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Wismer's upcoming holiday meals

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With the holiday season rapidly approaching, the time of year when Wismer begins to step up their food choices is almost upon us.

On a day-to-day basis, the Wismer staff makes it their goal to provide Ursinus community members with a wide variety of foods and treats to get them through their day.

In a response given via email, Ron Wood, the general manager of Ursinus' dining services, gave a summary of what the food staff hopes to achieve with their meal selections:

"We want students to have a great experience every time they dine with us," Wood said. "So we are focused on providing a variety of menu choices, including plenty of healthy and fresh options."

However, some students feel that such goals are not truly shown until the holidays come around.

Junior Craig Presant is one of them. "I'm not a huge Wismer fan," Presant said. "I mean there's a few things I like, but overall I think a lot of things could be better. The holiday specials are good though. I wish they served food like that year-round."

"Although our special holiday dinners bring together all the traditional favorites for a big feast, you will find most of the items from those menus featured in our dining program throughout the year," Wood said.

"I think people are more aware of them being featured at these special meals because they are associated with traditional family celebrations," Wood said.

Whether the better taste we feel comes during the holidays is attributed to a placebo effect or not is undecided. What is certain though is that the food seems to look far more appetizing in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

So far this year, the Thanksgiving festivities have already begun, commencing with the sixth annual pie eating contest last Thursday.

On Nov. 21, Wismer will be celebrating with a Thanksgiving holiday dinner. This will include traditional roast turkey, apple stuffing, cranberry sauce and the items from those menus were featured in our dining program throughout the year."

Ron Wood
General Manager of Ursinus Dining Services

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Ron Wood
General Manager of Ursinus Dining Services

UCARE service opportunities

Since 2009, students at Ursinus College could visit UCARE, Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility and Engagement, to find out about the many community service opportunities in the Collegeville community.

UCARE offers programs weekly through partners that have been a staple at Ursinus and the Greater Philadelphia area for a while now. Students are encouraged to join the initiative of giving back to the community that has done so much for them.

There are a number of service opportunities offered to the students by UCARE. The opportunities offered are both long-term service projects and short-term ones that can be done on pretty much any day of the week.

"We offer a lot of programs," junior Leah Garrity said. "We have childhood development places, like ACLAMO, which is a tutoring program (and) Ursinus students go in and tutor students who are elementary and middle school-aged."

Ursinus and the ACLAMO Foundation, Accion Comunal Latino Americano de Montgomery County, have been partners for the past 20 years.

Students can volunteer with the ACLAMO foundation Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. "I consistently do something every single week through UCARE," junior Nick DiMuzio said.

DiMuzio is a tutor with ACLAMO. He likes tutoring because he gets to see the impact he is able to make in another person's life.

For those students who do not have the time to volunteer extensively, UCARE and Philabundance work together a few Saturdays throughout the semester and provide students with the opportunity to help do clean-ups or work in food pantries.

With the holiday season coming soon, UCARE is doing its part to make sure no family is left out because they cannot afford to join in on the festivities.

"We will be having a canned food drive the first week of December," Garrity said.

UCARE will also partner with...
‘Wonderful Town’ musical to integrate three departments

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With the chance to sing, dance and act, students are getting ready to audition for Ursinus’ first full-scale musical involving all three art departments.

Next semester’s musical will be “Wonderful Town” which will debut on Feb. 25 and be performed through March 1. It is the first musical to be performed in the Lenfest Theater at Ursinus.

In the past, the theater department has performed small musical pieces but has never used the orchestra pit to perform a musical piece but has never used the orchestra pit to perform a musical.

Swing dancing and singing are just a few of the aspects that will be included in the show. The musical is about two sisters from the 1930s and encounter a different lifestyle. The play is jazz-themed and calls for many actors to participate.

The play incorporates all three areas of the creative arts which is different than most productions at Ursinus. The theatre and dance department are usually separate from the music department.

Choosing the musical was the first step for this production. Dr. Holly Hubbs, a music director and jazz professor, said deciding what to choose was a collaborative effort among each department.

They decided they wanted to choose a musical that was not well-known because they did not want students to have expectations coming into the show.

Hubbs coordinates the musical aspect of the production and has already set auditions, chosen her musicians and begun rehearsing.

The department is doing things differently this semester because usually students do not have to audition to play an instrument. However, the orchestra pit only holds 15 people, so the number of musicians that can fit is limited.

Several musicians are given the opportunity to showcase their talent by playing three or four instruments throughout the musical.

“All this creativity among each department, why not collaborate?” Hubbs said. “What a chance for musicians to get to know all the dancers and actors.”

