe. As long as the drink in question is "in a container of 16 ounces or less," it is acceptable, according to the Ursinus student handbook.

Ursinus' drinking policy, however liberal, has been a source of controversy among students. Most contentious is Ursinus' open container policy. The student handbook states that alcohol may only be consumed "inside individual student rooms, suites and residence houses."

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According to the handbook, hallways and common rooms within New and North Halls as well as porches and balconies of any residences are considered public spaces.

Under the zero-tolerance iteration of the open container policy, an offender's name is recorded and passed on to Colleen Valerio, Residence Life's Graduate Assistant for Alcohol and Wellness Education. If the student is under 21, a letter informing his or her parents of the infraction is sent home. Regardless of the student's age, a conversation with Valerio about the open container policy will take place. Following the conversation, the student will be required to attend a group discussion on Ursinus' alcohol policy.

Although the consequences of the zero-tolerance policy are quite clear, the reasoning behind its purpose of a staff assembly

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A committee has been formed to create a proposal for a new Staff Assembly, which will be considered for approval in the May Board of Trustees meeting.

"The purpose of a staff assembly is to provide an opportunity for people who are at the staff level to come together to have a voice on campus and to make sure they are communicating with each other," Melissa Sanders Giess, the director of Residence Life and chair of the committee, said.

College employees who do not teach but work in facilities or as administrators are considered staff members. The committee was formed by President Bobby Fong and nominations for the proposal committee's members were solicited from staff on campus.

See Staff on pg. 2

In the fall, Ursinus began enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for open containers in public areas on campus.

See Containers on pg. 2

Heidi Jensen/The Grizzly

Staff form assembly

Other members of the committee to form the Staff Assembly include Senior Advancement Officer Ken Schaefer, Myrin Circulation Department Supervisor Maureen Damiano, Athletics Operations Manager Kip Lacy, Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator Carol McMillin, Admissions Administrative Assistant Barbara Mulroy, Executive Assistant to the Dean of the College Val Nelson, and Network Operations Administrator James Tiggett.

These members first met in November to determine if they thought that Ursinus should have a Staff Assembly.

"It was pretty unanimous from within the committee that yes, we wanted a Staff Assembly," Giess said.

After the initial vote, the committee spent the last four months

"It was pretty unanimous from within the committee that yes, we wanted a Staff Assembly," Giess said.

After the initial vote, the committee spent the last four months
Transfer students offer perspective on UC

Carly Siegler
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Alisha Kinlaw and Jordan Dunnigan have never met. Kinlaw is a junior at the University of Oregon planning to attend law school, and Dunnigan is a sophomore at Ursinus College majoring in media and communication studies. Both entered college believing they would go into secondary education for English, but changed their minds along the way.

Kinlaw spent her freshman and sophomore years as a student at Ursinus before making the decision to transfer to Oregon. Dunnigan spent his freshman year at Northampton Community College near his home in Bethlehem, Pa., before deciding to transfer to Ursinus.

In the fall semester of 2012, one was coming as the other was going, but both firmly believed that transferring was the right choice for them.

Missy Bryant, the director of First-Year Programs and the Center for Academic Support at Ursinus, serves as the chair of the retention committee on campus, which she said “meets on a biweekly basis to talk about trends and issues that are facing students on campus, particularly students who are thinking about leaving.” U.S. News and World Report puts Ursinus’ College retention rate at 89 percent for freshman, which Bryant said is a high number.

Despite the fact that Ursinus trails in retention behind other liberal arts colleges in the Centennial Conference, Bryant said that she could not explain the numbers. She recognized that Ursinus is similar to those schools in many ways, but said she finds that students’ reasons for leaving Ursinus vary by individual.

“It runs the gamut from, ‘I really like the idea of Ursinus being a small school, but I didn’t realize how small it was, and now I’m not happy with that and I want something bigger,’ to ‘I got this great financial aid package in my first year, but now I’m realizing that I can’t afford the difference between financial aid and what tuition is,’” Bryant said. “The reasons vary from student to student, and I don’t know how that might play in, or be similar or different to other institutions in the conference.”

These institutions include Muhlenberg College, which Dunnigan was the only other school he considered, apart from Ursinus.

“For me, [Ursinus] just fit. I felt like I really belonged here, which I didn’t feel at any other school,” Dunnigan said. “I think the school has a lot to offer in many different areas.”

According to Bryant, 15 to 20 transfer students enter Ursinus per year, and there are many offices on campus that work closely with students to make sure they are adjusting both academically and socially to life on campus.

