The Grizzly, September 5, 2013

Sabrina McGettigan
Ursinus College

Deana Harley
Ursinus College

Briana Keane
Ursinus College

Derrick Falletta
Ursinus College

Vivek Reddy
Ursinus College

See next page for additional authors

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Recommended Citation
McGettigan, Sabrina; Harley, Deana; Keane, Briana; Falletta, Derrick; Reddy, Vivek; Mullan, Briana; Brown, Rachel; DiMuzio, Nicholas; Mitchell, Bethany; Rogers, David; Bowen, Kara; Adeyemo, Adebayo; Roher, Dom; and Hartigan, Shawn, "The Grizzly, September 5, 2013" (2013). Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper. 879. https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews/879

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New policy changes

Lower Wismer and Reimert open container policy altered

Deana Harley
deharley@ursinus.edu

As students adjust to a new semester at Ursinus, policies and regulations here on campus are also being adjusted. Reimert Hall, which houses mostly sports teams, sororities and fraternities, has undergone some important policy changes.

Another change new to this semester is the hours in Lower Wismer. Previously, Lower Wismer had only been open to students during select hours throughout the day. Starting this semester, Lower Wismer will be open consistently from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In past years, social events hosted at Reimert Hall were regulated by a set of rules, and one of these was that any beverage had to be kept inside of the suites and not seen outside at all.

This semester there will be a trial run in Reimert Hall called the "Pilot Program," giving students more freedom with their beverages. The trial run will run for four weeks with an examination of the progress of the trial run after each week. Under the rules of this trial run, students may have their drinks outside of the suites, but remaining in the four walls of Reimert Hall. Drinks permitted outside of the suites must be in a container 16 ounces or less and not made of glass. Students are only allowed to travel with one drink at a time and cannot be blocking the walkways on the balconies. Students who disobey these guidelines are subject to disciplinary action.

The extended hours will eliminate the long lines and long waits that students experienced in previous semesters.

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See "Policy on pg. 2

Printing with Bear Bucks

Bri Keane
brkeane@ursinus.edu

Ursinus is requiring students to use Bear Bucks for printing on campus instead of paying the cost for printing at the end of the year. Bear Bucks are funds that can be used on and off campus by students. The purpose is to allow students to use their Ursinus ID card instead of paying with cash or a debit card.

Last year, students were not required to have a Bear Bucks account, and incoming freshmen were given printers with their laptops. This year only laptops were given to students because of the expense. However, this year every student has an account with $10 dollars on it, which could be used for printing.

Jim Cooper, Associate Vice President of Finance and Controller, said, "Instead of printers, we added an extra printer downstairs in the lower level and added 10 dollars to every student's Bear Bucks account. If the funds are not used on the Bear Bucks account, any amount over 10 dollars is refunded to the student before graduation."

If a student runs out of Bear Bucks, they are required to put more money on their account before being able to use one of the school printers. Students can add more money on their account by doing it online or on the second floor of the school. Students can add more money on their account by doing it online or on the second floor of the school.

Derrick Falletta
deharley@ursinus.edu

The Student Affairs staff has remodeled the way Event Director training, which was formerly called Social Host training, is accomplished. Instead of a large group session as conducted in the past, the school is holding several smaller group hour long sessions throughout the first two weeks of school. Sixteen sessions were being held, which began Monday, Aug. 26 and continued through Sept. 5.

There are several new changes to the requirements for hosting a party. Event Directors must remain at their designated location for the duration of the event. They cannot drink any alcohol before or during the event, as was the case last year. If an Event Director needs help, they must contact the RA on duty or Campus Safety. Event Directors must make sure that alcohol is being consumed in a container less than 16 ounces. Event Directors cannot allow kegs, beer bongs, gallon jugs, trash cans, alcoholic punch or any other binge drinking paraphernalia into the party that they are hosting.

Event Directors are responsible for cleaning up after the event and have until 1 p.m. the next day to do so. Failure to comply with the rule could result in loss of party privileges for the area the party was held.

Event Directors must wear a visible yellow bandana throughout the entirety of the party. There must be two Event Directors to host a party in Reimert, and four Event Directors in order to host a party on Main Street, up from three last year.

The school has made it clear that the Event Directors will have a greater number of responsibilities this year. According to Bryanna Bonner, an Ursinus Senior and a sister of Omega Chi, "training was not taken seriously" in the past.

Bonner, who was a Social Host last year, discussed the ineffective training process that was administered by campus officials. "My sophomore year training consisted of sitting in a classroom in Osb, watching a film of a man talking about the dangers of alcohol, signed a form and that was it," she said.

Bonner said that her junior year was not much of a change from the year before. "We sat in Bomberger and watched the same exact video as the year before. We eventually went over a presentation based on alcohol awareness and took an exam that would depict how much we learned from the seminar. The training was a lot better than the first but again, not as effective." Colleen Valerio, Graduate Assistant for Alcohol Education & Wellness Programming at Ursinus, has taken steps this summer in introducing the Event Director duty.

