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Reimert arrest Incident sparks conversation about safety on campus

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On Aug. 30, an unregistered guest repeatedly stabbed walls in Shreiner Hall during its first party since last year. At 11:06 p.m. the event directors at Shreiner saw the individual with the knife.

The male, who was six feet tall and wearing an orange T-shirt and blue jeans, repeatedly stabbed the wall with a foot-long knife.

He left the knife in the wall of Shreiner and walked towards Reimert. The pocket knife was visible in the back left pocket of his jeans.

At 11:10 p.m. the event directors called Campus Safety and the RAs on duty and notified them of the situation. Three Campus Safety officers went to Reimert to locate the perpetrator, where he was found.

"He was not cooperative so they called the police," Dean Debbie Nolan said. The police arrived shortly after being called and arrested the perpetrator.

Campus administrators believe there will most likely be multiple charges filed against the perpetrator. The unidentified man is also banned from campus and will be arrested if he is cited on campus.

There is likely to be an additional charge due to the size of the knife. Other possible charges include trespassing, disorderly conduct and destruction of institutional property.

When the formal charges are made it will be announced to the public, and the individual will be identified.

"Shreiner did everything right," Nolan said. The response was fast and there was coordination between the RAs on duty and the Campus Safety officers. This

incident will not affect whether Shreiner will be allowed to throw more parties.

"The best person to keep you safe is you," Associate Dean Todd McKinney said. It is important to know who the event directors are, keep a level head at all times and try to notice anyone that looks suspicious.

"Watch out for each other," Nolan said. "Everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings," Director of Campus Safety Kim Taylor said.

An additional security policy being discussed is having UC students show their Ursinus ID when entering parties. Guests must be registered and event directors must wear a bandana to identify themselves.

"Event directors did a great job," Taylor said. Now there are four event directors versus three social hosts last semester in Main Street houses. In the past, social hosts did not take their role seriously.

Now Campus Safety is partnering with the event directors to make sure that the event is fun and safe. The event directors communicated brilliantly to make sure that the situation was handled appropriately and rapidly.

"I'd like to think that this was an isolated incident," Taylor said. McKinney reinforced that it was "an unusual circumstance." It was also mentioned that most incidents like this that happen at Ursinus are not done by students. "It was a scary situation," Taylor said.

"As an open campus we, I think, do a good job of keeping our community safe," McKinney said. Campus Safety and the RAs on duty acted quickly and knew how to handle the situation. The staff and students handled it well.



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Adams

Students attend the USGA leadership retreat this past summer to discuss campus issues and make their voices heard.

USGA leadership retreat

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The Ursinus Student Government Association hosted a leadership retreat at Ursinus for students on July 24 at 9 a.m. to do team building activities and address issues on campus.

Jerry Gares, a senior and the USGA President, emailed students from various clubs and organizations during the summer to notify them about the event. "I wanted to give students on campus the opportunity to attend because it is their campus and they deserve a say. It's all about student empowerment," Gares said.

The event was catered and paid for, and students were allowed to stay over for two nights. About 60 students attended, and Gares said that almost everyone who responded to the email attended. Mostly juniors and seniors attended, but some sophomores came as well. Dean Nolan, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Campus Safety Kim Taylor, and the Campus Safety staff also attend-

ed the event.

Gares said, "This retreat was constructive. If a student brought up an issue, he or she had to think of a solution. We would work until progress was made and look there have been many changes around campus all because of this retreat."

Students divided into five groups, and each team had a leader who recorded what was discussed. Gares collected all the notebooks from each group and typed up what was discussed. The groups either met in the Bears Den, Olin or Phaler.

Each group was given the same topic to discuss, and afterwards a general agreement was reached among the teams. Several topics that students discussed were Reimert's open container policy, printing with Bear Bucks, vandalism on campus and Lower Wismer hours. Administration decided that they wanted the students to have control over the discussion, so they did not attend the group sessions.

Team building was also an aspect of the retreat. The men's

basketball coach coordinated a concrete communication activity among the attendees before the group work. "The activity we did makes you watch how you say things and how when you say things to some people, it can be interpreted differently. Doing this exercise beforehand really facilitated the discussions," said Gares.

"This was the first completely voluntary retreat we had on the campus, and I would say it was very successful. Personally for me, being that it was only my third month here, I felt that it went well. It is definitely a learning experience for the retreat next year," Angela Cuva, Assistant Director of Leadership Development & Student Activities, said.

Joe McGinley, a sophomore on the baseball team, attended the summer retreat. "I felt that my opinion really mattered for once. The discussions were interactive and I feel like we were

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Construction in Thomas and Pfahler

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Construction is currently occurring on the Ursinus campus in Pfahler and Thomas Hall, and many renovation plans are set in motion.

A bulk of the project was completed this summer, but the renovation process in the classrooms of these buildings has been happening for the past three years.

Among the classrooms under construction, lab 215 in Pfahler is being converted from an organic chemistry lab to a neuroscience lab. Down the hall, a biochemistry research and collaboration space is in development.

These two renovations will cost the school \$1.1 million. Construction in both labs is scheduled to be complete at the end of the month; however, more renovations are in store for Pfahler.

"We are currently planning three more summers of Pfahler and Thomas space renovation," Andy Feick, Director of Facilities, said.

The school plans to build an addition that will link the two buildings together. The science program at Ursinus is well-known and celebrated, and since both buildings house science courses, the renovations have a strong effect on the campus.

Students will soon be able to walk through this section to get to their classes without having to go outside.

