The Grizzly, February 13, 2014

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Annual Job, Internship and Networking fair brings potential employers to the Ursinus campus

Students check in at the Ursinus Job, Internship and Networking Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012.

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Each year, Ursinus College hosts a Job, Internship and Networking Fair. This year, the fair was held on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 12-2 p.m.

The first formal job fair was held on Oct. 31, 2001 and featured 47 employers in Wismer's lower lounge. Since then, the fair has steadily improved and become a tradition at Ursinus.

The director of the fair is Carla Mollins Rinde. According to Rinde, invitations to the fair are sent to employers.

"We have many organizations who return year after year because they have so much success finding talented students here," Rinde said. "We do a lot of employer research and networking to increase the number, quality and diversity of the employers every year."

One of the biggest goals of the fair is to offer a wide range of opportunities to students.

The fair expected 88 different booths to be present.

The entire Career and Professional Development Office, which includes both staff and student members, contributes to the event.

See Careers on pg. 2

Photo courtesy of Steven M. Falk

International Medical Corps representative to speak this Wednesday

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Rabih Torbay, vice president of the International Medical Corps, is visiting Ursinus on Wednesday, Feb. 19 to speak about his experience in non-government organizations and about international relations work in the Middle East.

The talk, a part of Ursinus' Ambassador's Speaker Series, will take place in the Musser auditorium in Pfahler at 7 p.m.

Torbay has spoken at Ursinus and has served as an outside reader on a past Ursinus student's honors project.

He was invited by ambassador in residence and professor of international relations Joe Melrose in order to expose students to possible experiences that the non-profit sector has to offer.

"I assume that he'll be talking about the kind of work that the International Medical Corps does," Melrose said. "What that means is usually intervening in complex humanitarian situations, situations that can be caused by natural disaster and conflict."

Established in 1984, the International Medical Corps aims to "improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in underserved communities worldwide," as per its mission statement.

According to its 2011 annual report, the International Medical Corps works in more than 30 countries, focused mainly in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, including places with intense political climates such as Syria, Egypt, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Torbay had a leading role in the International Medical Corps' relief efforts in Iraq in 2003, and his experience working in these environments could be eye-opening and useful to hear and see to Ursinus students, particularly those in the politics and international relations courses of study.

"We have a number of students that have expressed a desire to do this type of work after they graduate."

— Joe Melrose
Professor of international relations

Rabih Torbay, Vice President for International Operations of International Medical Corps (IMC), will feature photographs with focus on

See Torbay on pg. 3
History dept. holds Nazi regime lecture

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The Ursinus College history department is sponsoring the annual Maurice W. Armstrong lecture on Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in the German Museum.

The lecture will be delivered by David Imhoof who is an associate professor and history chair at Susquehanna University.

His lecture is titled “The Rise and Fall of a Nazi Town: Göttingen, 1920-1940.”

“The Nazi regime was only in power from 1933 to 1945,” said Ross Doughty, chair of the history department. “He is taking the longitudinal view of cultural elements in the town of Göttingen, Germany which is a university town in Northern Germany.”

Imhoof’s lecture is going to be a summation of the last chapter of his book, “Becoming a Nazi Town: Culture and Politics in Göttingen during the Weimar and Nazi Eras,” which was published in the fall last year.

The chapter is the conclusion of the book which reiterates his argument and also explains what happened in Göttingen.

There is a special emphasis on the culture of this university town after the war.

“His argument is that a lot of the cultural elements in German society that made Germans receptive to the Nazis were present even in the Weimer Republic,” Doughty said. "People were interested in things that made them more receptive to Nazis."

The Weimer Republic was the government in Germany established after the First World War and was abolished with the takeover of the Nazi party.

The talk will include information about German opera in Göttingen and shooting clubs which kept people in military condition.

Imhoof also will explain that the people interested in shooting clubs also were people interested in joining the Nazi Party.