"I feel as if there is a lot of responsibility with the new Social Host position. You are there to ensure that the event goes appropriately, to take control of the things that go wrong, take preventative measures, and aid your fellow students," Lucien Konan, a sophomore, said. "I think the school is holding students more accountable in this regard. Social Hosts will be surrounded by their peers, but will still have to act as a sort of authority."
Chloe Kekobic uses her bear bucks to print on the first floor of Olin.

"Bucks" continued from pg 1

floor of Corson Hall. Parents can also sign in as a guest on their child’s account to add funds.

"IT initiated this movement mostly. The old printing system was determined it wasn’t working properly so it was decided to do away with the printers. The feeling was that the printers were very costly. Most students didn’t use them often and when they did use the printer, the cost to replace the ink was not cheap," said Cooper.

There are four public printers located on campus. There is one in Olin, Pflahler, Myrin Library and now Lower Wismer near the bookstore. A sign regarding Bear Bucks account last year that was only used for on and off campus dining.

Marilyn Day, a sophomore at Ursinus, said, "I’m disappointed that the school is only giving 10 dollars in Bear Bucks because I am not even halfway through the first week of school and I have already used most of the 10 dollars. I guess incoming freshmen won’t know how convenient the printing situation was last year since printing with Bear Bucks wasn’t required before."

Previously, students had to pay at the end of the year for printing. Students are required to keep adding funds onto their Bear Bucks account to keep a positive balance. Instead of being billed at the end of the year for printing, students have to pay each time they add funds.

"Now it changes the whole dynamic of spending Bear Bucks off campus at a restaurant. It seemed so much better last year because we didn’t have to pay as we printed but now we have to. Also, what if I have to go to class and I have to print something real quick and I don’t have any Bear Bucks left on my account? Then I might be late because I won’t have enough time to refill my account," sophomore Youssif Yahya said.

Bear Bucks is trying to provide flexibility and convenience for students by allowing students to only have to use their ID card to pay for food and printing. However, some students have had concerns regarding the use of Bear Bucks and printing.

Dave Nolan, a Senior Resident Adviser who played a part in establishing the new policy, said Reimert was in need of a change.

"I thought last year was the worst year we’ve had in terms of vandalism and in terms of the glass that was all over the ground," he said. "We needed a drastic change, and I wasn’t really alone with that thought."

In terms of the students playing their part and keeping things safe, Nolan said, "The difference between this year and last year is that students have something they can work for this year," he said. "Last year it was us versus them. This year, RAs, students, we’re all the same so we are no longer police officers as RAs. It’s sort of self-regulating, it’s a sense of student empowerment." Nolan said that because enough students want this policy to stay in effect, it is doable.

At the end of the four weeks, there will be a meeting to see if the trial run was successful. If it is decided that the student body did not keep up on their part, the policy will end, and the Reimert rules and regulations will go back to the way they have been in previous semesters with all drinks having to be kept inside the suites at all times.

Jennifer Grugan, a sophomore on campus and a regular customer in Lower Wismer, said she is excited for the new changes. "I love the new Lower Wismer hours," she said. "There are some days where I get done with class really late, and it gives me an opportunity to not have to go off campus to eat when I miss the hours of Upper Wismer." With the new hours, students are able to eat meals in their schedule when it works best for them instead of working around the times that Upper Wismer is serving. Both of the new policies established this semester give students more freedom with their time and with their activities, giving the entire student body a sense of empowerment and a feeling that their wishes and concerns are really heard.

Grizzly launches web redesign

"The Grizzly" launched a new website Aug. 27. In addition to featuring the weekly articles printed in the paper, "The Grizzly" hopes to include other articles available exclusively online with the potential for multimedia content.

The website currently includes top articles from last year categorized by each section and information on changes made to the site over the summer. Access to "The Grizzly" archive is also available. This year, ursinusgrizzly.com will feature junior Rachel Brown’s blog recounting her experiences and advice as she studies abroad in Canterbury, England.

USGA President Jerry Gares will occasionally write articles for "The Grizzly" website informing the campus about changes and updates to campus policies and how they will impact the student body. Look for our Twitter and Facebook updates previewing weekly articles or exclusive material online.

THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 1

The Grizzly is a weekly student-run publication that serves the Ursinus community. Views expressed in The Grizzly do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or college.

Ursinus Grizzly
601 E. Main Street
Collegeville, PA 19426

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Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

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

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

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

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Farmers Market location changes

Vendors move to DaVinci’s parking lot for more space and accessibility

Brian Mullan
Brmullan@ursinus.edu

The Collegeville Farmers Market, previously located at 476 East Main Street, opened at its new location behind Da Vinci’s Pub at Route 29 and Main Street. This change took place at the start of their opening season in May.