“Anyone can come out and audition... just give it a shot. You never know what may happen.”

— Bev Redman
Chair of the theater and dance department

The date of the show is looming, which is why auditions are a separate day than the theater share simply by sharing a certain level of expertise. Just bring out the best in people and see it through because the show must go on.”

Senior theater major Caitlin Jackson plans on auditioning for the play because she is approaching the end of her Ursinus career and has been involved with the theater since her freshman year.

“I’m most excited for the chance to be in a musical with the staff on campus,” Jackson said. “Coming to Ursinus, I didn’t get the chance to participate fully in the passion that I have for musical theater. I think it’s super important for the fine arts departments to be engaged with one another and this is a way to bring the new expanded musical department into the relationship that dance and theater share simply by sharing a building. This is really a chance to explore everything at once.”

Jingle Jog 5k race

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Holiday season is approaching fast, and with it comes the Jingle Jog and Holiday Happenings in Collegeville. This year, the Jingle Jog 5k falls on Dec. 7. and is open to the Collegeville public. The race starts at 3 p.m. with registration occurring an hour beforehand.

“There will be plenty of events and activities for the whole family,” Rachael Morrison, executive director of the Collegeville Economic Development Center, said.

The race starts off at Collegeville Station at Third Avenue and then weaves through different Collegeville streets and the Perkiomen Trail. There is a mixture of street terrain and off-road paths.

There are several different age groups, and the winner of each will receive an award. There will be a male and female champion in the Under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and over age groups. The overall winners of the 5k will win a separate prize. All competitors will receive a free T-shirt, as long as they register before the race at 2eannual run.org.

While the racers compete, there will be plenty of other activities for non-racers. Right next door to the starting line, at Da Vinci’s Pub, the Holiday Bazaar will be underway. While non-racers enjoy a delicious barbecue and refreshments served by the CEDC, they can also participate in gift searching and fun games.

At 4 p.m. the talented performers from The Community Music School will be making an appearance to entertain those in attendance with carol singing to help ring in the holiday season.

The Dance Depot will put on a display of talent and performing arts of their own. Other local musicians will also keep the musical energy going.

At 5 p.m. Santa is scheduled to arrive to make the trip all the way from the North Pole down to Main Street. After greeting Collegeville residents, he will light the Collegeville Tree.

At the race, the community is invited to continue the festivities at DaVinci’s, where those over the age of 21 can enjoy complimentary beer and wine during a reception for the runners.

The Collegeville 5k is on the rise, and this year it hopes to become even more popular. Morrison said that each year the race has seen an increase in participation by 150 people.

In the past, racers have primarily been non-Ursinus students, but this year that is bound to change. Unlike in the past, this year’s race falls on a day that is more convenient for students.

“Students will still be on campus during the race, and it will not be during finals, so we think that many more students will come out this year,” Morrison said.

Ben Peifer, a sophomore at Ursinus and a Collegeville resident, plans to attend the race this year.

“I have never been before, but I know people that have, and they said they had a great time,” Peifer said. “I haven’t really been training at all though, so I’ll probably end up in the very back of the pack.”

The race starts at 3:30 p.m., and it will end on the Perkiomen Trail. For those who are not familiar with the metric system, a 5k run is equal to 3.1 miles. For potential racers like Peifer, there will be a wide range of competitors: some who just hope to finish, and some who strive to win.

Fun times will be had by those who choose to walk, and those who want to finish first.
Senior Michael Irvine has enjoyed the efforts of the Wismer staff thus far.

"I love the food," Irvine said. "I go to upper for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food has definitely been better these past few weeks, but I think it's pretty good all the time."

With all the excitement of the perceived increases in Wismer’s food quality, there has also been some worry.

Junior Matthew Ryan fears that the food given to students will cease to be as tasty once the holiday season has come and gone.

"I feel like the food always starts off decent," Ryan said. "Then the holidays come around, and it gets really good. Then once they pass, the food they have just drops."

Whether Ryan’s theory is true or not has yet to be revealed. In the meantime though, students should enjoy all that Wismer is offering.

UCARE continued from pg. 1

A few organizations in the Collegeville community to set up a giving tree in the student activities office.

Students can stop by the giving tree after Thanksgiving break to start picking out things to donate to help give a child a happy Christmas.

Craddles to Crayons is also a program offered to students every week. They help sort and get packages ready for distribution. Additionally, UCARE has a program called PAPA!, Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives, in which students can tutor local children in elementary schools.

“We create these care packages for (kids): they have clothes, books, toys, games... just to help them with school and even coat drives to help them through the winter," Garrity said.