According to the Office of Sustainability on the Ursinus website, these renovations are energy-conscious, will work toward less energy consumption and "move us toward our long term goal of becoming carbon neutral."

This additional conscientiousness makes the project more ex-



Photo by Heidi Jensen

Constructing is ongoing in the science buildings. Renovations will cost \$1.1 million and is planned to continue for three more summers.

pensive, but the long-term costs make the changes necessary and valuable.

Currently, Pfahler Hall is the largest energy user on campus, and the renovations have "the potential to create sizeable GHG emission reductions," the website stated.

Students, like sophomore and

biology major Zach Trauger, are enthusiastic about these renovation plans.

"I am really excited. Ursinus is known for their very strong biology and chemistry program and the fact that they are expanding our resources is a plus to our science community," Trauger said.

"When a program is as well-known as ours, it attracts a lot of attention from high school students that want to apply to our school. This explains why our program is growing and when numbers grow, the school must accommodate them. This project is definitely leading us in the right direction."

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all on the same page. I think this retreat united us as a student body and gave us a voice," McGinley said.

The USGA plans to host another retreat next year and allow more students to attend. Gares said having students from various organizations present really improved the dynamic of the retreat. He said, "Everyone had something to give. I would love to hear different student's thoughts and not just complaints."

The retreat was supposed to happen in the fall; however, it was moved to a few months earlier. In the past, the student government sent three students to a conference for \$4000 to represent Ursinus. Gares said that three people would not accurately represent the student body and that a retreat on campus was more convenient and could get more students involved.

Cuva coordinated the event with Gares. She organized the sessions, compiled the schedule and assigned the groups.

The retreat ended at 6 p.m., and a catered dinner in the Kaleidoscope followed. There was a raffle among the attendees afterwards. The funding for the retreat came from the USGA budget.

WRITERS WANTED
Lend your voice to The Grizzly
Join us for our weekly news meeting
Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Ritter Lobby

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

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Ursinus site undergoes update

Changes made to accommodate mobile users

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Ursinus College is moving toward a new website that might go into effect by the next school year if all goes as planned. Currently the website has made a few minor changes in order to make the website easier for users to find what they are looking for.

Web designer, Paul Dempsey, incorporated the UC link at the bottom of the Gateway page. Before this change, students and faculty got this emailed to them three times a week, but it can now be accessed online. This section shows the calendar events, announcements and new stories.

Another goal for this website is to promote to college for prospective students.

"I have been working with admissions to make our site more effective and attractive to prospective students and easier for them to find what they need, especially if they are looking at our website from a smartphone or tablet," Dempsey said.

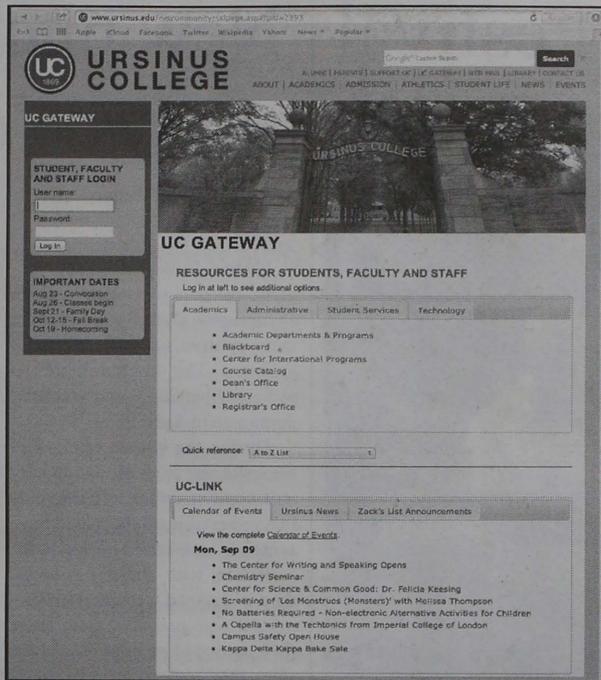
"This website will be more organized, more attractive and easier to use.

It will have a responsive design that will adjust the layout of the website based on the size of the screen.

On a smaller screen it will make it easier to read and on a larger screen it will change the layout with more information and pictures added," Dempsey said.

The UC Gateway page that is used by most Ursinus students, faculty and staff was reorganized for the start of this school year. With the use of the software tool jQuery, it has made the page more interactive by using tabs.

These tabs now only have about seven links whereas before there were several links on one page. In addition, there is a scroll down menu where you can jump to different pages with a list of links in alphabetical order.



Screenshot by Heidi Jensen

UC Gateway shows many of the changes made to the Ursinus website. While the old design had all of the links on one page, the new layout organizes links by their respective categories.

This addition is a response to the cluttered layout of the old website. Now, users have a logical way to locate the links they are searching for.

"The new change to the UC Gateway page has made it easier to find the links that I need to use on a daily basis, especially Blackboard," said Danielle DeSpirito, a sophomore at Ursinus. "In the past the long list of links made it hard to find the links I needed, especially at the start of my freshman year."

Dempsey said that working on a new website was always his priority.

Over the past year, the Ursinus website has been accessed on mobile devices 40% more.

"Our website is not even compatible for most mobile devices," Dempsey said.

The process of reworking the website officially started in May when the college committed to funding it.

Dempsey is working with the admissions office and an outside firm to hopefully have the site up and running in the fall. White

Wale Web Services is the firm selected to create the new website.

This firm specializes in higher education websites and has recently redesigned Washington College's website.