Ursinus was able to get Imhoof to come speak on campus because of his connection with Dean Wingegar who is the vice president of academic affairs and dean of Ursinus College.

Imhoof and Wingegar are friends and when Wingegar was on the faculty at Susquehanna. They were even bandmates in a faculty rock band.

Last year, Wingegar mentioned to Doughty about his friend at Susquehanna who was a scholar in Nazi Germany and that he might be interested in coming down here to speak to the students.

This was good timing because of its similarity to the course that Doughty is teaching right now called Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

The lecture will be around 45 to 50 minutes followed by a short question and answer session.

From all majors are welcome to attend.

ZBS group to perform in Valentine’s Day improv workshop

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On Friday, Feb. 14, a group on campus called ZBS improv group will put on a Valentine’s Day-inspired improv show.

The group has done multiple shows on campus but they have usually taken place during other events, such as Relay for Life or blood drives. This time, the group will have a standalone performance.

Cooper Bard, president or “beanz-banana” as the group calls him, said the group is currently focusing all of their efforts into the performance coming up.

He scheduled the event not realizing it was on Valentine’s Day, but once realizing this, he decided to make it a Valentine’s-themed show.

Improv is a unique kind of show, an event unlike any other Ursinus holds.

“Improv is a type of performance where the actors are inspired by suggestions from the audience,” Bard said. “That is a big appeal of improv: both the skill required to make stories on the go and the fun of seeing your suggestions being used in a performance. The audience is not merely a passive observer but an active participant.”

Bard’s “co-bananas,” or co-presidents, are Mary Kobor and Bethany Siehl. Both help Bard in planning events and practices. Both also assist Bard in advertising events, including the upcoming Valentine’s Day show.

The upcoming event will begin with a workshop put on by the group. During the workshop, the audience will get to see what a ZBS group practice is like.

The audience will be able to interact with the group and incorporate themselves into the workshop. After that, the group will begin their performance.

Kobor said she hopes the workshop will get more people interested and aware of the group and what they do.

“One thing we really hope comes out of this show is increased awareness about what we’re doing,” Kobor said. “I hope that this gets us some good exposure and that some new people dig it and get interested.”

The group has been working hard to prepare for the event by doing skits at practices, incorporating random words or characters. The group members make up comedy sketches that the rest of the group must go along with.

“I guess the goal is just for everyone to get faster at thinking on their feet and comfortable in front of an audience,” Kobor said. “Improv is an amazing skill to have. It helps with giving presentations, telling stories and really just builds confidence.”

After the Valentine’s Day show, the group’s next performance will be in March. They also hope to perform at Relay For Life again this year, as they did last year.

Bard said they are currently looking for on-campus events where they can perform because they would like to expand their variety of events they attend.

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RecycleMania returns to UC

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Ursinus will be participating in the national RecycleMania competition for the fifth straight year this spring semester. According to the official RecycleMania website, RecycleMania is a tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities.

Over an 8-week period each spring, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week and are in turn ranked in various categories. The categories are based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, as well as which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling.

Brandon Hoover is the Sustainability Program Coordinator on campus. It is his job to oversee our sustainability fellows program here at Ursinus. This means that Hoover has supervision over the Recycling and EcoRep Fellows who are working on RecycleMania.

The website states that national recognition is provided to the winning school in each category, and a sustainability fellow is chosen for the winning school in each category. Winning schools receive an award made out of recyclable materials. It is another great way for the college to educate its students and faculty.

While it is a competition between schools, it is primarily a way to educate the campus of existing recycling efforts, and encourage everyone to recycle or compost the waste they generate. Hoover said, “At the end of the day, we want to divert the most waste as possible from landfills or incinerators. And, since it’s a competition, who doesn’t want to win?”

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Vigilantes take on Mexican cartels

According to the BBC, armed vigilantes, determined to wrestle control of the rural Mexican state of Michoacan from the hands of drug cartels, advanced towards the city of Apatzingan, long known as home base to the infamous Knights Templar criminal organization. Supported by the Mexican government, the vigilantes conducted checkpoints and house-to-house searches looking for key leaders of the organized crime ring. The Knights Templar are reputed to be responsible for all of the drug trafficking in the region, in addition to killings, kidnappings and frequent extortion from local business owners.