Students interested in doing long-term opportunities can join the Bonner program.

Members of the Bonner program are expected to do 300 hours of community service every year until their graduation.

“Bonner is a great program,” sophomore Eddie Torres said. "Bonner has given me the opportunity to do so many things to help in the life of other people."

“So far I have done a lot of community service with Bonner," Torres said. "I’ve planted trees, taught a classroom full of elementary school students, picked weeds, created a farm in Philly and so much more."

Students are encouraged to visit the student activities office in lower Wismer anytime to learn more about upcoming service opportunities or the Bonner program.

Top stories from around the globe

Vivek Reddy & Evan Hill
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Second round of Chilean election

According to the BBC, left-wing candidate Michelle Bachelet won the first round of voting in Chile’s presidential election. She won 47 percent of the vote compared to her rival, Evelyn Matthei, the center-right candidate who garnered 25 percent of the vote. A second round of voting will take place on Dec. 15.

Although Chile is one of the wealthiest nations in Latin America, voters have staged protests pushing for more equitable wealth distribution and better education. Bachelet wants to increase taxes to offer free university education and reform economic structures dating from rule of notorious dictator Augusto Pinochet.

EPA proposes requirements for biofuel use

According to the “Washington Post,” the Environmental Protection Agency proposed lowering requirements for biofuel use in 2014. The proposal would set ethanol use at 15.21 gallons, under 10 percent of motor-fuel consumption and 16 percent lower than targets established by Congress in 2007.

This proposal induced a backlash from farm groups, corn ethanol producers, supporters of biodiesel and oil companies.

Oil companies argued that if the content of ethanol in motor fuel exceeded the blend wall, 10 percent, it might damage cars, motorcycles and lawn mowers. In contrast, ethanol makers say that higher levels of ethanol will not harm vehicles.

Aid agencies discuss typhoon

According to “Slate Magazine,” the British Disasters Emergency Committee argued that Typhoon Haiyan could have been caused by climate change. This committee is made of 14 aid agencies and it has called on other nations to cut carbon emissions at the U.N. talks on climate change in Warsaw. However, a global deal on the issue may not be expected until 2015 at the earliest.

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron has argued that the evidence for climate change is growing and wants to take preventive and mitigating steps should the evidence of climate change science be accurate.

SnapChat rejects offer

Picture messaging service SnapChat, a free app available for smartphones, declined a cash offer from Facebook of almost $3 billion. Facebook sought to acquire the company due to its large number of teenage users, a demographic that has been falling sharply for Facebook in recent years.

SnapChat is unique from other messaging services in that its messages are automatically deleted after 10 seconds. The company’s founder, 23 year old Evan Spiegel, is reportedly courtng an offer from Chinese investment firm Tencent Holdings that would value SnapChat at $4 billion, according to the “Wall Street Journal.”

Fresh conflict in Libya

Progress towards stability in Libya after the overthrow of dictator Muammar Gaddafi has been beset by renewed violence between militia groups jockeying for power.

The BBC reported that in the past week, 40 people were killed and hundreds were injured in clashes with civilians protesting the presence of armed groups in the capital city of Tripoli.

In addition, deputy intelligence chief Mustafa Nuh was kidnapped by unknown parties. Last month, the Prime Minister himself, Ali Zeidan, was abducted for a few hours before being set free without injury.
**Gospel choir wants to extend reach**

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Ursinus’ Voices in Praise gospel choir is doing a lot this year to change things up.

With new director Kimberly Thompson and president Epiphany Summers, the already successful group looks to improve their semesterly concert. This fall’s concert, titled “Total Praise,” will be held Nov. 24 in the Bomberger auditorium at 5 p.m. There will also be performances by their sub-group, Dancers in Praise.

Voices in Praise has already had a few successful performances this year. They sang at Café Nia, an event that the multicultural services and SUN puts on every year for homecoming. During this first performance with their new director, they experimented with having their dancers performing while they sang.

In the past, the directors have been people that the choir has known. They have been Ursinus alumni or people already connected to the choir. Over the summer, new directors were interviewed so that Voices in Praise could be introduced to new approaches.

Thompson has been pushing the choir in ways that they have not been pushed before. They are singing different songs and are being pushed vocally. She has come to Ursinus with ideas that are original and fresh and will surprise concert attendees.

“A new director is not only exciting for us, it’s a surprise for everyone else,” Summers said. Summers wants the group to move beyond singing. She wants them to push them to take part in community service and reach out into the community. They have already visited Columbia Cottage, volunteering to spend time with the elderly. They are arranging community service opportunities at Trinity United Church across the street from campus, as well as working on performances for the Park House.