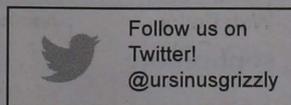
According to the blog on the new website, "Eight design and marketing firms were sent the Request for Proposal for the project.

After reviewing the six proposals that were submitted, the project advisory group felt that White Whale was the firm best suited for Ursinus."

"When I was looking at Ursinus, the webpage was a little hard to navigate to find what I needed compared to the other colleges that I looked at," DeSpirito said.

Last year, a major project Dempsey worked on was the new athletic logo. After the logo was finished, he redesigned the athletic website to incorporate the new bear logo.

Dempsey asked students to "keep an eye out for announcements because the firm we hired will be on campus Sept. 24 and 25 and they are asking input and feedback from all."



Top stories from around the globe

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Syria intervention gets little support at G-20 summit

According to "The New York Times," President Obama discussed the possibility of a military strike at the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. Other leaders urged the U.S. President not to strike Syria until the U.N. completes its investigation regarding the deadly nerve gas attack in Syria.

Meanwhile, Russian president Vladimir Putin argued that a majority of world leaders oppose a U.S. strike independent of U.N. approval, along with several other countries. Putin further explained that the only countries that support unilateral strikes by the U.S. are Canada, France, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Nigerian Islamist militants tracked and killed

According to the BBC, Nigerian troops tracked members of the Islamist group Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria, and they claim to have killed the group's leader, Abubakar Shekau. Nigeria declared a state of an emergency in three north-eastern states to battle militants.

Boko Haram is fighting to overthrow the government in Abuja and create an Islamic state, and the group promotes a version of Islam that forbids participation in any political or social activity associated with Western society. There are also speculations that Boko Haram may be forging ties with al-Qaida.

Child dies after contracting brain infection

According to Louisiana

health officials, a 4-year-old from boy from Mississippi died after contracting a rare brain-eating amoeba infection while visiting a home in Louisiana. The child may have come in contact with the waterborne Naegleria fowleri amoeba while playing on a plastic toy water slide. It may take up to a month to confirm the amoeba results. However, the same parasite killed a 12-year-old child from Florida.

St. Bernard Parish began treating its water system with additional chlorine and flushed any contaminated water from its lines in light of the child's death.

Egyptian activists fear crackdown

According to "The Guardian," Egyptian activists fear the country's new regime will crack down on Islamist allies of former president Mohamed Morsi. Some believe that the new regime could target the workers' movement, particularly those who went on strike in the industrial cities of Suez and Mahalia to protest poor conditions.

Haitham Mohamadein, a key figure in the labor and revolutionary movements, was arrested before being released without charges. Mohamadein was even asked in court whether or not he was a Brotherhood member, despite opposing Morsi's rule.

Tokyo to host 2020 Summer Olympics

According to the BBC Tokyo, Japan will be the site of the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, and its bid beat out those of Madrid, Spain and Istanbul, Turkey. Early morning shoppers were ecstatic in Shibuya, the city's busiest shopping district.

The Games will come at a huge price of more than \$1.5 billion. \$8 billion needed to be spent on refurbishing old stadiums and building new ones.

14th annual Fringe Festival

Philly spinoff offers free performances to Ursinus students

Bethany Mitchell & Dave Muoio
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Ursinus College will be holding their 14th annual Fringe Festival, co-produced by Ursinus professors Domenick Scudera and Jeanine McCain, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 18 and ending Saturday, Sept. 21.

The Fringe Festival on the Ursinus campus is modeled after the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Many different performances will take place throughout the four-day event, including theatre, dance and cabaret performances.

The performances that take place are composed of and by students and faculty, but many performers are brought in as guest artists. "Most of these performances are experimental, creative, different. They're not your traditional fair," Scudera said.

Sketch and improv comedian groups will be featured, brought in directly from the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. The improv comedic duo will also be providing a workshop for interested students.

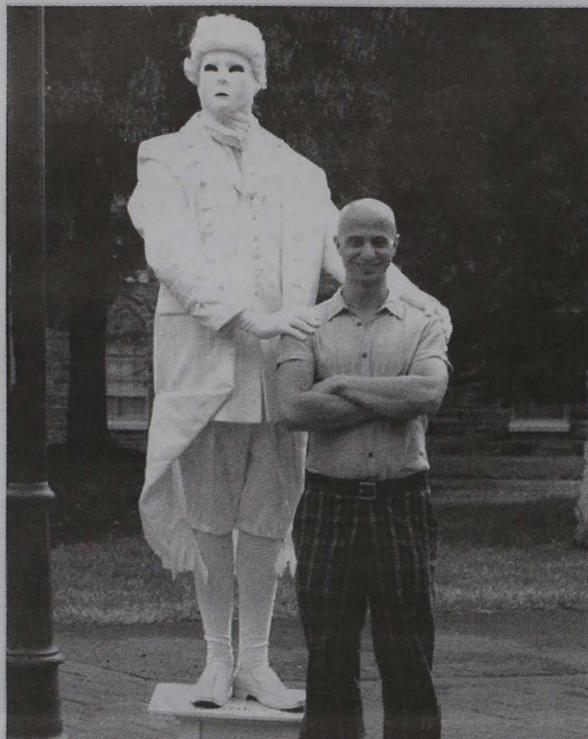


Photo courtesy of College Communications
Professor Domenick Scudera poses with the living statue at the Fringe Festival last year. The 14th annual Fringe Festival begins Sept. 18.