Iranian ships near US waters

A pair of Iranian naval vessels, a destroyer and a helicopter carrier bearing supplies, have charted a course that will bring them within close proximity of U.S. shores for the first time, reports the BBC. International observers suspect this is part of an effort to expand its international influence and respond to U.S. moves to maintain a presence in the Gulf, including the stationing of the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, across the Gulf from Iran. Ships from any nation are free to travel in international waters, so conflict between the Iranian warship and the United States Navy is unlikely.

Switzerland tightens borders

The mountainous European republic of Switzerland has decided after an extremely close vote to further restrict immigration into the country. “The Wall Street Journal” reports that 50.3 percent of the country cast ballots in favor of creating quotas for the amount of foreign workers that can enter the country. The legislation was in response to mass immigration from less-affluent countries. The new law could cause some friction with the E.U., which dictates that all member nations must allow the citizens of other member nations to freely immigrate if they are able to find work. The Swiss’ economy allowed them to avoid much of the 2008 recession but has led to more than 640,000 E.U. residents immigrating to the small country.

Conviction in record insider trading case

Former SAC Capital portfolio manager Matthew Martoma was convicted in federal court of insider trading in the largest of such cases ever and faces seven to 10 years in prison according the “New York Times.” Martoma is the eight employee of SAC Capital to be convicted of insider trading, and despite SAC paying a record $1.8 billion fine regarding the charges, no criminal wrongdoing has ever been proven in connection with its owner, Steven A. Cohen. Although he remains a free man, Cohen has been stripped of his rights to manage the assets of others, leaving SAC Capital a firm centered on managing and expanding Cohen’s personal $9 billion fortune.

Torbay continued from pg. 1

the Syrian crisis, the Philippines, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and not only offer politics and IR-interested students useful information, but give “students who are interested in global affairs as a general topic of interest—not a major—something new to learn about,” politics chair Rebecca Evans said.

Evans said she looks forward to Torbay’s style of intertwining stories and pictures to trigger questions and discussion among attending students, and she thinks that students who choose to interact and develop a rapport with Torbay—someone who is well-connected in his field—following his speech will gain an additional level of insight and benefit.

“One of the things that I think is really exciting for students to do is not just to hear about somebody who has achieved a lot of professional success and hear what they’ve done, but to connect with them on a personal level,” Evans said.

“(Students) have a chance to talk with him to find out how he decided to do what he’s doing,” she said. “It gives students ideas about how they might pursue all kinds of different things...When he shares in his talk and afterwards in one-on-one settings, he can explain how things happened in his life and the kind of serendipity he had.”

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Students bring composting to Lower Wismer

Sustainability program offers composting, recycling options

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Lower Wismer has undergone many noticeable changes, and most of them are a result of a new sustainability program to increase compostable materials in the dining hall. Composting is a way of transforming raw materials, like food waste, and turning it into compost, which is a renewable resource.

At Ursinus, food waste is ground up, drained of water and sent to a local composting facility called ArbOrganic Acres. Food waste includes food preparation scraps, all leftover food waste, paper napkins and boats. Composting and recycling are both effective methods of waste reduction, but one is more beneficial for the environment than the other. “Think of it this way: Composting requires less machinery and building space than recycling,” Brandon Hoover, coordinator of Ursinus’ sustainability program, said. “It is a more natural process. Commercial composters tend to speed up that natural process without much extra effort.”

If you are choosing between recycling or composting your plastic cup, Hoover votes for composting. He also said that composting can be a little more expensive, but he hopes that it will save the college money in the long run as the program continues to expand.

While composting is more expensive than recycling, the college’s decision to install categorized waste receptacles in Lower Wismer was made with the environment in mind.