Dunnigan said that although the college was very welcoming, the first couple of weeks were difficult. According to Jan Leveenograd, assistant director of the Center for Academic Support, transfer students like Dunnigan are in a unique position because, “they’re not new to college, they’re new to Ursinus.”

While Dunnigan eventually found the “second home” he was looking for at Ursinus, Kinlaw felt something to be lacking on the small campus.

“I thought that I would like a small liberal arts school because I thought there would be a strong sense of community,” Kinlaw said during a Skype interview from Oregon. “I found that it was actually a very fragmented sense of community.”

Kinlaw’s observation about the campus community is not unfamiliar to those working in the Center of Academic Support.

“This is never the main reason for wanting to leave, but [students] say there are too many cliques on campus,” Leveenograd said.

According to Kinlaw, one of these “cliques” may be Ursinus’ collection of unhappy coeds.

“There’s such a huge transfer cult there,” Kinlaw said. “So many people at Ursinus talk..."
ESPN continued from pg. 1

uses for the money,” Shuttlesworth said.

In the last two years, the cost of ESPN has increased twenty percent.

“The ESPN package, which includes all the stations except ESPN-U, makes up about 48 percent, or about $40,000 of the entire television budget, which is currently about $90,000,” said Sophomore Representative Brian Kennedy.

The ESPN package is comprised of the only optional channels that remain in the school’s cable service. The remaining $50,000 covers the basic cable package, television maintenance and foreign language channels that are required by the modern languages department.

Kennedy said the USGA decided to create a campus-wide survey to gauge students’ interest in keeping ESPN despite the cost increase. Kennedy said the survey was part of the student government’s as well as the college administration’s continued efforts to ensure that students’ opinions are made a priority.

In addition to interest in ESPN, the survey, which was available on Blackboard and closed on March 21, also addressed the television viewing patterns of students on campus in an effort to determine a replacement cable package if the survey showed a majority in favor of removing ESPN.

After reviewing the results of the survey, Junior Gerald Gares, the newly elected president of USGA, said the decision was made to continue ESPN services using money from the Activities Fee Allocation Committee, which normally only supplies funds to campus organizations and clubs.

“USGA was successful in our request to get $6,000 in AFAC money to use to supplement the TV budget on campus. It was the view of the USGA and AFAC committee that this was money designated to the students that will now be used to solve an issue that would have negatively affected the student body,” Gares said.

Gares said that while it is not an ideal use of AFAC funding, the committee’s annual budget had the funds necessary to continue ESPN for another year. Had this remaining money not been spent by May, Gares said it would have ultimately been lost.

Although this funding will only guarantee ESPN services for the 2013-2014 academic year, Gares and other members of USGA plan to work with administrators to ensure ESPN remains available on campus.

Top stories from around the globe

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Two die of new Bird Flu strain in Shanghai

The BBC reported on Sunday, March 21 that two men, ages 27 and 87, died after contracting the H7N9 strain of the bird flu in Shanghai and in 35 year old woman is critically ill after contracting the virus in Chuzhou, China.

China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission reported that the three victims had coughs and fever before developing pneumonia. According to the BBC, this H7N9 strain has not been transmitted to humans before, and there is no immunization against it.

Jury indicts 35 in Atlanta cheating scandal

According to CNN, a jury is indicting 35 Atlanta public school educators and administrators on corruption and racketeering charges, including reports of unexplained increases in test scores. One of those indicted is Beverly Hall, a former superintendent who is said to have turned around Atlanta’s public schools, CNN reported.

Hall denies involvement in the cheating scandal, which, according to CNN, dates back to 2001 when test scores were allegedly altered and falsely certified.

Search for new FBI director

On Sunday, March 31, The Washington Post reported that the Obama administration has begun its search for a new FBI director to replace Robert S. Mueller III, who will step down after 12 years on the job. According to The Post, for the first time in history, the lead contender for the position is a woman. Lisa Monaco, who recently became President Obama’s top counterterrorism adviser, is “one of several people under consideration,” The Post reported.

Mueller took the position one week before 9/11, and while, according to The Post, the director’s job is limited to 10 years by law, Obama requested Mueller’s term be extended after an initial search for a replacement failed.

Potential cancer cure found

According to an article published in the New York Post on Wednesday, March 27, researchers may have found “a miracle drug” capable of curing all types of cancer tumors. The Post reported that the drug blocks a protein produced by cancer cells that prevents the immune system from attacking the cancer.