“There’s just different ways to inspire people and to put a smile on someone’s face,” Summers said.

Progression also comes from working together. Along with doing community service together, the choir is doing other activities as a group. They are working to build a community among themselves as well. Recently, they went to Philadelphia to go see a concert together. They will also be visiting more churches off campus next semester.

It’s part of Summers’ goal of expanding their outreach to the off-campus community. She created a Facebook page this year that enables them to count and identify the people who are interested in the choir.

The group has been doing much more social networking and increased their advertising on campus. It is important that they are not just a ministry on campus, but one off campus as well.

This is what separates Voices in Praise from the other singing groups on campus. Summers said that they are not only performing and working for themselves, but also for other people, as well as the Lord. They do it to inspire people and to touch people.

Kathleen McElroy, a sophomore, has not been to a Voices in Praise concert yet this year, but she has seen the posters around campus.

“All of the singing groups on this campus are really good,” McElroy said. “But the posters around campus for Voices in Praise seem really cool, and I’m interested to see what the new director does for them.”

**“Integrating students”**

New professor looks to meld research and hands-on learning

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With her first microscope in hand at age 10, Jennifer Round knew she was hooked on biology. Round would collect samples of pond water from her backyard, look at them under her microscope and find herself amazed by all of the tiny microorganisms.

This love for science and biology remained with her throughout high school and landed her at the University of Rhode Island where she received her bachelor’s degree. While at the university, Round worked in the field of plant science, studying how to genetically engineer crops.

Continuing with her love of science, Round went on to Yale University to earn her doctorate. This is where Round’s love for science and biology expanded to neurosciences.

“I was encouraged to try out different laboratories that I did not think I would ultimately do research in,” Round said. “So I tried out a neuroscience laboratory and I absolutely loved it. The development of the brain is just completely fascinating to me.”

Although her love for science definitely expanded in her undergraduate and graduate work, Round found that she was somewhat disappointed in the way that students were learning at such large universities.

Round watched professors give mundane lectures in large lecture halls with a couple hundred students who weren’t engaged in the subject at all. Round believed that this was not the way science should be taught at the college level.

To fix this problem, Round became a teacher’s assistant at Yale University. In this position, Round tried to make sure students were embracing the complex material they were learning in their lectures. Volunteering more time than she was required to, Round discovered what profession she really wanted to go into.

“That is when I realized that I really wanted to go into a profession that balanced both teaching and research,” Round said. “And I had a hunch that the best place to do that would be at a small college where students could get more personal attention.”

Working at a post-doctoral teaching fellowship at Davidson College, Round learned how to become a teacher and a scientific researcher at the same time. Not only did she learn this for herself, but she also focused a lot of her attention on how to make research accessible to students.

After two years at the post-

**Word on the Street**

What was your favorite drama performance at Ursinus and why?

“I went to the improv group, ZBS, and it was awesome. It was a bunch of people I have class with, and it was cool to see them being funny and creative.” - Olivia McGrath, junior

“Three years ago they had a production of ‘One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.’ I’ve always loved the story, the book, the movie, and they put on a great production of it.” - Taylor Gloyd, senior

“My favorite was ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ because I was working backstage for it. I liked how kind everyone was, since I wasn’t very 100 percent confident with what I was doing; and they were extremely encouraging.” - Jeffery Lubin, junior

“Definitely the improv group. Seeing people make something creative and funny out of nothing is really cool.” - Melissa Arey, senior
Improvisation group ready to “wing it”

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ZBS is the student-run improv comedy troupe at Ursinus College. The group is led by three students, known as the head bananas. With meetings hosted twice a week by the head bananas, students meet in the Kaleidoscope room from 5-6 p.m. on both Wednesday and Friday. Typically, five students join the three head bananas for meetings.

“People show up whenever they want to and have time,” said Mary Kobor, one of the group’s head bananas.

Kobor explained that ZBS has no real rules. There is no audition process, and participation is solely interest-based.

The practices and performances are spontaneously run. Little to no planning happens beforehand because the process requires no script.

“We basically wing it,” Kobor said.

The head bananas prepare a list of ideas to use before they begin, but otherwise, all decisions are made on the spot.

Performance-wise, the itinerary of which members will perform in each section is extremely loose.

“There’s always a list because there are people of varying skill levels,” Kobor said. “We try to build the games so that people who have less practice performing or people who are just not as strong on stage as others are not put on the spot until they’re ready.”

Kobor said most of the two-person scenes are reserved for those who have more experience or may have greater stage presence.

Another head banana, Cooper Bard, describes the group-dynamic as totally spontaneous.