McCain is also highlighting four dance artists familiar to the Ursinus Dance Department on Friday, "Fringe Dance Night." Scudera said that this is a "good opportunity for students to see the professional work of people that

they are going to be working with this semester, if you're working in dance."

One of the most entertaining events of the festival is the caba-

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Word on the Street

What kinds of specials would you like to see in Wismer this year?

"We had cotton candy a couple of times in the past. I'm definitely looking forward to more of that." - Peter Willard, junior

"I'd like to see game. Rabbits, quail, bison, elk, things of that nature. Maybe a little rattlesnake." - Emerson Hawkins, senior

"Wing day, baby." - James Worrilow, sophomore

New pitch program rewards creativity

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Ursinus College has a new program called U-Innovate! which encourages students to explore their creative sides in a form of a contest. The program launched in September 2013, and will fully culminate in April 2014.

During the course of the fall semester, the students and faculty will come together to participate in a series of workshops and have access to web-based information.

Paired with these resources, they will attend lectures with successful entrepreneurs, who share their stories of inspiration and the steps they took to achieve greatness.

But the main focus of the program is to provide an outlet for students to pitch ideas that meet a social, artistic, market or environmental need. The best pitches could receive financial backing from the program.

Professor Rebecca Jaroff is the reason why the U-Innovate! Program has entered the Ursinus campus. An English professor, she realizes the importance of entrepreneurial opportunities on campus.

"The actual student competition is for innovative ideas, bright new ideas," Jaroff said. "You only need to come up with the idea and... really think about the market that that need would serve and why it's a necessary invention or idea."

"It's just some kind of an innovative idea that you have to be able to argue is something that is necessary, that people would need and want to spend money on," Jaroff said.

Jaroff hopes that the new program will encourage entrepreneurial thinking and that the students will realize that anyone can demonstrate their talents in an organized, well-thought-out format and become successful.

Since it is the first time the program is running at Ursinus, there are no prior expectations. The program is funded by an outside donor.

Youssef Boussen, a sophomore, is one of the students involved in the U-Innovate! program. From a student perspective, Boussen described the U-Innovate! program as a great opportunity.

"If you win first, second or third, you will get eight weeks of on-campus housing to explore your idea this coming summer, and that counts as your Independent Learning Experience," said Boussen.

The Independent Learning Experience is a requirement that every Ursinus student must complete in order to graduate.

U-Innovate! is also searching for a slogan and logo to go with the program. All entries are welcome, and a cash prize will be given to the chosen submissions.

"There's a \$250 prize for the logo and also for the slogan, so students can win up to \$500... who wouldn't want to win \$500?" said Boussen.

Both Boussen and Jaroff expressed the significant edge that being involved with the U-Innovate! program would add to a resumé, even if the idea did not win.

"It would be such great experience in managing a team and managing a project," Boussen said. "These are the skills that students really need in order to use them in their professional lives in the future."

Once a single or group of students wins the competition, they will be paired with mentors, some of which are Ursinus alumni. This is the first year that the

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Fringe continued from pg. 4

ret. Any student or member of the Ursinus faculty is allowed to be a part of the performance. Each performer is given five minutes to get in front of a crowd where anything goes.

The cabaret is the closest thing to live music the Fringe Festival has to offer. Since the show is flexible, many performers choose to involve music in some way.

"In the past we have had many students sing at the cabaret because it's one of the most accessible things for people to do quickly," Scudera said.

The Ursinus Fringe Festival is brought to the students free of charge. It has been modeled after the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, where the same events cost between \$15 and \$25.

The festival lasts four days and holds performances during the day, evening and late at night. This provides as many opportunities as possible for students to attend without conflicting with busy schedules.

"I think that there's an excitement about some of it because you're able to see it right here on campus, and you don't have to go to Philadelphia, and you don't have to pay any money," said Scudera.

The students of Ursinus do not have to pay to see the performances because the Arts and Lecture Committee provided the funding for the festival. Scudera said that this is Ursinus's way of supporting the Fringe Festival. Without the funding from the school, Fringe would not have lasted the 14 years it has occurred on campus.

The Fringe Festival is unique to the Ursinus campus. "Some of the stuff, like I said, is risky and can blur taste lines sometimes," Scudera said. Ursinus has had art events in the past, but this festival breaks boundaries.

Events in past years have drawn hefty crowds, and this year is expected to do the same, Scudera said. The festival is co-produced this year, which is different from past festivals. More dance aspects will be added to the performance, targeting more students on campus.

"We often invite things that we know people will find attractive," Scudera said. The people who put this festival together make it their best interest to invite acts that will entertain the majority of Ursinus students.

"I think it's always been a successful event, that's why we've been doing it for so many years," Scudera said.

Policy changes a result of student demand

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Students returning to campus may notice some big changes this year. Some, such as the expansion of dining hours in Zack's were expected. Others, like the Courtyard Pilot Program (CPP) for open containers in Reimert, were not.

While the program was designed as a solution to broken glass, vandalism and property damage issues Reimert faces every year, the main reason for the new policy was the demand from the students. Many students had been advocating for this change for a long time.

Senior Resident Advisor David Nolan and USGA President Jerry Gares are the leaders behind the CPP. "A lot of it came from students," Gares said. "I had a lot of students come up to me last spring and ask for a change in Reimert."

Over the summer, the USGA held a leadership retreat in order to receive feedback for this idea.

"This was a policy thought of by students, pushed for by students, and written and revised by students," Gares said.

This is a chance for the stu-

dents to have a say in what goes on around campus. The pilot program is both an opportunity and an example that student voices have been heard.