“In my observation, people are beginning to use the bins properly, but we still need to do some education. Not everyone grows up composting their waste, so it is very new to many people.”

Despite being a first-time compostor, sophomore Kelly Cohen found that the posters displayed alongside the bins made it pretty simple. “I don’t really know what the process of composting involves, but I like that there is a guide for what can be composted,” Cohen said. “It helps students to get involved even if they don’t know.”

Wismer music open to input

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Beginning last semester, the Wismer dining staff began playing music at every meal hour. Assortments of tunes, old and new, cut through the rabble and occasionally inspire singing and dancing.

Students have had mixed reviews of the song selection. For instance, while some joint enthusiastically in on the “Y.M.C.A.,” others scoff at it, calling it a “trite wedding dance tune,” among other things. Regardless, the music has elicited responses from many Wismer diners.

During a recent meal, Eric Clapton’s acoustic slow jam “Tears in Heaven” played followed by power ballads. One Direction also made an appearance, with their chart-topping, harmonious pop song “What Makes You Beautiful” making heads bob. Many musical soundtracks have been played, including—to the delight of some and despair of others—ABBA’s songs in “Mamma Mia” and Phil Collins’ songs from the animated “Tarzan” film.

“We’re incredibly responsive to people. If they ask us to play something, we’ll play it. If they ask us to turn it down, we’ll turn it down.”

— Rick Lanker
Associate food services director

There has also been a noticeable motif of classic Motown hits, such as “My Girl” and other recognizable numbers. Despite this apparent grab bag of tracks, students have expressed a desire for a bit more diversity. While the standard numbers on the Wismer playlist transcend most popular genres, the individual songs themselves are repeated.

Brian Cox, former member of the popular campus band More Than Alive, agreed and said, “There definitely could be a bit more variety, but it’s good.”

Other students have expressed a wish to hear classical music and lesser known musicals. With all the differing requests, students should be delighted to know that they can submit their own playlists. Rick Lanker, associate food services director, encouraged students to submit but lamented that “many don’t.” He said that they “want a PG-rated, school appropriate theme.”

“I’m not sure. I’m not sure what day it’s on but I would like to go because I think it’s a pretty good idea.”

Word on the Street

Are you going to the Career Fair? Why or why not?

“Probably, mainly because now I have a resume and am a sophomore with a year of media experience.”
—Elle Portuch, 2016

“I am because I know that a representative from CHOP (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia) is usually there and I’ve spoken with them before.”
—Meagan Gatley, 2014

“No, because I went the two years before and there’s nothing there for MCS majors. It’s great for the sciences.”
—Brian Walker, 2015

“I’ll go because my adviser recommended a firm for an internship that will be there.”
—Dean DerSimonian, 2016

“Stumbled across the website looking for more information, I was surprised to find out that this is a half-time job that includes free housing.”
—Taylor Shumaker, 2015

“What should you ask about?”
—Lauren Ulrey, 2016

See Compost on pg. 5

See Wismer on pg. 5

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TLI reps to visit Hong Kong

Two students, professor to lead workshops

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The Teaching and Learning Initiative is a student consultancy program that allows students and professors to work together on creating the optimal learning environment.

The program is an idea that practiced at various universities around the country, including Bryn Mawr and Haverford. TLI has been on the Ursinus campus since 2010 and has had success in bringing students and professors together with the student consultancy program.

Dr. Meredith Goldsmith is the director of TLI at Ursinus and she often leads workshops or open discussions for professors and faculty members to discuss pedagogical issues. Dr. Elizabeth Ho, an English professor at Ursinus who is currently teaching at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, China, Hong Kong is changing their educational system from a British style to a more American style. With Ho currently at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, she saw the opportunity to bring TLI, especially the student consultancy program, to Lingnan.

The TLI program of Ursinus will be sponsoring Goldsmith as well as two students that are currently in the TLI program to be sent to Lingnan University to initiate their program. Christine Saraco, a junior English major, and Codye Young, a senior sociology and philosophy double major, will be heading to Hong Kong for one week, from March 1 through March 9.