“They are skits that are not planned ahead,” Bard said. “In other words, improv is the art of being able to create stories and characters without a plan of what those characters are.”

Bard said that the group sometimes plays a game with a specific structure and lets the rest of the skit fall into place based on the suggestions of the audience. No game is ever played the same way twice.

“It is comedy-based ... we do whatever people want to see,” Bard said. “Sometimes the humor can get kind of crude or adult, but other times it can be very witty or slapstick.”

A common game played at ZBS meetings involves a two-person scene where the members have no starting idea of what the characters would be portraying. Members are expected to act from inspiration and remain quick on their feet.

Bard said that as long as they are having fun, most people find the acting comes easily.

The group is technically called Zombie Bitch Slap. It is not a wonder that people often question where that name originated.

“The name came from a game that we play sometimes where there will be an announcer advertising a product or explaining how to do something, and the other person is going to pantomime what the announcer is saying,” Bard said.

At one point over the years, this game was being played and the topic was how to survive a zombie apocalypse. One of the members was flailing his hands, claiming to use the zombie bitch slap technique. The name stuck.

Despite its light-hearted origin, the group is now allowing the name to slowly evolve.

Head banana Mary Kobor, who identifies herself as a strong feminist, finds the official name of the group offensive. She said she had doubts when initially joining the group because of the word “bitch.”

“It’s not the image that we want to portray, so we have abbreviated it to ZBS,” Kobor said. “If anyone asks, it’s ‘Zombie,’ and then you can create the rest as you go.”

Some examples that Kobor and Bard gave included Zombie Bra Strap, Zombie Broadcast Station and Zombie Brain Smash.

The roles of the head bananas, as described by Kobor and Bard, are a sort of facilitator of meetings and performances. They come up with games, help people play them effectively, help people build skills and encourage spontaneity.

“We teach them the basics of being on stage,” Bard said. “They learn how to do something, and then you can create the rest as you go.”

ZBS puts on performances a few times throughout the year, and their next performance is set for Nov. 22.
Break out of your stifling clique

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The stagnant cliques developing in our small, liberal arts campus are sometimes worse than grade school. Individuals evidently isolate themselves based on looks, hobbies or social status, sometimes without even knowing. It seems instinctive to do so, to follow the crowd and stick with it.

Therefore, every day is the same routine. I always see the same people together doing the same things. This is what forms cliques: individuals becoming so comfortable with the people they surround themselves with that they do not know of anything else.

Throughout my high school years, cliques were unavoidable. Come sophomore year, this made my seven-hour school day miserable. I had more than enough friends, but they all were part of different groups. I was classified as a loner. I did not want to pick just one group, so I did not pick any.

(T)he group of people you spend your leisure time with will not go on your résumé. Your own successes will.

When it was finally time to graduate, I could not have been more excited to start college and get away from it all. The first time I walked into the Ursinus College dining hall, however, I was shocked. I hardly knew anyone but I could make strong guesses regarding who a student was just by who they were sitting with.

There was plenty of racial diversity at many tables, and coming from a high school where diversity was scarce, that is exactly what I wanted to be around. Taking a closer look though, a certain T-shirt, attitude or action made them all look the same.

Cliques are formed by individuals to establish a sense of identity, according to Patricia C. Broderick and Pamela Blewitt’s “The Life Span: Human Development for Helping Professionals.” It is completely natural for most people and especially those with a fresh start at college. At the same time, the development of cliques can put pressure on individuals to conform to the identity being displayed. This pressure can cause people to stray from their original being.

Individuals succumb to these pressures due to their desire to be accepted. Who does not want to fit in and be accepted? It is important for individuals, especially vulnerable freshmen in college, to stay true to their own character when searching for a circle of friends.

According to Boston College’s Generation Pulse project, the search occurs at the beginning of a school year, when there are enough stresses to be concerned with. Friends are crucial to the process but should not be included in the list of stressors. By putting yourself first and taking care of what you need to succeed, friends will naturally come.

In any form of schooling, academics come first and then extracurricular activities, including friends. Once a student finds a core group of friends, there will be times when they seem to be more important than academics.

Notably for college students, it is important to realize that we are at school for a reason. Within four years, there will be more opportunities for students to put the books aside and have fun with their friends. Students need to constantly remind themselves that if their friends are looking out for their best interests, they will understand if something has to be skipped. A sense of understanding is vital in any friendship.

A group of friends that is completely supportive of your decisions can make life in college much more enjoyable.

Increase support for the learning disabled

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Learning disabilities are serious conditions that affect many Ursinus students. People used to think these were “slow reading skills” or “weak comprehension,” but we now live in a time of great knowledge and understanding regarding learning disabilities.