While this change has been made as an attempt to decrease vandalism and damages that were occurring in Reimert, Gares said that it was also enacted as a direct response to the wishes of the student body. This is a change that the students wanted and will have to respect if they care to keep it around.

With the CPP, the administration of Ursinus is giving the students more responsibility.

"The students asked for the opportunity to try something like this, and the college was supportive enough to give it a try," said Amber Moyer, a senior associate of Residence Life.

The program hopes to aid in the communication between the students and the staff, with both sides doing their best to accommodate feedback.

"It also aims to improve communication and relation between different staffs and the students," Moyer said.

Additionally, any further criticisms or feedback are welcome

from students through an email to cpp@ursinus.edu.

The CPP has been receiving positive feedback, and the future of this policy seems optimistic.

"I trust that we can rally around this and have fun while respecting the rules," Gares said. "The best part is that this is all in our hands. Our behavior dictates how long this lasts and personally I would not want it any other way."

The change in Zack's hours were also in high demand from the students. Andy Feick, director of facilities and community relations explained the reasoning behind the hours changing.

"Sodexo found efficiencies in purchasing and production which allowed money to be re-allocated to labor in order to increase some Zack's hours," he said.

The expansion of the hours for Zack's makes it easier for students who have full schedules. Students no longer have to race to get to Lower before it closes.

So far, feedback from the students has been positive. Feick said that students are happy their voices have been heard.

"It's all about students. It's always all about students," Feick said.

U-Innovate continued from pg. 4

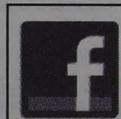
program is running, and the staff members involved hope that it takes off in order for it to become an annual contest.

"We've engaged the faculty in this," Jaroff said. "It's just a really exciting first time for Ursinus, but we want it to happen all of the time."

In the end, the team that wins will present their projects to a panel of judges who are not from the Ursinus community and compete

for large cash prizes. Their idea could land them with a lifetime career based on their innovative idea.

The U-Innovate! program is open to all students of Ursinus, regardless of their year or major, and the slogan and logo portion of the contest ends on Sunday, Sept. 15.



Have feedback on this story? Visit The Grizzly on Facebook!

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

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. 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

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
BAPS: Community service/pre-health experience presentation, 5 p.m.		Collegetown Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Junction saxophone quartet, 4 p.m.	Fire safety workshop, noon to 1 p.m.	2013 grads return to talk to seniors, 7 p.m.	GSA meeting, 7-8 p.m.
Saxophone and piano recital, 7:30 p.m.		Yom Kippur Closing Service and Break-Fast, 7-9 p.m.		Grizzly weekly meeting, 6:30 p.m.		Fringe Festival, TBA

Chemical attacks need international response

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Ignoring the situation in Syria would be a mistake. Not only would doing so make us complicit in a humanitarian tragedy, it would mean neglecting the security interests of the U.S. and the world.

More specifically, disregarding the use of chemical weapons against civilians sends a clear message to Assad and other authoritarian rulers that the international community is unwilling to act to maintain the international standard against them. Implicit in this message is the idea that other established norms are also weak. If such a message is sent, it is certain that the dictators of the world will be listening.

There should be no foreign ground forces in Syria. To do so without broad international consent would garner the disdain

of U.S. allies and defensive maneuvering by potential adversaries. Additionally, ensuring peace with a ground force in Syria would be, at best, costly and, at worst, impossible. American citizens and policy makers alike agree that the U.S. does not need another Iraq.

The notion of allowing a tyrant to violently crush a popular uprising leaves a bad taste in the mouth, but it may well be the option with the least death. Assad has shown himself to be a savvy power-clinger, and it would not be in his best interests to lead a genocide once the war is over. For this reason, it seems contrary to the humanitarian's interest to promote the overthrow of the Syrian government.

Leaving Assad in power has strategic costs. Notably, it seems likely to enconce Iran as an increasingly powerful regional hegemon. Iran has spent a lot

to keep Assad well-armed, and other small nations will take note of Iran's success in supporting its ally. Conversely, defeating the opposition will deal a blow to the influence of Hezbollah, which is no friend to U.S. interests either.

The international norm against chemical weapons use has been shaken before, but it still exists enough that there was a hesitation on Assad's part. According to German intelligence, he repeatedly refused to grant his military's requests to use chemical weapons.

In other conflicts, too, those who likely possess such weapons have often refrained from their use for fear of responses by large powers, especially the U.S. and western Europe.

There is good reason for maintaining this norm. Chemical weapons allow a relatively weak state to kill large numbers of people very cheaply com-

pared with other conventional weapons. The targets of chemical weapons use, if the taboo disappears, could include both civilians and soldiers.

The terrible effectiveness of such weapons against civilians makes them unacceptable in the eyes of a humanitarian. Their ability to do heavy damage makes them strategically unacceptable to the U.S. It is a moral and strategic imperative for the United States to prevent such weapons' proliferation.

The way to prevent future use of chemical weapons in Syria or elsewhere is to respond forcefully against Assad with highly targeted air strikes. These strikes should be carried out by a large coalition as possible, likely a coalition of the U.S., France and Turkey, acting with the approval of the Arab League. The regional approval demonstrates that the strike is a direct response to the

use of chemical weapons and not an imperialist intervention by a foreign power.

The strikes should be at facilities that manufacture, house or deploy chemical weapons. Such strikes should not target Syrian command and control structure. Chaos could lead to a breakdown in Assad's control of his own forces, which could well enable zealous generals to be more aggressive.