“We will be giving presentations on what we do and don’t do as student consultants,” Saraco said.

Goldsmith, Saraco and Young will take part in “student instructing, leading workshops, observing classes and meeting with faculty and students individually,” Young said.

Saraco said, “We’ll be identifying students that would be good candidates for the program and then training them on what to do, like taking good notes and speaking with professors.”

Saraco and Young helped edit the handbook of Ursinus’ TLI program, but neither of them have ever been a part of something similar to this. With the assistance of Goldsmith and Ho, both students are confident that the presentations and seminars will go smoothly, but they still anticipate difficulties during their week in Hong Kong.

“The biggest difficulty I would anticipate is a language barrier,” Young said.

Saraco and Young both have no experience in the Chinese language, but “Most of the students we will be interacting with are studying English and instruction at the school is in English as well so I doubt interaction will be difficult to navigate,” Young said.

Saraco said she is worried about “cultural differences and how authority is viewed (at Lingnan University).” Saraco said there are comfortable relationships between students and professors here in the U.S., but she is unsure on how that dynamic operates in Hong Kong.

Both students are appreciative towards Ursinus, Goldsmith and Ho for allowing this opportunity to happen.

The TLI and student feedback is something that has become important to them, so they are excited to bring the program to a foreign place.

Compost continued from pg. 4

It’s not a science,” Lanker said. “We’re incredibly responsive to people. If they ask us to do something, we’ll play it. If they ask us to turn it down, we’ll turn it down.”

He repeatedly urged people to ring in music, adding more and more selections to the Wismer repertoire.

Lanker said that the music has had a positive impact, making the vibe in Wismer more social, easy going and relaxed. The music in Wismer is quickly becoming a regular aspect of the Ursinus culture. It also has made it a nice work environment for the employees, who can be seen singing along as well.

It all started last year when renovations were made to Wismer. They included a sound system intended for addressing audiences and for various meetings. The practical public address system also included an input for music.

Students who wish to contribute their own mixes should burn music to a CD and give them either directly to Lanker or whoever is swiping student IDs during that particular meal. They are eager to get more submissions, and students can expect to hear their playlists soon after they give it.

Happening on Campus

Thursday

CIE on the Road with Ursinus professor Kelly Sorensen, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Poetry workshop with Anna Maria Hong, 6:30 p.m. in Myrin library

Friday

ZBS improv workshop in the Blackbox theater, 7:45 p.m.

Valentine’s Day improv show, Blackbox theater, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

U-Innovate! deadline for entries, 11:59 p.m.

Sunday

Grizzly meeting, Ritter, 6:30 p.m.

Monday

“The Rise and Fall of a Nazi Town-Göttingen, 1920-1960,” Berman museum, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Ambassador’s Speaker Series: Rabih Torbay, Mussur auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

President’s forum, Wismer main lobby, 12:30 p.m.

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As a smartphone owner, you are sometimes hit with the revelation that a massive technological leap has landed right in your pocket. Consider the magnitude of this invention. You carry your music, books, videos, Internet access and more, and it doesn’t weigh a single pound.

These inventions have completely changed the lives of the working class and youth culture alike, altering relationships by connections with other people. Now everyone in our lives is eagerly waiting to send our phones clattering across the tabletop.

There is something so precious about a handwritten letter and something so dry and uneventfully blase about receiving a phone call or a text message.

Handy? Maybe, but ultimately it erodes the fascination of the human experience. Contact used to be a commodity. The possibility to be contacted at all times makes us reconsider relationships as an interruption of other important things we are doing. Essentially, phones overexpose and dry out the value of discourse.

Let’s imagine another situation: You, two strangers and one bus stop. There are two breathing, thinking people who have landed in the same era as you. They hold mutual understandings about your world and experiences, and what do you do? Probably check Facebook, maybe scratch an email or several. Phones pull back the curtain on what we really value and cherish. Apparently, we value ourselves.