Kernen and her group of volunteers chose to move the Farmers Market last year. “We needed more space and we needed to be visible to the road,” she said.

As a result of previously being located behind a building, Kernen found that the Farmers Market was hidden from the community. “Nobody could find us and we were out of space and there was really no customer parking,” she said.

Da Vinci’s Pub and the powerhouse behind it allows the Farmers Market to use their parking lots for free.

The Farmers Market has a variety of vendors who sell a range of products. From baked goods, cheeses, herbs and meats to saucers and produce, everything found at the Farmers Market is fresh.

Besides food, there are vendors who sell their crafts and artistic pieces. Paintings, handcrafted jewelry, and fabric creations can all be found, not to mention wine, facial care products and more. Many vendors even sell gluten-free and allergen-free products and cater to the specific dietary needs of the customer.

The Farmers Market advocates environmental awareness. “We have some ladies who make things out of recycled objects,” Kernen said. All-natural products are also a big theme. The goods sold are from animals that are given the proper space to grow. The food the animals are fed is healthy and natural, without hormones, antibiotics or other chemicals. “The animals are leaner because they aren’t artificially fattened and the taste is just so much better,” she said.

Ursinus College has been a great help to the Farmers Market. Ursinus dedicated a room in an on-campus building for the use of the Farmers Market office. Dr. Rich Wallace, an Environmental Studies professor at Ursinus, has had a positive impact on the Farmers Market by acting as a liaison and helping to guide Kernen in the right direction.

“We owe Rich a lot because he knew everything about this already and he helped us with all of the details,” Kernen said. Kernen expressed a lot of appreciation for Ursinus and the help and support of Dr. Wallace and President Fong.

The inspiration for the Farmers Market was to create an opportunity for farms and small business owners to become more available to the community. Kernen also wanted the community to be able to access healthy, farm-fresh foods more easily.

“We realized that we had over 90 farms, 90 small farms, within 25 miles of Collegeville but there was no way to buy their products except by going from farm to farm,” she said. “So we thought we’d like to, both for the local farmers and for the local residents, start a farmers market and see if we could provide a place for people to go,” she said.

Many of the vendors at the farmers market are people who quit their generic day jobs as things like bankers, teachers and construction workers to follow their dreams and sell the things that they were passionate about.

“The great thing about a farmers market, too, is that if you want to start a little business but you don’t have a lot of money... there’s very little overhead fees here,” Kernen said. The fee for vendors remains low to support the small, growing businesses.

Local, school-based organizations, such as the Perkiomen Valley Take Action club and the Ursinus College Farm, sell produce at the Farmers Market.

The Collegeville Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will continue running each Saturday until Nov. 22, 2013 when it closes again until May 2014.
Community service
New opportunities around campus

Nicholas DiMuzio
n.dimuzio@ursinus.edu

A new semester offers a plethora of service opportunities just waiting to be pounced on. As students return to Ursinus for a new school year, a familiar statement always seems to pop up: “Get involved.” There are plenty of ways to get involved on campus, one of which is through organizations like UCARE.

The Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility, and Engagement (UCARE) is located in Lower Wismer and welcomes all students to get involved. JD Edgard, a junior and UCARE Service Fellow, commented that one of UCARE’s goals is to “get outside service to be more accommodating to students.” UCARE associates have been hard at work over the summer providing students with a chance to develop their expertise while building a community in the process.

UCARE recognizes the variety of service opportunities available locally and strives to develop partnerships that will act as co-educators.

“We regard community partners as co-educators, so you are essentially enhancing your educational experience while taking advantage of serving the community,” said Dr. Christian Rice, Assistant Dean for Civic Engagement and Director of UCARE.

Available to all students and faculty through UCARE is a list of community partners. The list consists of a variety of local organizations connected with Ursinus. Some of the different categories of programs that comprise this list are early childhood education, food and shelter assistance, community education, environmental and animal welfare, and health-related and senior citizen programs.

A few new community partners that UCARE said they were excited to add to their extensive list are the ACPPA Community Art Center, the Police Athletic League - both of which are located in Norristown - and the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation. These and others continue to expand the list of opportunities available to students.

Robert D’Annunzio, a junior Business and Economics major, took advantage of one service opportunity that UCARE provides, Wismer on Wheels. Wismer on Wheels is a student run program in which Ursinus students collect food from Wismer five days a week and deliver it to the Missionaries of Charity shelter.

“I found out how much food that Wismer could have thrown away, but they donated to those less fortunate,” D’Annunzio said.

Rice said that UCARE strives to find those partnerships that act as co-educators, benefiting not only the service partner but the service leader as well.

Something else fresh to this semester is Bonner High Impact Initiatives. Over the summer, a group of faculty and students journeyed to the Bonner High Impact conference at Siena College located near Albany, N.Y., and came back with a wealth of ideas to implement at Ursinus.