The message is clear: choosing to use chemical weapons comes with a significant cost. Sending this message now may well prevent the nations of the world from having to intervene to eliminate widespread chemical weapons in the future at much greater cost.

All options in regard to Syria are bitter to contemplate, but limited intervention is the strategically sound and most humane thing to do.

We should stay out of Syria

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It's hard to turn on the television or read a newspaper and not hear about the situation in Syria. From the President to political pundits on both sides of the aisle, everyone is trying to assess America's role in this international affair.

Well this American feels that, unequivocally, America has no dog in this fight.

Have we not learned from the mistakes of Iraq? You would think the President would remember, given that ending the Iraq war has been such an integral part of his political ascension, that carelessly throwing around American military might based on poorly substantiated intelligence leads to long, bloody and expensive occupations that make the world see Americans not as liberators or bringers of freedom, but as imperialists and persecutors.

I am not heartless, but my first loyalty and sympathies are to my countrymen, whom I do not wish to see die at the hands of Islamist extremists.

As history has shown, particularly in the Spanish Civil War, intervention by foreign powers only worsens circumstances.

"Twelve years of war. A sense that we're snakebit in the Mideast. Iraq and Afghanistan didn't go well, Libya is lawless. In Egypt we threw over a friend of 30 years to embrace the future. The future held the Muslim Brotherhood, unrest and a military coup," said Peggy Noonan of "The Wall Street Journal" in her op-ed column.

"Americans have grown more hard-eyed, more bottom-line and realistic, less romantic about foreign endeavors, and more concerned about an America whose culture and infrastructure seem to be crumbling around them," she said.

We see the violence and naturally wish to help, but so many of the facts are unclear. Military intelligence cannot tell us conclusively what affiliations the rebel forces may have. They could be associated with terrorist groups from neighboring Lebanon, such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

We could end up funding and

supporting the chief enemy of our only true ally and lasting democracy in the region: Israel. As former Democratic congressman Dennis Kucinich said, "So what, we're about to become al-Qaeda's air force now?"

Syria has long been a puppet for Iranian and Russian power in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, and a military misstep in Syria could drastically damage America's vital negotiations with those major players and overall U.S. diplomatic influence on the world stage.

I hope the men and women of our nation's congress think long and hard about sacrificing the lives of the bright young men and women of this country in what would be our third war of occupation thousands of miles away from our shores.

In all honesty, the thought of this war deeply scares me. Given the turnout and passion of many town hall meetings across America, I'm not the only one.

Let's transfer this energy and monetary commitment to solve the serious domestic issues that impact millions of Americans daily.

UC's open laptops What the professors can't see

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As a student in some classes where laptop use is allowed, I can, in fact, see what students are looking at.

An article in "The Washington Post" titled "How distracting are laptops in class?" described an experiment conducted by Professor Daniel Willingham of the University of Virginia. Willingham asked college-aged students to attend a class on meteorology. Half of the students were given extra tasks in class, like finding the answers to outside questions such as "What is on Channel 3 tonight at 10 p.m.?"

In another experiment, students placed around other students with multitasking laptops were able to absorb less information from the class compared to those who were not seated around multitasking laptops. Although students who are multitasking may not be losing a significant amount from classes, those sitting around them are likely to miss more of the lesson.

As for the Ursinus campus, to skeptical professors' dismay, most of the computers are following

along on Blackboard, taking notes in Word or just sitting blankly on the welcome screen.

"In the middle of a lecture I might ask someone to look something up that I don't know off the top of my head," Willingham said in the "Washington Post" piece.

"On the one hand, I like it when students have their laptops in class. Many of them are more comfortable taking notes this way than longhand," Willingham said.

I would be lying if I did not say that there are a couple laptops in a class of computers that wander onto other pages. The most popular distractions are Ursinus email, eBay and Amazon. Time in class is apparently prime shopping time as well. It is hard to avoid looking at those annoying email pop up messages, and I will admit that I wander off as well.

I have to admit that Willingham's results seem right. When I see somebody's email shoot up, or a flashy Facebook home page, I get distracted. Whether intentional or not, the fact that there is a distractor within close proximity causes some level of temptation for students.

Volleyball counting on newcomers this season

Additions to the team hope to make serious impact

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The Ursinus volleyball team looks to continue to roll its two-game winning streak after beating both New Rochelle and Centenary (N.J.) on Aug. 31.

These last two wins were a great rebound after dropping their first two games of the 2013 season. After coming off of a 7-17 record last season and dropping their final six games, the women look to turn things around in the 2013 season.

Entering his second year as the Ursinus volleyball coach, Jeff Groff has very high expectations for the team that is bringing back seven of the 14 girls on the roster from last season, and he has great aspirations for the five freshmen as well.

The squad also brought on one transfer sophomore, Karla Thiele, who "will add consistency to our

serve receive passing, improve our defense, but most importantly will add a big punch to our offense as a left side attacker," Groff said.

Sophomore Kathryn Yoo is regarded as a defensive specialist that will shore up the back row defensive options along with returning juniors Leah Masiello and Joy Oakman.

In addition to the seven new players who will take to the court representing Ursinus College this year, the staff also brought on assistant coach Kelly Groff.

With these new acquisitions to the team, there are high hopes, "that [the team] will double our wins from last year and surprise a lot of the competition with how much we have improved," Groff said.

Danielle Kenny hopes to have a breakout freshman season and is extremely excited for the team to come together.

"This season we have so many new players that the whole team is just so excited to explore everyone's potential and see how the new and returning players can blend together," Kenny said.