Researchers have successfully tested the drug on mice with a variety of human tumors, according to the Post. The research is being led by biologist Irving Weissman of the Stanford University School of Medicine and the Post reported that Weissman received a $20 million grant to test the drug on humans.

Supreme Court reviews Civil Rights policies

The Associated Press reported on Sunday, March 31 that the Supreme Court is reviewing affirmative action in universities as well as laws protecting minority voting rights to determine whether race relations have improved to the point that the legal system can become “colorblind.”
Airband Event

The 30th Annual Airband event will occur on April 6 in the Lenfest theater.

Saturday April 6th
Ursinus College's 30th Annual Airband

Tickets will be on sale in Lower on April 2nd & 3rd

Admission: $5

Proceeds benefit Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund

Devoted yet battered players

Dedicated football players pay price for love of the game.

Austin Fox
aufox@ursinus.edu

“My knees hurt, my shoulders click, I can’t bend my fingers all the way into a fist, and if I attempt to run without an ankle brace my ankle is going to roll.” This may seem like a statement made by a person feeling the effects of old age or perhaps a professional athlete coming to the end of their career. These are the words of John Carty, a 20-year-old Ursinus student who just finished his 12th year of football. Carty points to the scars that run vertically over each of his knee caps, roughly four inches in length. The marks have a shiny, lifeless appearance to them, a constant reminder of how grappling the sport of football is for those who play it.

“My biggest problem is my knees, the other things I’ve had aren’t really a big deal.” Carty, who tore his ACL in both knees, had surgery in 2007 as well as 2008 to repair the injuries. Carty continued, “I rehabbed each knee for about nine months, and I still have to rehab if I tweak a knee or feel like one is weak.” Football is leaving its mark ubiquitously, afflicting players at every level and every age. Athletes everywhere feel the painful effects of serious injuries, all the while dealing with the emotional trauma of seeing the game they love become too cumbersome on their bodies.

For many athletes like Carty, serious injuries can be fully rehabilitated, and aside from the constant threat of reinjuring, one’s day-to-day life may not be affected. But for some, these injuries make otherwise easy tasks difficult. Just as Carty did, Wilmer Barndt rubs his knee as he talks about his experience. “I never thought I’d be walking with a limp. The scar tissue from my injury prevents full range of motion so I never really walk comfortably,” Barndt continued, “It was really surprising, it didn’t hurt that bad so I thought it was no big deal, but when the adrenaline wore off and it started to set in that I would be out for a long time, I remember feeling so helpless.”

Many football players, no matter how worn and beaten their bodies become, believe the pain felt from quitting the game would be too much to bear; and payment with one’s body is fair in exchange for the ability to play the game.

Marc Lordi, a 24-year-old New Jersey native, knows all too well what kind of price some pay for the game. Lordi, who graduated Ursinus in 2010, played four years of NCAA football and is now an assistant coach of the Bears. Unfortunately, a history with Ursinus is not the only thing he has in common with the men he coaches; Lordi underwent four surgeries during his playing career. ACL repair on both knees, as well as a labrum repair in both shoulders.

“I’ll never be able to do anything athletic that involves side-to-side movement,” Lordi pauses and chuckles, “so I guess I’ll never do anything aside from swimming or running straight.”

Football does many great things. It builds character and camaraderie. It requires commitment and an unwavering work ethic. It builds leaders and shows many what virtues, like loyalty and trust, are and how they work within an organization.

For all of its wonderful qualities, football has an unfortunate paradox: the hunger and determination required to be a successful football player are the same things that drive so many young men to permanently damage their bodies.

Lordi begins to chuckle again, “Other than all of that stuff, I have absolutely no problems from my injuries,” He looks up, laughs once more and shrugs, “The things we do for football.”

Word on the Street

How do you feel about registering for classes online?

“I’m a sophomore; we were like the first people to ever do it, so the first time we did it, it was awful. It took me I think close to three hours. I’ve seen it through basically the whole existence, and I’ll say it’s much better than it was. I think I prefer it to the paper version because I know for a fact that if you are planned out and organized, the classes you get into is not dependent on when someone picks up your paper. I think it’s a positive thing and I’m glad they do it.” - Ben Jumper, Sophomore

“I think it’s really stressful and there are al lot of issues with it, but I also think it’s the most fair way to do it.” Erica Gorenber, Sophomore

“I wish I didn’t have to stay up until midnight to register for classes and I found that two of the classes I wanted to take didn’t exist even though they do, so now I have to go to the Registrar and fix that, so I don’t really like it.” - Tess Casper, Junior

“I thought it was Monday at midnight, so I think it’s confusing.” - Matt Johnston, Junior

www.ursinusgrizzly.com

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samcgettigan@ursinus.edu sahourwitz@ursinus.edu

Sophomore Monica Reuman won the poster contest for Airband 2013. The 30th annual Airband performance will be held on Saturday, April 6 at 9-11p.m at the Lenfest Theater in the Kaleidoscope.