One of the High Impact Initiatives that the team came up with was developing stronger relationships with service partners while taking advantage of the skills Ursinus students bring to the table.

Elizabeth Cannon, the Assistant Director of UCARE and co-founder of the office, said, “Our world is constantly changing and the benefit of being at a liberal arts institution is that you are developing skills that are applicable to a changing environment.”

UCARE is a place on campus that promotes the development of Ursinus students into engaged individuals ready to take on their future endeavors.

Students can get involved with UCARE this year by stopping by the office in the Student Activities Office in Lower Wismer and talking with any of the associates.

UCARE also has an email to contact, ucare@ursinus.edu, as well as a weekly newsletter sent to your school email updating you on upcoming events and opportunities.

Rachel Brown
rabrown@ursinus.edu

Tomorrow, I jump. Tomorrow night, 70 pounds of luggage and I will cart ourselves onto a London-bound jet plane that will deliver us to a continent I’ve never been to and will not return me to my native soil for four months. And while the 70 pound sliver of my life I’ll be hauling will prevent my from doing any sort of actual jumping, the step onto the plane will be a leap into the dark.

My name is Rachel Brown and I am a junior at Ursinus College, and this semester, at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. For the first two weeks of my adventure, my friend Jeff and I are traveling around Italy. We figured that while we’re on the other side of the globe, we might as well take advantage of the cheaper plane tickets, better food and free time to get lost.

Kent’s school year starts unusually late. I won’t be in a classroom until September 30, at which point my brain’s capacity to study will probably have dissolved into mush after a five month summer break. Not that I’m complaining. I’m cycling through so many emotions that I’ve given up on keeping track of them.

Then I Google pictures of England and get excited to live in such a beautiful place filled with people with such charming accents. Then later in the day, at least every day this past week, I say goodbye to someone I really care about and am used to seeing all the time. And that’s what makes this tough.

“I’ve heard it’s nice over there; I’ve never heard anyone complain about their extended stay in Europe. But separation isn’t my thing. Ursinus is a convenient 45 minute drive from the house that I’ve lived in my entire life. All my friends and most of my family live within 10 minutes of that house.

While I do live at school, stopping home for dinner a couple times each semester was always a comforting option when I felt like no amount of Wismer sugar cookies could fix my bad day. I’m looking forward to testing the waters of true independence while living abroad, but that doesn’t make the big mess of unknowns that are waiting to be figured out in England any less intimidating.

“I really hope so. I think it’s a good idea, and it seemed like it worked well this past weekend.” - Hailey Blessing, Senior

“I’ll last until next semester, probably. I think it will last through the winter, but I don’t see it lasting until the weather gets nicer again.” - Chris Lipsett, Junior

Diane Muoio
dantuio@ursinus.edu

Travel blog preview

Word on the Street
Do you think Reimert’s open container policy will last?

“I think it’ll stick around because people have been pretty responsible about it.” - Jamie Hammell, Junior

“I really hope so. I think it’s a good idea, and it seemed like it worked well this past weekend.” - Hailey Blessing, Senior

“It’ll last until next semester, probably. I think it will last through the winter, but I don’t see it lasting until the weather gets nicer again.” - Chris Lipsett, Junior
Ursinus alumni return for work

Old and new graduates talk about why they chose to return

Bethany Mitchell
bemitchell@ursinus.edu

Ursinus College is not only the home to many credible students, but is also the workplace of many credible alumni. Pat McAndrew, from Downingtown, Pa., attended Ursinus from 2009-2013 and now works in admissions. Dr. Lynne Edwards, from Philadelphia, attended Ursinus from 1984-1988 and is now a professor and advisor in the Media and Communications department.

Edwards and McAndrew never considered coming back to Ursinus for work as an option. While in school, they both had different goals. “When I graduated, I was ready to move on,” McAndrew said. Edwards even had a different job planned for her after graduation with the Department of the Navy. McAndrew was drawn back because he was aware of an opening in admissions and jumped at the opportunity. Ursinus is close to Edwards’ friends, family, and hometown, which brought her back. Edwards dropped everything at the Department of the Navy to return and now loves everything she does at Ursinus.

When coming back as an employee, both alumni had the same feeling: being at home. Ursinus has always been small, which forms a feeling of family within the campus. “It still feels like the same place as when I was a student,” said McAndrew. Edwards also emphasized “how fricken’ nice everyone is,” which gives Ursinus its unique hominess.

On top of being at home at Ursinus, Edwards and McAndrew both strongly admire the quality of the college’s education. Edwards is most impressed with the system’s flexibility. This creates an individualized experience for the students, including her.

The strength of every department and the helpfulness of professors impacted McAndrew, who said, “All professors in all the fields are willing to help you in any way that they can.”

