The Grizzly, February 20, 2014

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Ursinus to hold first musical combining three departments

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"Wonderful Town," a musical by Leonard Bernstein, will open at Ursinus on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The energetic and jazz-filled musical won five Tony Awards in 1953 when it opened, including the award for Best Musical. At Ursinus, the production marks the first collaboration between the theater, dance and music departments since they have all become academic majors.

"Wonderful Town" is based on the 1940 play "My Sister Eileen," which is based on a group of short stories by Ruth McKenney. The musical follows two sisters from Ohio, Ruth and Eileen Sherwood, who move to New York City in pursuit of the American dream. Ruth is an aspiring writer, while Eileen has dreams of acting. They end up in bustling Greenwich Village, circa 1935, facing a wide array of exciting adventures.

"Musicals require a tremendous amount of coordination and collaboration between all parties involved," said Beverly Redman, the director of "Wonderful Town," who is working with musical director, Holly Hubbs, and choreographer, Karen Clemente. "It is a much more complex endeavor than directing a non-musical play."

While musical theater has been a part of the Ursinus community in the past, with direction from longtime theater director Joyce Henry and Redman, this production marks the first time that it has involved the theater, dance and music departments. The performance of "Wonderful Town" will use the pit space in the Lenfest Theater for the first time and will be the first large-scale Broadway musical performed in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center.

The decision to produce "Wonderful Town" was made by all three departments. Redman has encountered Bernstein throughout her career. She performed his song cycle "I Hate Music," in college and directed his opera "Trouble in Tahiti" while in graduate school. Her self-proclaimed fondness for Bernstein influenced the choice. "His work is challenging for many reasons, and I enjoy the challenge," she said.

Redman spoke to the merits of combining departments for the production. She said, "I hope that it brings future collaborations of all kinds, not just musical theater."

She also hopes that it fosters a sense of working together and creating exciting adventures. "Musicals bring future collaborations of all kinds, not just musical theater," she said. "It fosters a sense of working together and creating exciting adventures."
Students practice the opening number in rehearsal for "Wonderful Town," the spring musical. The show opens on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

**Musical continued from pg 1**

sense of artistic curiosity in Ursinus students in these departments.

"I hope that people that have shied away from auditioning or taking performing arts classes because they just love musical theater will now join the party and get involved in the performing arts on campus," Redman said.

Jordan Ostrom, a freshman who plays the role of Ruth and Eileen’s landlord, Mr. Appollos, said it was a “chaotic musical, but in a good way.” The large and diverse cast has been drawn together, into what Ostrom called a "family." He also addressed the virtues of the interdisciplinary approach to this play.

"It’s exciting to that something so involved and epic is happening with this," Ostrom said. "It’s definitely an educational process for all involved because musical acting is very different than acting in Chekhov or Shakespeare. It is much more overlaid and whimsical."

Clemente has choreographed the play with attention to cultural sincerity and historical accuracy. The play, set in the heart of the Great Depression, involves a wide array of music.

It will run from Feb. 26 through March 1 at 7:30 p.m. each night, with a 2 p.m. matinee show on Sunday, March 1.

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**Professors determine class cancellations**

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With frequent winter storms hitting the Ursinus campus this month, students are calling for classes to be cancelled. However, the campus does not typically close, and class cancellation occurs at professor discretion.

Due to the impending snow and ice last Thursday, Ursinus’ administrative offices closed, but classes could still be held. Because Ursinus is a residential school with most of its students living on campus, professors are supposed to do all they can to make it to class.

"Our faculty have had a tradition of completely committing to the residential liberal arts experience," Dean Terry Winegar, vice president of student affairs, said in an email.

Winegar also said that Ursinus policy expects professors to hold a certain number of class hours and that time missed from a cancelled class must be made up.

Alice Leppert, a media and communications and film studies professor, has had to cancel classes due to severe weather this semester.

"We are expected to make up that class time somehow, which is always difficult because either you have to figure out a way to have an extra assignment or you have to figure out an extra day that you can try to make everyone come, which is a scheduling nightmare," Leppert said. "It’s not that we don’t want snow days. We’re not mean, old ogres.”

Leppert said that she cancels classes when there is no way she can safely make it to campus.

"I’m from Minnesota, so if it’s snowing a ton, I’m not that worried about driving in it, but if I get stuck, there’s nothing I can do," Leppert said.

Leppert is also one of a few faculty members that took advantage of open dorm rooms and spent the night on campus.

"Once before, we had empty rooms in a residence hall, and housed dining staff during a blizzard," Winegar said in an email. "This is the first time that we have been able to accommodate more faculty and staff.

Besides staying in open dorm rooms, professors have been sleeping in their offices and holding online classes in order to avoid class cancellation.

Junior Colleen Fida had all three of her classes cancelled last Thursday and Friday, but her Spanish classes were made up online.