Airband, which was founded in 1982 by Director of Career Services Carla Rinde and Resi­dence Life according to the UC organizations, athletic teams, and individual students, staff, and faculty according to the Ursinus events page. This year’s performance will include eight acts, which is four less than last year.

Different on-campus organizations, athletic teams, and individual students perform acts to raise money for a given charity. The charity to receive the money raised from this year’s ticket sales is the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, said Bree Gaddy, a se­ni­or Resident Advisor involved in planning the event. The Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund is a local organization that according to its website advocates for families with seriously ill, physically and cognitively challenged, or severely injured children nation­wide through information and education. Last year, the proceeds from the event went to the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County.

“Even if you’re just sitting in class one day, the Residence Life office plays a big role in the preparation for the event. RA Caitlin Lindley said that they started preparing for the event since last semester. Lindley says all the preparation is “worth it to see Airband come to life and to be able to give back to a deserving charity.”

The students who perform in the annual competition devote a lot of time to rehearsing rou­tines. Kelley Fallon, a junior member of Sigma Sigma Sigma who performed with Sigma last year and is performing with the group again this year, said that prepar­ing for the show is rather time consuming, but that rehearsal is the highlight of her day. “Every­body is so happy during rehearsal and it really unites us as a sisterhood,” Fallon said.

The winning acts do not re­ceive prizes, Gaddy said, but are given titles such as “Best Over­all Act,” “Best Comedy Act,” or “Best Dance Routine.” Despite the fact that Airband is a compet­i­tion, the performers aren’t pri­marily concerned with winning. Fallon said, “Even though Air­band is a competition, we didn’t look at it in that way and instead had a blast during every rehearsal and in the performance.”

Students interested in attend­ing Airband on Saturday can pur­chase tickets ahead of time for $5.

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Blogging has educational benefits

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As tools like Blackboard and Facebook become ubiquitous in the classroom, some Ursinus professors have asked their students to contribute to online discussions about course material. Blogging has become standard in various courses at Ursinus.

Junior Eli Kineg said blogs encourage people "to bring their best to the table."

"I think in many cases people perk up, and they're like, 'okay, wait, people are reading this? I have to post my best stuff,'" he said. Kineg blogs for Dr. Tony Nadler's Persuasion class, MCS 307, where students are split into two groups for blogging. One group posts an initial response to the week’s reading, and the second group responds to two of the initial posts. The students switch roles the following week.

"I would love to see the blog conversation, first of all, enriching the classroom conversation," Nadler said. Students who are assigned the initial response "tend to have thought through the issues a little bit more, and tend to speak a little bit more," he said. "Most people have a lot more motivation to write when they know that their writing is actually going to be read, even if the audience is quite small," Nadler said.

Kineg also said posting their writing in public causes some students anxiety. "They get kind of worked up, and it can block some of their thoughts," he said. "If it's just something you email to a professor ... it's so standard a practice that it's not a big deal," Kineg said.

Dr. Jon Volkmer of the English department created a closed Facebook group for his students to discuss their senior seminar about banned books. "The class only meets once a week, but we have very interesting discussions on some very controversial books.... and sometimes these conversations don't feel like they're finished when it's time to leave the classroom. So the Facebook page is simply an opportunity to finish the conversation," he said.

Volkmer said it's part of a broader trend away from thinking of life in discrete blocks.

"With this blog culture, it's more like you're thinking of the course 24/7, and maybe that's a good thing, or maybe that has negatives," he said.

Kineg and Nadler both suggested that students might censor themselves more than they would when writing solely for their professors. "In some particularly sensitive topics, there may be certain students who feel like they may have a real minority point of view, or a point of view that's not easily accepted by others in the class," Nadler said. "And assuming they feel like they have a decent rapport with you as an instructor, that could be one instance where the reading journals offer a certain safety," he said.

"I dull the sharp edges of my point," Kineg said. "Let's be friendly and consider everyone's points. At the same time, it's kind of a bummer that you have to tip-toe around 20 different possible viewpoints."