Edwards said, “The more you do, the more professors are willing to meet you halfway or three-quarters of the way.” It is strange to Edwards seeing students come to Ursinus with no idea what they want to do in the future. “If students would just recognize ... how awesome they are, they’d have a lot more confidence,” said Edwards.

Edwards says that confidence is a crucial key to future careers. Students have to take what their professors give them and embrace it. This builds the confidence for their futures.

Her advice to current students targeted the women on campus. She said women should be more selective with whom they choose to date.

Edwards saw a lot of bad decisions after being a residence adviser for three years. From this she learned that “we live in a society where these bad decisions can haunt you for life” and wishes for students to realize that.

McAndrew and Edwards said Ursinus prepared them for their future positions. “Everything I had done at Ursinus got put to use to help me go to grad school,” said Edwards. She said Ursinus equipped her with the knowledge and abilities to receive a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania for graduate school in 1990.

“Nothing matters as much as when I return to work here,” McAndrew said. She is most impressed with the courses provide an enjoyable atmosphere to grow as a student and a person, even upon returning.

Edwards said, “Coming back here feels like home again.”

“Travel” continued from pg. 4

on the next 48 hours is going to be (or needs to be) to get myself on that plane. It’s based on a quote from the movie “We Bought a Zoo.” For a bit of context, I was with my family moving my little sister into her freshman dorm at William and Mary last week.

We were sitting through the obligatory lecture from the college’s president about how this is the start of something new and the people around you are your new family and parents, please don’t call your child to wake them up for class every morning, etc. when he said something that caught my attention.

When describing the beginning of college, the president referenced a quote from the movie.

A character in the movie, Benjamin, said: “You know, sometimes all you need is twenty seconds of insane courage. Just literally twenty seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you, something great will come of it.”

So for the next two days, I’m going to count to 20 a lot of times. When I wave goodbye to my family, when I “jump” onto the plane, when I land in London, I’m going to embrace those 20 seconds as my time to ignore how it looks or feels and be brave.

Rachel will be updating her blog regularly over the next semester. Follow her study abroad experience at ursinusgrizzly.com

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member’s review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

Deborah Barkun, Art & Art History
Cory Straub, Biology

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Lucien T. Winegar, Office of the Dean by October 4, 2013. Your comments can be sent electronically to deansoffice@ursinus.edu.

Happening on Campus

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Smartphone addiction can harm our social lives

From left to right, Joseph Kringle, Mark Branca, and Kevin James sit in a Reimert suite checking their phones.

The use of phones and other mobile devices is essential in today’s world, but it has grown into an unhealthy obsession for many people. There are always people at parties who are too busy checking Facebook and tweeting to actually engage in face-to-face interaction.

There are different reasons for people to ignore their surroundings and get lost in the Internet or in a text conversation. Some people use their phone as a safety net for uncomfortable social situations. Others are genuinely more interested in what’s going on with their phones than what is happening around them.

When people get lost in the world of their smartphone, they miss so many opportunities to socialize and experience the joys of life.

According to the Mobile Mindset Study, nearly three-quarters of Americans would feel “panicked” if they lost their phones. Michael Elberson, a junior at Ursinus, said that he communicates more through text than through verbal conversation. “I would feel naked if I ever lost my phone,” said Elberson, who describes himself as a cellphone addict.

Playing Angry Birds all day may be entertaining for the user, but their cell phone use also affects everyone else around them. According to a 2011 study conducted by the University of Michigan, cellphone use is actually contagious. The study observed groups of people on a college campus and noted how often they checked their phones within 10 seconds of each other.

The experiment showed that people tend to check their phones when people around them are checking their phones. There isn’t really much else for them to do. Everyone has experienced trying to communicate with someone who was more interested in constantly checking a phone. It is frustrating to say the least, and it doesn’t give the other person many options.

Another obsession surrounding phones and social media is the need to document every little aspect of life. I went to several concerts over the summer. I couldn’t help but notice all of the people who were viewing the show from behind the lenses of their camera phone. Odds are the video is going to be terrible quality compared to the official recording, which will be on YouTube the next day.

From my experience with people who post tons of pictures online, this habit is fueled by vanity and materialism. According to a study by the University of Buffalo, women who post tons of pictures online base their self-worth on their appearance in social media pictures. The trend was less pronounced among men.

It started with preteens taking hundreds of mirror pictures until they could choose one that made them appear much more attractive than they truly are. Now it has evolved into people posting their daily meals on Facebook.

People need to come back down to Earth and realize that no one is defined by their Facebook profile. It is more wholesome to live life with a first-person perspective, a perspective that isn’t filtered through social media feeds or the lenses of a camera.

Here’s an idea for the people who can’t seem to get off of their phone: instead of taking out your iPhone when there is nothing to do, try being proactive and leave the comfort zone of social media and texting.