Phones are a hub donned with content, customized to our specific needs, and this largely feels sopistic, not introspective.

This inward focus spreads like a yawn. If one person unheathers a phone, chances are you are going to rotate your thumbs, follow suit and get out that phone.

The great paradox is that the invention keeping us connected ultimately segregates us. It makes talking with others frightening, routine or outrightly mundane. We do not ignore any and all phone contact, but rather we treat as something to deal with, something to get through, not something we enjoy.

At some point in one’s educational career, one has wondered why an assigned reading is so gosh darn long.

But it doesn’t just change our connection with people—it changes our relationship to information as well. Admit it: At some point in one’s educational career, one has wondered why an assigned reading is so gosh darn long. Well, that’s because the brain becomes branded with information only after a timed exposure. When it’s dinnertime, don’t eat a cracker—eat a full course. Smartphones inspire one to do quick fact checks like a la “information snacks” that are helpful in the moment but dissolve in our memories shortly after ingestion.

Another dose of honesty: What an incredible thing phones are. They are tight with high pixel density. They offer utilitarian diversity and raw entertainment value. Just bear in mind the insidiousness of such a vast amount of content at your fingertips.

Next time you’re in the proximity of another person, consider your phone a trap. One door closes, another opens. Stem your phone, save some battery and spare the human relation in the process.

The endgame of piracy is product placement

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I remember them all: the guy at work who didn’t subscribe to HBO and couldn’t wait for the latest episodes of “Game of Thrones” to come out on DVD, the friend who bootlegs video games and then buys only the ones he likes, the professor who was exasperated that his CIE class thought it was wrong to illegally download music.

Intrusive, omnipresent product placement is where Hollywood and other blockbuster entertainment is headed if—or when—people stop paying for media.

I usually bite my tongue when others discuss their piracy. In fairness to both camps, the economics are murky. While it is unreasonable to assume that each illegal download would have translated into a sale, it is equally unreasonable to say that piracy has not hurt big media’s bottom line.

How you feel about big media is a different story, of course, but there are still great reasons to pay for your entertainment. Intrusive, omnipresent product placement is where Hollywood and other blockbuster entertainment will find shelter if—or when—people stop paying for media.

Everyone who has pirated the “Seinfeld” episode “The Junior Mint” still received the advertising message baked into the plot. Better yet, the pirates had actively sought out and enjoyed what was effectively a 30-minute promotion.

It is hard to sell traditional advertising when DVRs zip through commercial breaks, but nobody can fast-forward through the background, the plug, or the plot itself. Product placers will buy that exposure, even if the audience is pirating the content.

In that world, all movies are “Game of Thrones,” for example, takes place in a fantasy world that cannot be mapped onto our own. There is no natural way to incorporate product placement into the fabric of Westeros. “Game of Thrones” also happens to be the most-pirated TV show, according to TorrentFreak.

The show’s director said the high rate of piracy bestows “much-needed ‘cultural buzz,’” according to “The Sydney Morning Herald.” Jeff Bewkes, the CEO of Time Warner, HBO’s parent company, told “Ad Week” that piracy “leads to more paying subs” and being the most-pirated show is “better than an Emmy.” If media bosses stop viewing piracy in that light, there will be no more shows like “Game of Thrones.” Conglomerates will choose instead to cash in on their large illicit audience—larger than the paying group for “Thrones”—through product placement.

Great shows will stall at the pitch stage because they have no advertising potential.

Granted, I am imagining an extreme where piracy dominates legal forms of media consumption. What’s wrong with piracy as it stands now, in moderation? In short, pirates are asking other people to pay for their media. You may not think that illegal downloading hurts the bottom line for big corporations, but then you’re asserting that those corporations are still making plenty of money. Where does the money come from if you are not paying?

Piracy is more like eating from those who pay for content than it is stealing from content creators.