A June 2011 report from the U.S. Department of Education found that 86 percent of the country’s two- and four-year colleges enroll students with learning disabilities, and only 24 percent of those schools say they can help disabled students “to a major extent,” according to “USA Today.”

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides a legal framework that guarantees students necessary accommodations. Students can overcome learning disabilities and succeed with appropriate resources and tools.

While Ursinus has a Center for Academic Support and tutoring services, they are no longer enough. As the knowledge of learning disabilities has evolved, the tools have also evolved. When compared with contemporaries in the Centennial Conference, Ursinus College is falling behind.

Muhlenberg College’s approach to services for the learning disabled is what we should strive for. Muhlenberg offers assistive technology, such as word processors that may be used during written exams and speech recognition software, special additional academic advisors, a testing center, a writing center and professor outreach.

Harverford, which has a smaller enrollment than Ursinus, offers many of the same services laid out in a resource page on the college’s website.

Some might say Ursinus offers some of these services and resources in different places, but no one can deny that we lack an integrated and multi-pronged system. Ursinus’ learning disabilities page primarily points to the paperwork students must complete.

It is in no way the fault of the hardworking and dedicated members of the Center for Academic Support and tutoring services. They are only following college policy and making do with the means available to them.

It’s common knowledge that recently Ursinus College has been the recipient of some very generous donations. Perhaps some of that money could be channeled toward upgrading learning disability services. It is unthinkable that students may fall through the cracks at an institution of higher learning with Ursinus’ reputation.

Students with learning disorders, given a launch pad for success, can exceed expectations.

“I can’t read,” said Eric McGehearty, the CEO of Globe Runner SEO, a top-performing digital marketing firm, in a Forbes magazine article. “The one big challenge in my life—my dyslexia—has helped me acquire every skill that has made me successful. People with learning disabilities think differently and see the world in an entirely separate way. Ursinus College, with its liberal arts foundation, prides itself on encouraging that in students. Great minds like Alexander Graham Bell, Richard Branson, Albert Einstein and George Bernard Shaw have had to cope with a learning disorder.

Learning disabilities should not be confined to primary education. Sure, in the workplace there won’t be the same level of assistance, but college is what prepares us for the real world. If students cannot absorb and retain a college education, then it is no more valuable than the paper their diploma is printed on.

I’m not trying to sound like an alarmist. The current academic services for the learning disabled are suitable. But we should strive to have Ursinus’ current academic services for the learning disabled meet the same high standard as the other facets of the college and its peers.

As someone with a learning difference, this is an issue near and dear to me. Students with learning disabilities are not getting short-changed, but I feel it’s a matter of quality. I, like many students, chose Ursinus for its intimate size and the personalized attention that comes with it.

Ursinus is about exceeding expectations and providing excellent academic services. Here’s the analogy I would use: There is a big difference between taking a boat and taking a plane. Both meet the need of getting you where you need to go, but the latter does the job a whole lot better.

Have feedback on anything we covered?

We welcome your letters to the editor!

Send us your thoughts to: grizzly@ursinus.edu
Field hockey finishes impressive season

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The Ursinus College field hockey team’s season came to an end last Saturday with a 3-0 loss to Wellesley College.

The Bears made the playoffs when they defeated Franklin & Marshall for the Centennial Conference title. Franklin & Marshall was the reigning conference champion and they were seeded first in the conference.

“This year we were predicted to fall to F&M for the conference title in the preseason poll,” senior captain Kara Bowen said. “It made us work harder to prove ourselves. There’s no greater feeling than being an underdog and proving everyone wrong, and beating the team that took it away last year was kind of like the cherry on top.”

With that win, the Bears were given a home game last Wednesday against Wilkes. This was the first time that these two teams had met since Oct. 2, 2002. Ursinus got the 2-0 victory in ‘02, and they took a victory once again with a 5-0 win.

Sophomore Samantha Macchio led the Bears offensively with three goals.

“It feels good to score, but it feels even better to do it with this team because we have come such a long way, especially winning a conference championship,” Macchio said. “It was such a collective effort to get as far as we did.”

The Bears outshot Wilkes 29-15, Macchio’s first goal was in the 18th minute, sophomore Stephanie Cooper from a long pass in the 30th minute.

Macchio’s third and final goal of the game came in at 46:10 on an assist from sophomore Devin Brakel. In goal, DeSpirito made two saves for the Bears.

“The win against Wilkes was a huge confidence booster for the team, but Jenna (Stover) and I were sure to keep everyone down to earth, which they definitely were,” Bowen said.