The disadvantages can be, as with emails, that there's no context. There's no eye contact or tone of voice, Volkmer said. "Flare ups can happen. People can flame or think they're being flamed," Volkmer said.

"I think [blogs have] been very successful, and it's a way for this group to develop more camaraderie," he said.

Ursinus students celebrate World Water Month

Megan Maccaroni
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With the leadership of the UC Green Fellows, Ursinus will be celebrating World Water Month, which began on March 22 and runs until Earth Day on April 22. The month will involve events that will educate the campus about global water issues and emphasize how students can be more cognizant of their own water usage on campus.

The UC Green Take Back the Tap (TBTT) Coordinator, Junior Sarah Huang, has organized a number of events to spread the main message of TBTT's campaign, which is that bottled water is no safer than tap water, and supporting the bottled water industry causes a number of social and environmental problems.

Ursinus is one of 26 universities across the United States with a TBTT coordinator on campus.

In order to raise awareness, Huang and her team of volunteers recently organized the Tap-a-palooza event during Common Hour on March 27. Activities like water bottle ring toss, recycled bottle planter crafts, and a trivia table attracted students, who in turn learned more about the TBTT campaign.

A number of students also signed the TBTT pledge, which according to foodandwaterwatch.org, had students "choose tap water over bottled water whenever possible."

During water month, TBTT is sponsoring a competition between participating universities, and the school with the greatest percentage of pledges per capita wins a bottle filling station.

"I think that winning a free station would be awesome and it would show administration, faculty, and staff that there's huge student support for this kind of initiative," Huang said.

More opportunities to sign the pledge and take part in TBTT activities will take place April 3 and 10 during Common Hour, when the TBTT volunteers will host a "Test Tasting" event. Participants will taste four unlabeled waters and guess which one is tap.

"Usually people don't really know the difference," said Huang. "Sophomore Emily Cooper, the Global Water Crisis UC Green Fellow, builds on the topic of water justice and sustainability by hosting guest speaker Walt Walker, the president of the Philadelphia Professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB)."

Cooper said Walker will discuss his personal experience and work in sanitation and water supply projects in developing countries.

This UC Green event will be on April 10, at 7 p.m. in Pfalher's Musser Auditorium.

Even though World Water Month only lasts for a short time, these UC Green Fellow projects will continue into the following years, so students interested in participating can email Sarah Huang at sahuang@ursinus.edu or Emily Cooper at emcooper@ursinus.edu.

Happening on Campus

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<td>William Wilson</td>
<td>Capstone 2013 for Admitted Students, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.</td>
<td>UC Organic Farm Cookout, at the Organic Farm, 12-4 p.m.</td>
<td>2013 Bunny Hop 5K &amp; Family Fun Walk, at the Trappe Tavern, 8 a.m. to noon</td>
<td>Center for Science &amp; Common Good: Theoretical Physicist Matt Strassler, in Pfalher Auditorium, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Class of 2016 Fall Housing Lottery, in Olin Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Take Back the Tap Taste Testing, in Olin Plaza, 12-1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Baden Faculty Lecture, in Musser Auditorium, 4:15-5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Airband Dress Rehearsal, in Kaleidoscope Lenfest Theater, 7-10 p.m.</td>
<td>UC String Ensemble Spring Concert, in Bomberger Auditorium, 7:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3rd Annual Stairs Challenge, All day</td>
<td>Holocaust Memorial Talk: A Child Witness of the Holocaust, in Olin 107, 7-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Fashion Fights AIDS, in Berman Museum Main Gallery, 7:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>President's Forum, in Wissmer Main Lobby, 12:30-1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Class of 2015 Fall Housing Lottery, in Olin Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat dinner, in Hillel House, 7-9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Holocaust Memorial Talk: A Child Witness of the Holocaust, in Olin 107, 7-8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Career Services Walk-in Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.</td>
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Seniors: don’t freak about the future

Carly Siegler
casiegler@ursinus.edu

As children, we are taught to be polite, to filter ourselves so as not to blurt out inappropriate personal questions such as, “How much money do you make?” or “Do you believe in God?” We default to safe questions such as, “How’s the weather?”

So I find it just a bit ironic that from day one of a college student’s senior year, that same generation of people who once scolded us for asking too many questions are suddenly breathing down our necks with the inevitable, “What are you going to do with your life?”