North and New need single-sex hall options too

Kara Bowen
kabowen@ursinus.edu

When I first moved on campus freshman year, I was excited to experience dorm life. I learned that most freshmen like me lived on co-ed hallways. Coming from a family with all female siblings, I was excited to see what it would be like to live in such close proximity to male students.

My freshman year, to my dismay, I lived on the co-ed quiet hall of BPS. I would visit my friends living on the less regulated co-ed halls and find myself envious of their close relationships with their male neighbors, relationships I was not able to have with my socially-challenged hall mates.

Sophomore year I was yet again duped of my dream relationship of having a casual best guy friend living next door. I lived in Fetterolf, an all-girls house. There were a lot of emotions.

By my junior year the idea of living with men on the same hall quickly lost its charm. Last fall, I yearned for the days where the men on my hall were so timid that the idea of stepping into a bathroom of the opposite sex would make them shriek with fear, and when I only had to worry about walking in on one of my housemates in the bathroom bawling her eyes out because it was that time of the month.

Now the scenarios I walk in on are far worse.

With the living situation I have now, I am not surprised when I open a bathroom door on my hall, clearly labeled with a “women’s” sign, and see my male hall mate standing in boxers shaving his face over the sink I brush my teeth in.

“Hey sorry, do you want to brush your teeth? I can move over,” he said.

Oh, thank you! How considerate of you! I would just love to share a faucet with you as your hair is flying off your electric razor. Hopefully some of your discarded facial hair gets on the toothbrush that I put in my mouth.

Little did I know, for the first two years I had the ideal living situation all along, particularly my sophomore year. There was a great deal of drama, tears and sadness, but there was also an all-girls bathroom. Not once did I have to clean facial hair out of the sink, see evidence of men with bad aim, or return a bottle of Old Spice body wash that my neighbor left behind after showering.

The benefits of living in an all-girls house stretched far beyond cleaner bathrooms. I also didn’t have to worry about how I looked when walking around the house or to the bathroom. Finally, I had found a place where knee-high striped fuzzy socks and a Backstreet Boys T-shirt were an acceptable outfit.

Never worrying about my appearance was a definite plus to living with girls, but the single-sex living experience also allowed me to bond with girls I originally never had anything in common with. Living with all girls set a comfortable tone, an environment that made it easy to make friends.

There are other possible benefits, too. John Garvey, president of the Catholic University of America, said that single-sex living situations offer solutions to suppress binge drinking and sexual activity among college students.

“Students who engage in binge drinking (about two in five) are 25 times more likely to do things like miss class, fall behind in school work, engage in unplanned sexual activity, and get in trouble with the law... Here is one simple step colleges can take to reduce both binge drinking and hooking up: Go back to single-sex residences,” Garvey said.

While Garvey presents evidence that single-sex halls could potentially squash the problematic party culture of college, ultimately students want to enjoy their college experience or they will find somewhere else to go to get what they want.

According to a study performed by the Association of College and University Housing Officers International (ACUHO-I) and EBI Benchmarking, a co-ed living experience is enjoyed by the majority.

“Males and females living on co-ed floors are more likely than those on single-sex floors to be satisfied with their housing experience,” the study said.

The study also said, “For first-year students who live on co-ed floors, men seem to report greater benefits compared to females.”

Of course men are satisfied with co-ed floors. I was essentially a built-in cleaning service for the men on my floor, and I would not be surprised if females at other schools did the same.

To give me my sanity back and still allow me to live in the beautiful new dorms, it’s time to revisit the option of single-sex halls. If I pick up one more bit of facial hair or find another pair of dirty boxers on my bathroom floor, I might cry.

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The Grizzly

Opinion

Smartphone addiction can harm our social lives

David Rogers
daroger@ursinus.edu

When I first moved on campus freshman year, I was excited to experience dorm life. I learned that most freshmen like me lived on co-ed hallways. Coming from a family with all female siblings, I was excited to see what it would be like to live in such close proximity to male students.

According to the Mobile Mindset Study, nearly three-quarters of Americans would feel “panicked” if they lost their phones. Michael Elberson, a junior at Ursinus, said that he communicates more through text than through verbal conversation. “I would feel naked if I ever lost my phone,” said Elberson, who describes himself as a cellphone addict.

Playing Angry Birds all day may be entertaining for the user, but their cell phone use also affects everyone else around them. According to a 2011 study conducted by the University of Michigan, cellphone use is actually contagious. The study observed groups of people on a college campus and noted how often they checked their phones within 10 seconds of each other.

The experiment showed that people tend to check their phones when people around them are checking their phones. There isn’t really much else for them to do. Everyone has experienced trying to communicate with someone who was more interested in constantly checking a phone. It is frustrating to say the least, and it doesn’t give the other person many options.