The Bears then went on to Salisbury, Md. for the second round of the NCAA Division III Field Hockey tournament against Wellesley.

Their run in the NCAA tournament came to an end on Saturday when Wellesley defeated them 3-0. Ursinus had no shots in the first half of the game but finished the second half with seven. DeSpirito made nine saves for the Bears.

“Even though this is not how we pictured our season ending, we have so many high points throughout the season to look back on,” sophomore midfielder Kelsey Reed said. “I wouldn’t have wanted to win the conference with any other group of girls. The seniors will be truly missed next year.”

UC swimming making mark in Centennial

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By many standards, Ursinus’ swim team exceeded expectations last season when they ended at 6-3 and went on to the Centennial Conference Championship, where the men’s team finished fourth and the women’s team came in third.

The men’s and women’s teams hope to follow up last season with an even more successful 2013-14.

The men’s team is currently in a three-way tie for second place with Franklin & Marshall and Swarthmore.

Their next three meets will be against Swarthmore which could prove pivotal in how they will fare in the Centennial Conference.

Coming off of a win against McDaniel College, head coach John Feinberg is optimistic in how his team will perform throughout the duration of the season.

“The season’s going great,” Feinberg said. “We dropped a tough one against Albright and swam great, but didn’t have enough to beat Gettysburg.”

Feinberg believes his team has a great dynamic going for them and sees the Bears finishing the season better than they did last year.

Six members of last year’s team graduated last spring. Such a loss stings, and everyone on the team is aware of such a pain. But optimism and confidence will prove to be powerful tools.

“We have a real good mix. Just about evenly distributed between freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors,” he said. “Each class coming in is big. Most of them stick with it and they are really dedicated.”

One thing that has made a difference is how dedicated and resilient everyone on the team is. They take their wins in stride and realize the long goal is more important, something senior Charles Messa admires in his team.

“We went into the offseason with the Centennial Conference Championship in mind and that is where we are now,” Messa said. “Now the conference is ready. They’re watching us. We’re the team to beat now.”

The men’s swim team has not missed a beat since starting the season. Their win at McDaniel on Saturday drove their win total up to 5-0.

No one could be prouder of the team than coach Feinberg. “The team is really looking good this year,” Feinberg said.

Feinberg gives credit to his entire team for keeping the intensity up going into a pivotal part of the season.

Feinberg credited a lot of the team’s wins to their devotion and leadership. Junior Chelsea Kozior is one of the team’s leaders and best contributors this season. Kozior holds the school’s record for the 500 meter freestyle.

Kozior believes the team is doing well because the team prepared so well over the summer in anticipation for the season.

“We were nervous,” Kozior said. “We all like to practice and we like to swim, so offseason conditioning and workouts were fairly easy. We also tried things that made it interesting.”

In preparation for the season, Kozior participated in a triathlon over the summer in her hometown of Holland, Pa.

Other members of the swim team participate in sports like track during the offseason to keep themselves in shape for the season ahead of them.

There are still people who may doubt the Bears, but their confidence rings strong.

“We want to win,” Kozior said. “We are motivated to do well because we want to win. It’s time for a change in the Centennial Conference and we want to be that team to deliver it.”

With their most recent win at McDaniel this weekend, the Bears can be even more confident that such things will happen, as they hold a demanding lead in the Centennial Conference going into their next three meets at Swarthmore.

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Women’s Swimming</th>
<th>Men’s Swimming</th>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Men’s Basketball</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/22- @ Swarthmore</td>
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<td>Invitational at 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Invitational at 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Alumni match at 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins at 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins at 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/23- @ Swarthmore</td>
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Field hockey playoff run ended, football ends on good note, UC swimming takes a win

Shawn Hartigan & Austin Fox
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The UC football team was able to finish off their season on a winning note at Dickinson on Saturday afternoon following a disappointing loss at home to Muhlenberg.

The Bears defeated Dickinson 31-0, ending their season with a record of 7-3, making the senior class the winningest class in school history. This was not the only milestone surpassed in Carlisle, Pa. Senior wide receiver Jerry Rahill broke the all-time receptions record, previously held by Ron Floyd, on a 26-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Kevin Monahan.

Rahill had six receptions at Dickinson, giving him a total of 187 for his career, five more than the previous record of 182.

Monahan finished the day completing 18 out of 22 passes for 215 yards and a touchdown pass. He also ran for a score in the second quarter from one yard out.

Junior running back Taylor Paul rushed the ball nine times for 54 yards and a score, a 21-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. The Bears defense ended their 2013 campaign by shutting down the Dickinson offense, not letting up a single point on the day.