Coach Groff said that with the "new attitude and culture, new look, and new equipment," they

have the opportunity to shock a lot of the competition and make it to the Centennial Conference playoffs.

This playoff run will be led by senior captains Anahi McIntyre and Gina Powers. They hope to make an impact within the Centennial Conference this year.

"We expect and strive to improve individually and as a team. We want the girls to feel like a family and at the end of the day I hope to lead the girls to many victories," McIntyre said.

The Bears' first Centennial Conference match will be a critical one at Gettysburg on Sept. 14.

The Gettysburg Bullets finished last season with a 15-14 record in their 2012 campaign and currently hold a 2-2 record this season.

If the Ursinus team wants to check off one of their goals in making it to the conference playoffs, Gettysburg is one of many talented Centennial Conference opponents the team will face.

September should offer an advantage to the team, with seven of 11 games being played at home, including a three-game home stint between Sept. 18 and 24.

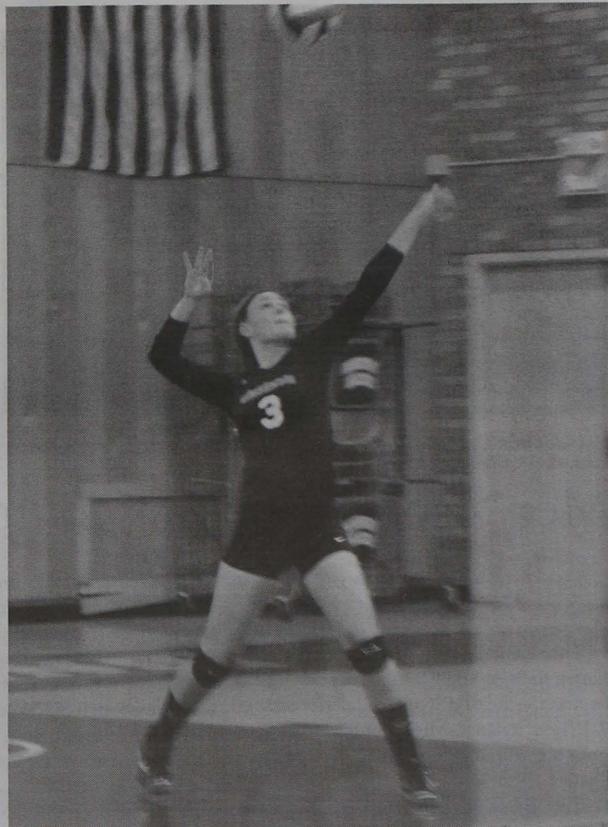


Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications

Junior Joy Oakman prepares to serve the ball in a contest. The women's volleyball team finished with a 7-17 record.

Athletic training room source of aid and knowledge

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Behind every functioning machine is a person or group of people working hard to keep it running at maximum efficiency. For Ursinus' athletic program, this group happens to work in the athletic training room.

Serving 23 different teams and hundreds of student athletes, there is barely a moment of rest for head athletic trainer Pam Chlad and assistant trainers Kathy Wright, Michelle Vande Berg, Akinori Kashiwagi, Colin Dixon, Jeffrey Wolfe and graduate assistant JoAnna Iacono.

Aside from caring for athletes and training interns, some of the trainers, including Chlad, instruct different classes within the exercise and sport sciences department.

On a typical day,

Kashiwagi said he opens the training room around 11 a.m. and does not completely finish his work until around 8 p.m. every night.

Over the course of the year, each trainer is assigned to a different team to ensure that all athletes receive the appropriate amount of care and treatment needed to keep them on the field as much as possible.

For Kashiwagi, this means covering the football team in the fall, the men's and women's indoor track teams in the winter and the men's lacrosse team in the spring.

Taking care of athletes in contact and non-contact sports, Kashiwagi and the rest of the training room staff have seen just about every injury there is.

"Depending on the sport, injuries can be very different. There are more

acute injuries like ankle sprains and knee injuries in contact sports. In track and field, since they don't have contact, they get more overuse injuries like shin splints, lower back pain, arch pain and other injuries like that," Kashiwagi said.

Even with such injuries, Kashiwagi described the goals of the training room staff as "looking out for the safety of the players, preventing injuries and doing what works best for the teams."

So while some athletes might not believe it, the athletic trainers are always working to get players back on the field as soon as possible.

Aside from simply working in the interest of Ursinus' athletes, the training room also serves as an important learning site for West Chester University students wanting to enter

the field of athletic training.

Ursinus is one of several schools in a contract with West Chester University, allowing their students to intern on our campus as part of a course requirement in order for them to earn their degree.

According to Louis Holzman, an athletic training intern in his junior year at West Chester University, and Caitlin Hawco, a senior with the same title, Ursinus has been great to them thus far.

"The facilities, the staff and the school in general are very nice and well-organized and well-kept," Holzman said.

"There are a lot of different devices and equipment at our disposal that a lot of other high schools and colleges don't have, so it's nice to be using some top notch tools some-

times." He and Hawco even went on to call Ursinus "one of the top sites in our clinical rotation."

As interns, Hawco and Holzman cannot diagnose any injuries, nor can they clear anyone to play.

Aside from that, their duties are virtually the same as all of the other trainers they work with, completing various tasks ranging from taping up players to taking care of administrative details.

"I've definitely seen a lot more here than at my other two sites," Hawco said. "Aki, Pam and Joanna are really knowledgeable and I just try to take in as much of their knowledge as I can."

When asked about her experiences with training room staff members, junior women's soccer forward Ama Achaw had nothing but positive things to say.