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

College students can make the media landscape a better place by paying for content. From fending off product placement to easing prices for our parents, peers and neighbors, we have solid reasons to buy in.
Men’s lacrosse boasts strong senior class

Centennial Conference will provide difficult challenge

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The Ursinus men’s lacrosse team has high hopes in their 2014 season as they look to build on a 9-5 overall record last season and 5-3 record in the Centennial Conference. The team is bringing back a lot of experience behind the leadership of seven seniors.

Ursinus lacrosse hopes to pick up where they left off last season with a three-game winning streak. This fifth year as the head coach, Mike Steele has very high expectations for the team that is bringing back a lot of hard work and we look forward to the season where we hope to reap the benefits of our dedication to each other and the Ursinus men’s lacrosse program.”

The Bears look to put this hard work in full effect as they begin their 2014-venture. Thompson also has high hopes for the freshman class.

Several (freshmen) will contribute immediately, which is no surprise as this is the deepest our team has ever been talent-wise since I have been here,” Thompson said. “Specifically, Zach Jones, Brock D’Annuzio, Conor Fitzgerald and Alex Manderack impress in the off-season during fall-ball.”

This strong class is no surprise since Steele, in his five years at Ursinus, has made it a point to bring in more young talent each year to push the upperclassmen. The defensive lineman is considering he has not been drafted yet.

The media frenzy surrounding Sam, as well as his choice to publicly come out, could potentially cause NFL organizations to hesitate when considering the player.

Many organizations tend to shy away from players who bring room functions, the general public can only wonder how things will transpire if Sam finds himself on a professional team.

When asked about what team he would like to play for, Sam told ESPN that he wants to play for whatever team will draft him. “It is what it is, I’m happy with who I am,” Sam said. “I am Michael Sam, I’m a college graduate, I’m African-American, and I’m gay.”

All-American football player announces he is gay

Michael Sam

will likely be first openly gay player in NFL

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On Sunday, Feb. 9, All-American football player Michael Sam announced that he is gay. Sam, a junior at the University of Missouri, plays defensive line and is expected to be an early-round pick in the upcoming NFL draft.

Sam made the announcement on ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” on a college campus on “leading the way.” The sentiment was shared by Michelle Obama as well, calling Sam an inspiration.

On Monday, President Obama’s official Twitter account congratulated Sam on “leading the way.” The sentiment was shared by Michelle Obama as well, calling Sam an inspiration.

Vice President Biden and the second lady also applauded Sam as well as the entire Missouri football program.

One of the reasons for the praise Sam has received is the timing of the announcement. It is a dubious time for a player like Sam, considering he has not been drafted yet.

The media frenzy surrounding Sam, as well as his choice to publicly come out, could potentially cause NFL organizations to hesitate when considering the player.

Many organizations tend to shy away from players who bring an excessive amount of media attention.

On the flip side though, just as many organizations may be excited to welcome the first openly gay player, and the extra attention he would bring.

Sam’s choice to come out as gay at this point in his football career is one of the reasons for the ubiquitous praise he has received.

Even with the list of accolades from his time in college, Sam is by no means guaranteed a spot on an NFL roster.

The offensive lineman is considered a “tweener” in many NFL defensive schemes, meaning his size is too small for defensive line and too big to play linebacker.

The subject of gay players in professional sports has been controversial, especially in the NFL. During Media Day for Super Bowl XLVII in 2013, San Francisco 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver made anti-gay remarks during a radio interview.

Culliver’s comments sparked a firestorm Harris, a former 49er and openly gay man, to speak out against his former teammate’s actions.

The NFL released a statement on its website, stating, “We admire Michael Sam’s honesty and courage. Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014.”

The statement comes as no surprise, especially considering Roger Goodell, the NFL commissioner, has publicly supported his brother, Michael Goodell, who is an openly gay man.

To add to the controversy, a Minnesota Vikings special teams coach is under review after reportedly using homophobic slurs throughout the season.