Men’s basketball

The Ursinus men’s basketball team opened up their season at the 2013 Homewood Suites Men’s Basketball Tip-Off tournament hosted by Messiah College in Grantham, Pa. on Friday.

The Bears took a loss of 89-73 in their first game against Hartwick. Despite the loss, sophomore guard Trevor Norton was able to score 14 points, while sophomore guard Malik Draper grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

The Bears were also able to tie the score twice throughout the game and outscored the Hawks in the second half 36-35. The men were also not able to get the job done the following day against Rosemont. Despite a game-high 20 points from Norton, Ursinus saw Rosemont make a late run as the Ravens defeated the Bears 82-76 in the consolation game.

Norton was 6-for-13 from the field and had five three-pointers for the Bears. He was named to the All-Tournament team for his performances.

Women’s basketball

The Ursinus women’s basketball team travelled to Grantham this weekend for the Tip-Off tournament and, like the men, lost their season opener.

Sophomore forward Jessica Porada had 16 points and 14 rebounds, but it was not enough. The Bears lost on Friday night to Juniata with a score of 83-58.

Senior guard Diamond Lewis also reached double figures, scoring 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

Sophomore forward Tori Steinberg finished the game with eight points. Steinberg was first in off the bench, according to the UC athletics website.

It was a different story for the Bears the following day with five players scoring in double figures for Ursinus. The Bears defeated Rosemont 82-60 in the consolation game.

Porada led the Bears again with 20 points on 7-for-14 shooting while grabbing nine rebounds.

Lewis added in 19 points, while sophomore guard Alyssa Polimeni scored 12. Steinberg scored 12 as well, while sophomore guard Caroline Shimrock netted 10. At no point in the game did the Bears trail. They shot 40 percent from the field and 47.1 percent from the three-point line.

Their defense was able to hold Rosemont to just 33.3 percent from the field. The Bears will be home for their first game in Collegeville against Gettysburg on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

Field hockey

The Ursinus women’s field hockey team saw its run it the NCAA Division III field hockey come to an end on Saturday in Salisbury as they took on Wellesley.

The Bears were defeated in the second round of the tournament by a score of 3-0.

Prior to the defeat, the Bears had an impressive outing on Snell Field Wednesday night against Wilkes, defeating them by a score of 5-0 in the first round.

Ursinus sophomore forward Samantha Macchio scored three goals while sophomore midfield/center Danielle DeSpirito had two assists in the win. It was a much different story for the ladies on Saturday as Wellesley, the champion of the NEWMAC, held Ursinus off the board by owning a 25-7 shot advantage and a 15-4 edge on corners.

Ursinus was held without a shot in the first half, and got seven in the second half but could not get one past Brit Mscisz who had four saves.

Sophomore goalkeeper Danielle DeSpirito had an impressive outing, making nine saves on the day for the Bears, according to the athletics website.

Women’s cross country

The Ursinus College women’s cross country team marked its third-best finish in school history at the NCAA Mid-East Regional in Bethlehem, Pa. on Saturday, finishing 18th. Every runner set a personal best, according to head coach Chris Bayless, as the team finished with 508 points.

Senior Sarah Priest activated the first finisher, placing 38th overall at 22:34. Junior Emily Lamb was 65th at 25:06, followed by junior Emelia Perry at 25:19. Junior Chelsea Nemeth (24:56), sophomore Grace Barter (24:57), sophomore Kimberly Nolan (25:23) and sophomore Danielle Grimes (26:14) rounded out the finishes for the Bears according to the UC athletics website.

Swimming

The women’s swim team took down conference opponent McDaniel last Saturday in a match that was decided by only a few tenths of a second.

The 200-yard free relay team defeated their McDaniel opponents with a time of 1:41.62. The seven-point victory was the deciding factor in the win.

Freshmen Alli Hemp and Marisa Ferrari, sophomore Mi-caela Lyons and junior Chelsea Kozior took home the win for the Bears.

Freshman Katie Piehl, sophomore Corinne Capodanno and senior Malena Lait Ferrari all had first place finishes in their respective races, helping to solidify the UC victory.

The team now sits at 5-0 on the season.

For the men in the pool, the match against McDaniel produced a win as well.

Seniors Alexander Pandelidis and John Wiecezek each had a first place finish: Pandelidis in the 1000-yard free and Wiecezek in the 50-yard free and 100-yard free.

Pandelidis also contributed to a win in the 200 free relay along with freshmen Chase Renninger and Spencer Collopy and junior Ben Jumper.

This win puts the Bears at 3-2 on the season. The teams will travel to the Swarthmore invitational on Friday.

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