"I think the staff and our team trainer, Jeffrey, do a wonderful job. The decisions they make are in the best interest of the players. They do a good job of preventing injuries and still allowing us to play," Achaw said.

Ultimately, the culmination of dedicated staff members and bright young interns is a tremendous gift for the athletes of Ursinus' campus.

The athletic training room consists of many qualified athletic trainers who devote many hours of service to the safety and health of student athletes.

The time the trainers commit to the athletes must not overshadow the fact that young people who will soon be in charge of other athletic safety receive some of the best training possible by a devoted staff at in the training room of Ursinus.

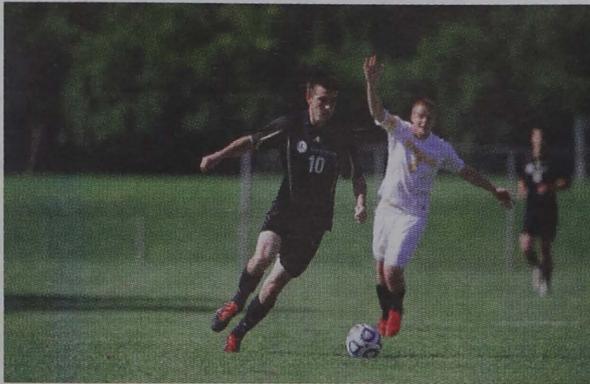


Photo courtesy of David Sinclair.

Sophomore Ryan Butler maneuvers around defenders during a contest.



Photo courtesy of Jon King

Senior goalie Kara DiJoseph eyes the field.

Men's soccer looking to improve

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The Ursinus men's soccer team has gotten their season off to a 1-2 start. They began the season with a heartbreaking 2-1 loss against Misericordia, followed by a big win at Widener and another loss against Kean.

The Bears look to improve on their 5-12 overall record last year. The team was slightly more successful at home on Patterson Field last year with a home record of 3-5 and an away record of 1-6.

The team has a goal to make it to the conference playoffs, and luckily for them, they have nine conference games left to be played. Head coach Kyle Rush spoke about the competitiveness of the conference.

"The conference only accepts five teams for the conference playoffs. Muhlenberg was the number six team last year and did not get into the playoffs," Rush said.

"Muhlenberg was ranked number 18 in the country last year, so to make it into our conference playoffs you almost have to be nationally ranked as a top 20 team," Rush said.

This speaks worlds regarding the talent of the Centennial Conference, but Rush has faith in his young team this year to make a run for a playoff spot.

"We are a young team but I believe that we have enough pieces to be able to break into that five spot," Rush said.

"This year, we are a much more effective team in transition... and offensively we have the potential to score," Rush said.

The Bears potential to score was clear against Widener. Before playing the Bears, Widener had not given up a goal this season. The Bears were able to rack up four goals against Widener before they left Chester. Coach Rush also praised the Bears' defense.

"Defensively we are very deep, meaning we have a lot of subs that can come in and play at a very high level," Rush said.

"Our defense this year is very organized and has a different attitude about them. Having a really strong defense and a very creative offense gives us a good combination of what it takes to win games," Rush said.

Wins do not come easy in the Centennial Conference, but the coach at the helm for Ursinus has confidence in his team.

More shots a priority for Bears

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The women's soccer team began their season with a 2-2 start. They came out hot with two straight wins against Albright and Penn State Abington. These two wins were followed by two tough losses against Moravian and Salisbury.

Despite the start, the ladies are looking to have a season to remember. There are 10 conference games still left to play, and five of them are on Patterson Field.

The girls had an overall record of 3-9-4 during their 2012 campaign and look to improve on that dramatically.

The big test for the women this year will be games in conference play after going 0-6-4 last year. Despite the rough season last year, the 2013 women's soccer team is still a close-knit group.

Valerie Bedrock is a junior center midfielder for the team this year. She is an experienced player who is looking to make the transition from the defensive side of the field.

Bedrock started 15 games during her freshman campaign and recorded a team high of six assists while finishing tied for

third on the team with six points. Last season, Bedrock started all 16 games for the Bears and was able to win the Centennial Conference sportsmanship award along with the coach's award.

Bedrock emphasized the importance of chemistry on the team this year. "Teamwork and getting along with each other is big," she said. "On campus, our team is known for having great chemistry."

The Bears plan on using that chemistry to their advantage and make a big improvement as a team this year. "We are a young team and that usually means rebuilding but that is not what we have in mind," Bedrock said.

The team looks to get on the attack this year and get more shots on goal. They ended the season last year with an average of only one goal per game.

Although it is early, the team seems to be improving this year with an average of 1.2 goals per game. Bedrock has also made it her personal goal.

"This year, I need to take more shots," she said. "Last year, I was stuck on defense and didn't have as much of an opportunity." The Bears will look to make the most of their opportunities this season.

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

9/14- Football @ Gettysburg at 1 p.m.

9/14- Field hockey versus Gettysburg at noon

9/14- Volleyball @ Gettysburg at noon.

9/21- Men's cross country in Philly Metro Championships @ Belmont Plateau

9/14- Men's soccer versus Rosemont at 1 p.m.

9/18- Women's soccer versus Swarthmore at 7:30 p.m.

9/14- Volleyball versus Hood College @ Gettysburg at 2 p.m.

9/21- Women's cross country in Philly Metro Championships @ Belmont Plateau

9/17- Men's soccer @ Immaculata at 4 p.m.

9/21- Women's soccer versus Franklin & Marshall at 6:30 p.m.