In a culture that is heavily secretive when it comes to locker room functions, the general public can only wonder how things will transpire if Sam finds himself on a professional team.

When asked about what team he would like to play for, Sam told ESPN that he wants to play for whatever team will draft him.

“it is what it is, I’m happy with who I am,” Sam said. “I am Michael Sam, I’m a college graduate, I’m African-American, and I’m gay.”

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s swimming</th>
<th>Men’s swimming</th>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Men’s basketball</th>
<th>Women’s basketball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/21- Centennial Conference Championships</td>
<td>2/15- Tri-meet @ Muhlenberg against Muhlenberg and Washington and Lee</td>
<td>2/15- versus Washington at 3 p.m.</td>
<td>2/19- versus Haverford at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>2/19- versus Washington at 1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19- @ Haverford at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>2/19- @ Haverford at 6 p.m.</td>
<td>2/19- versus Haverford at 8 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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Winter sports regular season coming to close

Women’s swimming, wrestling sit atop conference. Women’s basketball fighting for postseason

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On Saturday, Feb. 8, the women’s swim team defeated Bryn Mawr to finish a perfect season in dual meets. The Bears took down Bryn Mawr with a final score of 115-83.

With their win on Saturday, the team improved to 11-0, with seven of its wins coming against Centennial opponents.

The team is now focused on the Centennial Championships, which will take place Friday, Feb. 21-23 in Lancaster, Pa. at the Kunkel Aquatic Center of Franklin & Marshall.

Quite a few swimmers did exceptionally well on Saturday, including sophomores Briana Mullan and Corinne Capodanno.

Mullan placed second in the 50-yard freestyle, while Capodanno won the 200-yard individual medley.

Both women were a part of the winning 200-yard medley relay team that opened the day for the Bears.

Wrestling

The men of the mat had another dominant day on Saturday, as they defeated both NYU and McDaniel. The wins improved UC’s Centennial record to 6-0.

Some of the familiar faces contributed on Saturday, including junior Chris Donaldson with a win at 125, sophomore Anthony Carlo at 165 and senior Elisha Gaylor at 141.

The Bears are currently ranked 22nd on D3wrestle.com and will head to Muhlenberg this Saturday to finish regular season matches against Washington & Lee and Marshall. Centennial championships will be the following week.

If the team can take the win this weekend, they will head into championships without a loss, and heavily favored over the rest of the conference.

Women’s basketball

The women of the hardwood defeated Dickinson on Saturday with a score of 60-47. The win was the team’s third win in a row and keeps playoff hopes alive for the Bears.

Sophomore forward Jessica Porada, who has had an exceptional season thus far, had a double-double against the Red Devils with 20 points and 17 rebounds.

Senior guard Diamond Lewis also had an impressive day, scoring 17 points and assisting five times.

The next few games will be extremely important for the team. With only a few games left, the Bears will have to keep winning against conference opponents if they hope to see a post season.

Men’s basketball

The men’s team dropped a heartbreaker to conference powerhouse Dickinson on Saturday, falling 81-76.

The Bears were within a basket with 44 seconds remaining, but a Red Devil three-pointer finished off the Bears.

The loss left the team with an overall record of 3-18 and a record of 1-13 in the conference.

Seniors Ryan Adams and Pat Vasturia had 20 and 13 points apiece, while sophomore guard Malik Draper dropped 15.

The team will have their final home games of the season in the coming week against Franklin & Marshall on Feb. 12 and Washington on Feb. 15.

Gymnastics

The women of the gymnastics team lost a close contest against West Chester on Saturday. The final score was 190.575 to 184.525.

Although the team lost the dual meet, it was a record breaking day for the Bears.

Senior Kristin Aichele had an impressive outing, scoring 9.775 on the vault. The score not only got her the win, it was enough to take the UC record.

A collective record was also broken during the meet. On the beam, the team scored 47.825, breaking a record of 47.8 that had stood for nearly 10 years.

UC will face Towson in another dual meet this Saturday.