For the first 18 years of our lives, we have a neat little roadmap of where we must go and what we must do. Elementary, middle, high school, “second star to the right and straight on till...” college. Four more years, then suddenly, the map ends, and Columbus was right, after all.

The Earth is flat. As time moves at warp speed toward graduation, we feel as if we’re about to fall off the edge. Many have told me over and over that I can come home and take as much time as I need to figure out what comes next, as I’m sure many other parents have, but it is difficult to reconcile familial support with the mounting societal pressure to become a highly functioning member of “the real world.”

What is the “real world” anyway? Why are the blood, sweat, and tears we shed, the debts we incur, the sleep we lose, and the life-altering decisions we make every day in college not as real to our elders as their nine to five jobs, incurred debts, and mid-life crises?

Senior Chloe Campbell is a natural leader. During her time at Ursinus, she has been a UC Ambassador, a Writing Fellow, a Peer Advocate, and a presence on the Dean’s List. I know this about her because she is my friend, but the stranger who asks her, “What are you going to do with your life?” could have no idea about all her accomplishments. Campbell said that the stress of that oft-repeated question is getting to her.

“It depends on who the person is, but nine times out of 10, I usually want to punch them in the throat, and I can’t breathe. I mean I have my canned answer, but it’s starting to feel so ridiculous, and I’m afraid it sounds like I don’t have any ambition,” Campbell said.

There was ever a time when it was enough to be a member of that elite percentage of adults who had been conferred with a degree from an institution of higher learning? It is bad enough to have to face the snickers of people who hear the words “small liberal arts school!” and “Ursinus” and immediately write us off, because they, for all their worldliness, have not heard of it.

With headlines like, “Unemployment Rate for New College Graduates Continues to Drop,” how are we supposed to feel when scrolling through what appears to be the ideal job on UC Careernet only to find that it requires one or two years post-graduate experience? Discussions of the future are hardly easier for those who have already been accepted into entry-level jobs or graduate schools.

Senior Mary Barbagallo is proud of her acceptance into Teach for America, but said that this is a short-term accomplishment, and cannot sufficiently answer the questions of what she wants to do in the future.

“Well, having something to do with my life is a good response to get them off your back, but it’s not what I want to do forever, so it’s kind of like I have an interim thing, and that’s okay, but it’s kind of nerve-wracking, because you have longer term goals and you’re not quite sure how that’s gonna work out,” she said.

The truth is that if I told the truth to those who asked, that what I really want to do with my life includes making a difference, fostering the arts, and making a movie with Woody Allen, they would hardly take me more seriously than if I just shrugged and said, “I don’t know.”

The truth is, a new roadmap is in the works, and when it’s ready, on my time, I am happy to let the world know.

In the meantime, I know that I will feel pride when I walk across that stage in May, and I hope that the rest of the class of 2013 can feel similarly. We have nothing to prove to anyone but ourselves.

So the next time you are asked the question, “What are you going to do with your life?” take a breath, smile, and pretend you are talking about the weather instead. “Well, to be honest, it’s a little foggy right now. But there’s hope on the horizon.”

Extra-curriculars an important part of education

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More than just an institution of academic learning, Ursinus encourages its students to participate in community work, clubs and organizations. Consequently, Ursinus students are extremely committed to extra-curricular activities since they are aware of the advantages of and benefits they provide.

It may sound obvious, but the most important reason to be involved in clubs is to build social skills. The more involved you are, the more you benefit from it by improving your interpersonal and communicative skills improve.

Through extra-curricular activities, students also learn valuable personality traits such as pride, efficiency, and organization while fostering leadership and responsible citizenship. In fact, they promote personal and professional development and people have plenty of chances to learn how to express themselves and accept others.

“I have been involved in extracurricular activities since freshman year and I have seen a huge change in my confidence and social skills,” said Alex Wersted, a theater major whose performance in “Noises Off” would have fooled me. “I entered these organizations as a timid freshman, afraid to speak up, and now I am president of Breakaway and Vice president of the Bearitones. I have learned to use language to solve problems and communication needs, and my leadership skills have improved tremendously.”

Learning is not just a mere act of collecting information, but it is a complex process of acquiring manners and social skills. This is an approach that more and more education legislation is trying to incorporate and improve.

A traditional view to teaching limits the act of learning to the classroom context where students are supposed to acquire knowledge from either the course books or from a teacher’s experience. However, more up to date approaches to learning have instead taken a broader perspective, resulting in a much wider range of education approaches.