Another obsession surrounding phones and social media is the need to document every little aspect of life. I went to several concerts over the summer. I couldn’t help but notice all of the people who were viewing the show from behind the lenses of their camera phone. Odds are the video is going to be terrible quality compared to the official recording, which will be on YouTube the next day.

From my experience with people who post tons of pictures online, this habit is fueled by vanity and materialism. According to a study by the University of Buffalo, women who post tons of pictures online base their self-worth on their appearance in social media pictures. The trend was less pronounced among men.

It started with preteens taking hundreds of mirror pictures until they could choose one that made them appear much more attractive than they truly are. Now it has evolved into people posting their daily meals on Facebook.

People need to come back down to Earth and realize that no one is defined by their Facebook profile. It is more wholesome to live life with a first-person perspective, a perspective that isn’t filtered through social media feeds or the lenses of a camera.

Here’s an idea for the people who can’t seem to get off of their phone: instead of taking out your iPhone when there is nothing to do, try being proactive and leave the comfort zone of social media and texting.
Code of conduct for athletes now an official contract

Adebayo Adeyemo
adewayemo@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus Athletics Department will be instituting some new rules this year. Over the summer, as students caught a break from the daily rituals of college life, the Athletic Department worked hard to create a new code of conduct. Meeting with lawyers in an attempt to solidify these new rules, staff members told Athletic Director Erin Stroble, have been crucial in pushing this new plan forward.

Contrary to what some may think, the push for a new code of conduct is not the direct result of any problems that have been troubling members within the Athletic Department. After going years without a solid code of conduct to refer to, Stroble and other members of the Athletic Department decided that it was simply time for a change.

"This year was the time to do it," Stroble said. "There have been questions on various things and we've been asked, 'Well where is that written down?' Rather than digging through things to find an answer, we can now make sure everything is all together."

Though this code of conduct is new, it does not differ much from systems of the past. Among all of the rules in place, many are still the same. The hazing of athletes is still illegal, and all of the NCAA compliance rules are still in place. What has come as a surprise to many student athletes though is the rule that prospective students must sign a policy promising that they won't drink while visiting Ursinus. If they do, their hosts may face punishments from the Athletic Department.

This is no new rule. "I think a lot of our student athletes weren't aware of the rule that prospective student athletes sign the policy," Stroble said. "So while it's not new, I think some students might think it's new because they haven't heard it before unless they came as a prospect for an overnight visit. They might know it in that context, but not as a host."

For the most part, the "new" code of conduct is exactly the same as the rules that have always been in place here at Ursinus. "I don't feel like a lot has changed. It's just a different format, a little more clear and a little more official that these are our expectations," Stroble said.

Though there has been some talk about the impact of these new rules, student athletes have nothing to fear. Unless they find themselves violating any of the rules put forth by this document, these new rules will have little to no effect on the lives of any athletes.

However, if an athlete does fail to abide by the code, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action. Depending on the severity of their infractions, athletes can receive a punishment varying anywhere from a written warning to limited participation or limited status, such as team captains losing their captainships. Athletes may also face required educational counseling, drug testing sessions, suspension or complete expulsion and permanent removal from all athletic activities.

When asked how he felt about the new rules, senior lacrosse player Dylan Spangenberg noted that he felt very comfortable with the new rules. "From my understanding, not much has changed. I mean there are the expectations our coaches and the rest of the athletic department has for us as athletes. We always try our best to hold ourselves accountable, so following these new rules won't be much different than anything we've been doing. We've never had many issues with anybody on our team violating any of the NCAA rules so I don't expect there to be many problems this year either," Spangenberg said.

Junior 174-pound wrestler Robert Scaramuzza had a similar reaction to hearing about the new code of conduct. "Rules like this don't really impact anybody directly. All you have to do is be smart and you'll be fine. I don't mind the change," Scaramuzza said.

Though the new rules may not seem so "new" after all, they still have a chance to greatly impact the athletes of the Ursinus community. Only time will tell if this impact will take place.

Football preview: Experienced bears major asset

Bears have all the right tools, looking to execute

Dom Roher
dorher@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus football team will begin their season on Sept. 6 on Patterson Field against The College of New Jersey.

The Bears are coming off a season where they went 6-4, and were shut out of postseason play. Their division rival, John Hopkins, went on to win the Centennial Conference. The 2013 season provides the Bears a fresh start to get back to being competitive after a disappointing 2012.

Senior captain and quarterback Chris Curran is looking forward to starting the 2013 season and is very clear on what the team expects. "We want to have a 10-0 season, get into a playoff spot and win the conference," Curran said.

Curran is putting more emphasis on team goals rather than individual success. "There's not really anything I particularly want. As you get older you move away from caring about how well you do individually to how well the team is doing, and hopefully you're striving for a win every day," Curran said.

Curran believes there is a lot of room for improvement on both sides of the ball if the Bears hope to win the conference in 2013.