Researchers in the field advocate that social intelligence is an extremely significant type of intelligence. It requires the integration of conventional types of intelligence, such as numeral, emotional, linguistic, and interpersonal intelligence. Sternberg’s Successful Intelligence Theory does not limit intelligence to the skills necessary to succeed in classwork, but also considers intelligence as a person’s ability to succeed in life. This success is instead defined according to personal goals, which can range from career goals, extracurricular activities, personal interests, or community service.

“Getting involved in the management of several student groups has definitely made me a more confident communicator and leader,” said Brian Kennedy, an international relations and politics double major involved in USGA, CAB, Phi Kappa Sigma and UC EMS. “Campus life has taught me skills that I don’t think I could have gotten from any class.”

Any statesman, professor, businessman, doctor, or artist can tell you that there was something that motivated them to pursue their career. It can be because of a certain role he or she played in a piece of theatre, or an experience they had volunteering in any number of organizations. Many may trace back the growth of their charisma to his or her early presence in clubs or activities and the responsibilities they took on.

In short, students’ personalities can be shaped in campus life through interpersonal and interactive activities. So, keep the group work, get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible, and develop the social skills you’ll be using for the rest of your life.

www.ursinusgrizzly.com
Recap: Ursinus athletics struggles

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After a red-hot five game winning streak to open the season, the Ursinus men's lacrosse team has falen back to earth after losing its third straight game, this one to No. 2-ranked Dickinson, 5-4, for the first time in 27 tries at the Ace Bailey Courts.

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do. Dr. Silvis thinks that should change soon to avoid future head trauma.

"Any sport where there is a ball, a stick and contact, helmets are a good idea. Same thing goes for field hockey. Girls play just as aggressively as boys," Dr. Silvis said. "Ultimately, I think they will wear a type of caged device, not just to protect against concussions, but against facial fractures, tooth fractures and other kinds of head trauma that could result."

While concussions are certainly prevalent at Ursinus, there have been noticeable improvements made in the athletic department. These improvements have helped to crack down on concussions and improve treatment for those who suffer from them.

"From last season to this season, our team went from 15 concussions to just four," said Pete Gallagher, the head coach of the football team. "It all comes down to educating our athletes and I think we are doing a good job of that now."

One of the major reasons for the education of Ursinus's student-athletes has been the trickle-down effect from professional teams and leagues. One of those leagues, the NFL, is currently fighting off non-stop litigation.

According to The Washington Times, there are 135 cases from over 3,000 former players that claim the NFL fraudulently concealed the long-term effects of head trauma, which could result in substantial monetary losses which could stand in the billions of dollars range for the NFL.

Most recently, the death of Junior Seau and Mike Webster, whom both have been shown to have chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), have brought the concussion discussion to the forefront.

Dr. Silvis thinks that the NFL and other professional leagues have set the bar for concussion treatment, especially in the younger ranks of athletic competition.

"The NFL has really clamped down on concussion management. I can tell a family with a 12-year-old why they need to hold their son out because of a concussion, but it's not being modeled by their heroes on Sundays, it's a tough sell. You see this with Michael Vick being out for almost two months or Sidney Crosby being out for more than a year," Dr. Silvis said.

Currently, the athletic department's policy is extensive and has grown exponentially in recent years. The policy actually begins prior to any kind of head trauma with baseline tests that every athlete must complete prior to athletic competition.

According to Michelle Vande Berg, a Licensed Athletic Trainer at Ursinus, following a blow to the head, an athlete must be taken through a series of tests and steps that examine his/her symptoms. Because of necessary steps in the school's protocol, a student-athlete is out for a full week at the absolute minimum.

"Most doctors have not only recommended that kids with concussions rest form activity, but also be excused from class," Vande Berg said. "To help this protocol on campus we have added the involvement of Academic Affairs and the student's RD, forming a check system to look out for the injured student and aid their capability to miss class."

The school's protocol is ever-evolving and has changed as research becomes readily available to the training staff and the Athletic Department. Coach Gallagher believes that Ursinus has been out in front of the concussion problems that Dolson and Westlake have experienced.

"With technology, the school has done a good job of educating and protecting our kids. Whether that is equipment, education, return to play, IMPACT testing, certainly I think our school has done better than our competitors," Gallagher said.

"When I played, the treatment was to take a couple of Advil and get back in there. It was contact to the ground practices. It just wasn't sufficient to an understood commodity that blends in with modern medicine as we know it today.