"On offense, we really need a balanced attack. We have a lot more running this year [than] last year when we were very pass heavy," Curran said. Curran is looking forward to playing with running back Jason Golderer, who he believes is going to be an exciting weapon for the Bears to have, especially after seeing him play through camp and scrimmages.

The Bears will be anchored on offense by senior center Joe Polansky and all-conference wide receiver Jerry Rahill.

As for defense, senior nose guard John Carty and junior free safety Matt Glowaki will lead the pack on the gridiron.

"On defense, we really want to stop giving up big plays because that's what really hurt us last year, and if we can eliminate those we will be really good," Curran said.

Sophomore fullback, Brandon Patterson, also sees the Bears' running game as one of the most exciting aspects for the upcoming season.

"We will be more explosive out of the backfield. Plays are going to be made rather than us just waiting on something to happen," said Patterson.

Patterson will be starting for the first time in his college career on Sept. 6 against The College of New Jersey.

"I also see that there has been growth at every position," Patterson said. This growth, he believes, will pay off for the Bears as they hope to win the Centennial Conference for the first time since the 2010 season.

The team boasts a large senior class, especially on defense. This season the bears will only miss two starters on the defensive side of the ball. The losses are significant, with four year all-conference defensive back Chris Rountree, and two year all conference defensive lineman Greg Fontana both out of the picture.

The 2013 season offers many opportunities for the bears to improve. In many conference categories, the Bears ranked in the middle of the pack, something that will have to be improved upon if the team expects to compete in a challenging conference.

Some of the toughest challenges will come from conference rivals Gettysburg, Franklin and Marshall, as well as conference champion Johns Hopkins.

It appears the football team is hungry for the conference title after a three year drought.
Field hockey looks to regain conference dominance

Lady bears look to leave last season behind

Shawn Hartigan
shhartigan@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus field hockey team opened their 2013 season with a lopsided victory over Eastern Mennonite University. For the Lady Bears, it was the perfect start to a season that everyone seems to be looking forward to.

This year, home field advantage will be one of the team’s most valued assets, just as it was last year. The team was able to reach perfection on the Eleanor Frost Snell Alumnae Field. They ended the season with a 9-0 record at home. They were not as successful on the road with a 2-8 record, a trend the ladies do not believe will repeat itself.

Overall the team ended their 2012 season with a record of 11-8. This is a new year for the ladies and a fresh start. Head coach Janelle Benner emphasized the excitement going into this season. "This is a brand new excited group of young ladies ready to work hard and compete as one team. Our main strength is our team unity," she said.

This team is no stranger to winning. Over the past four years, the team has amassed 70 wins and only 16 losses. The team has established itself as a powerhouse in the Centennial Conference.

Co-captain Kara Bowen plans on keeping the winning tradition alive. "We are going to take this season game by game because every opponent is a big game for us. Ultimately we would love to get our championship trophy back, but every game is going to be tough competition," Bowen said. Jenna Stover, also a co-captain, agrees. "Every year, we always set the goal to win our conference, win regionals and get to the final four," Stover said.

Although the goals are set high, there will be some challenges the girls will face this year. "We need to remain focused on a day-to-day basis. We need to focus on the present," Benner said.

Every year, we always set the goal to win our conference. — Jenna Stover

"The challenge for us is rebounding from our slump last season and starting brand new. We can’t be held back from what happened last season. Coach [Benner] tells us to control the controllables," Stover said.

"A lot of teams underestimate us. We were picked second in the preseason poll. I’m glad and I accept that challenge. We are out to prove that we aren’t a second place team, we are a first place team," Bowen said.

Overall, the ladies of the team are relatively young with only four seniors. "We are a young team with a strong sophomore class. We have so much skill even though we are young," Bowen said.

Most teams would be happy about completing their last season with a winning record, but the team is different than most. Field hockey is looking to make a big improvement on last year’s 11-8 record. "We have come a long way due to how hard they all have worked. We can focus on skills and putting things together as a team because of how they prepared with the work they did this offseason," Benner said.

Throughout September, the ladies will be playing at home until the 28th when they make a trip up to McDaniel. This will be followed by another away matchup at Haverford before they come home again for most of the month of October.

Upcoming UC Athletics Schedule

9/7- Mens Cross Country at Cairn Invitational

9/6- Football versus The College of New Jersey on Patterson Field at 7:00 PM

9/7- Mens Soccer versus Kean at Haverford College at 1 PM

9/8- Mens Soccer versus Vassar at Haverford College at 1 PM

9/6- Womens Soccer versus Salisbury at 5:30 PM

9/7- Womens Cross Country at Cairn Invitational

9/7- Womens Soccer versus Bridgewater @ Salisbury at 4 PM

9/7- Volleyball versus Wesley @ Rosemont College at 1 PM

9/7- Field Hockey @ William Smith at Noon.

9/7- Volleyball @ Rosemont College at 3 PM

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