Women's Lacrosse

Following a hot start from the visiting Red Devils of Dickinson, which included four unanswered goals to begin the game, the Ursinus women's lacrosse team fell 16-7 in Centennial Conference action on Saturday afternoon.

Dickinson was led by sophomore Carly O'Brien, who tallied four goals and two assists, and a nine-goal second half that put the game away.

Sophomore Kitty Dawson led Ursinus fessively with three goals, while senior Liz Chatburn added two of her own.

Junior Evan Stutchin, who won his match in first singles, and the Bears made history by finally beating Dickinson for the first time in 27 attempts on Saturday afternoon at the Ace Bailey Courts.

Baseball

An injury-riddled Bears squad dropped both ends of its first conference doubleheader at the hands of Gettysburg, 17-5 and 11-3, on Saturday afternoon.

The Bullets pounded out 24 hits overall and scored 13 runs combined in the first and second innings of game 1 of the doubleheader at Kirchhoff Field.

The Bears battled back in game 2 after falling behind 4-0 after the opening frame to make the game 4-3 after four innings. However, Gettysburg took control with a four-run fifth inning that all but ended the Bears hope of split.

Two days earlier, the Bears defeated The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), 10-8 in non-conference action. Senior catcher Kevin Wilson led the Bears going 3-6 with three doubles and two RBI's.

The Bears now sit at 4-12 overall and 0-3 in Centennial Conference play.

The Bears look to rebound after a weekend bye against conference foe Washington. Faceoff in Chestertown is slated for 7 p.m.
Modern technology is a wonderful thing. It gives us the ability to do almost anything, usually instantaneously. Thankfully, it also allows for modern medicine to stay ahead of the curve and keep our society relatively healthy. However, that is not necessarily applicable to every aspect of modern medicine, especially concussions.

Concussions have become an increasingly important problem in sports medicine today. Most disturbingly, however, is its status as the ultimate enigma in sports medicine, one that has claimed athletic career after career, including at Ursinus.

Brittney Dolson is a casualty of concussions. A sophomore and former goalkeeper for the field hockey team, Dolson was forced to retire from athletic activity mid-season during the fall semester. Throughout her high school (softball and field hockey) athletic career, Dolson sustained a total of five concussions. The final one left her diagnosed with Post-concussion syndrome and unable to stand between the pipes again for the field hockey team.

"My doctor didn’t want me to play after my freshman year. He told me I shouldn’t play anymore but I didn’t listen and kept playing once I recovered," Dolson said. "However, after the last one he told me if I kept playing, I would get more migraines, more symptoms and that just forced me to stop playing. He said that I’d be near crippled by the age of 30 if I had kept playing.”

Last season, Dolson appeared in eight games (six of which she started) where she went 4-3 with a 1.85 GAA while stopping 78 percent of the shots she faced before she faced the reality the concussions had presented her: standing on the sidelines

Not only was the Gloucester, NJ native affected on the field, but also off the field. The concussions forced her to drop two classes during the fall semester of her freshman year, and she plans on taking a semester off this fall to fully recover from the sustained head trauma.

"It’s tough [sitting on the sidelines]. There are some days where I can’t even be near the field at all. I’m not used to not doing anything," Dolson said. "I still get migraines, I still have some symptoms, but it’s nothing close to what I experienced while I was playing. They are more random now.”

"There was a two month period of time where I just wasn’t myself. I didn’t feel like I was a part of the team anymore. Going to practice, where I would help out, was tough to watch because I knew I literally could not do anything about it," Dolson said.

One person who deals with concussions on a regular basis is Dr. Matthew Silvis. He serves in the Concussion Clinic at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa and as the team physician for the Hershey Bears (AHL) and the Harrisburg Senators (Double-A affiliate of the Washington Nationals).

"We here are huge advocates of keeping people in sports, but with this particular injury, if you continue to have difficulties, retirement becomes a real possibility. There can also be a lot of emotional fallout from that,” Silvis said.

Unfortunately, Dolson is not alone in walking away from an athletic team here at Ursinus. Joining her three years ago was Becky Westlake.

Westlake, a senior, was forced to walk away from the Ursinus women’s lacrosse team following her freshman campaign after sustaining multiple blows to the head in a short period of time. In total, she sustained only two diagnosed concussions (one at Ursinus), but incurred an inconclusive amount that were not diagnosed, which led to her leaving behind the women’s lacrosse team.

"I tried to play the following season, but it really didn’t work out. My head was constantly pounding and I just couldn’t take it anymore. It’s so hard not to play,” said Westlake. "I tried film-