"It was counterproductive in my opinion," Fida said. "It confused me even more because she tried to introduce new material to us."

Fida said her Spanish class was cancelled only when her professor nearly got into a car accident on her way to campus and had to turn around and head home.

"Maybe for one or two of the storms that we’ve had it was necessary to not cancel class, but for the most recent ones, I think that they should have played it safe," Fida said. "They shouldn’t put pressure on professors... Safety should come first."

While classes are sometimes cancelled due to professor conferences, Leppert said those issues are easily worked around because the conferences are planned months in advance and incorporated into the syllabus.

One of the only times that Ursinus closed the entire campus was during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Winegar said the looming power outage and risk of evacuation in heavy winds and rain led to the decision to close the school.

"Community emergency personnel advised that it might also be dangerous to be outside at all for that evacuation and that emergency personnel would be overtaxed and unable to assist us due to the catastrophic predictions," Winegar said in an email.

Closure of the campus, while a rare occasion that Ursinus tends to avoid, is possible, as last year’s hurricane proves.
More than 300 students attend job fair this year

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This year, 301 students attended the Job, Internship and Networking Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 2. The fair took place in the field house of the Floy Lewis Bakes Center from 12-2 p.m.

When students walked in, they checked in with their identification card and received a red plastic bag from Ursinus students working the fair. Inside was a booklet listing all of the opportunities available at the fair.

The stations usually included somewhere between one and three employers. Students in professional attire carried resumes and entered and exited in the rows. They were afforded the opportunity to ask employers about the jobs offered, provide a resume and gain networking experience, especially with former Ursinus students.

"Over 30 alumni returned to campus to represent their employers at this year’s fair," Carla mollins Rinde, director of the Office of Career and Professional Development, said in an email.

The fair had a lot to offer, with opportunities available for people looking for many kinds of positions.

"The opportunities for which the employers recruit varies from year to year, and it is always a mix of internships and entry-level positions," Sharon Hansen, associate director for employer relations, said in an email.

One concern students have about the fair each year is the lack of national options. Kevin Hamilton, a junior and mathematics major at Ursinus College, attended the fair and noticed the employers all seemed to be local.

"For me it’s okay (that companies offering jobs are local) because I live close, but I know for other people that’s a problem," he said. "There were a lot more smaller companies, really local small companies that I’d never heard of."

Hamilton said the fair can still be useful to students looking for jobs outside of Pennsylvania and New Jersey if they ask the right questions. The employers are willing to answer questions and give advice.

"Students must begin with clearly defined and realistic expectations," Rinde said in an email.

Upon exiting the fair, students were requested to fill out a form about their experience.

"Students provided very positive comments on the evaluations they completed when leaving the fair," Rinde said in an email.

"All employers expect students to be professional, willing to initiate conversation and able to highlight their strengths," Rinde added in an email.

Career services encourages former Ursinus students to attend the fair and represent their employers after they graduate.

"It is the student’s responsibility to make the most of a career fair," Rinde said in an email.

Top stories from around the globe

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New levels of Boko Haram violence

Violence in Nigeria attributed to militants belonging to the Boko Haram Islamists sect led to the deaths of between 90 and 110 people, according to "The Telegraph." Dozens of civilians in a small village in the north-eastern section of the country, in the state of Borno, were killed due to their Christian faith.

The gunmen allegedly went door-to-door searching homes and slaughtered those found hiding, according to Nigerian Senator Ali Ndume. More than 1,700 East Africans have been killed by acts of terrorism by the Boko Haram since 2009.

Ukrainian protest amnesty approaches

The Ukrainian government is poised to offer amnesty to protesters charged with crimes related to rioting in the capital city, Kiev, over the past two months, according to the BBC.

The amnesty hinges on anti-government forces cooperating with police and ending their siege of government buildings, in addition to dismantling barricades built in the streets to facilitate resistance against the state security forces.

Anti-government forces have occupied the City Hall building, among others, for more than a month until Friday, when the government released 243 prisoners held on various charges stemming from rioting and fighting police officers.

American avalanches take more lives

A series of recent avalanches in the Western United States have killed multiple winter sports enthusiasts. The most recent, in Colorado, was the third deadly slide in less than a week, contributing to a death toll initiated in Utah and Oregon.

Heavy snows over the past two weeks have created unstable conditions but also lure skiers and snowboarders, who often seek out fresh snow in dangerous backcountry terrain. The avalanche in Colorado followed prior massive snow slides that claimed the lives of a skier and a snowmobiler and injured others.

Plane missing in Nepal, 18 suspected dead

"The New York Times" reported that a Nepalese Airlines flight with 18 aboard went missing in the densely forested area of Western Nepal after taking off from Katmandu Sunday afternoon. The plane almost certainly crashed, and its passengers are not suspected to have survived.

The crash was likely due to the absence of de-icing equipment, which is considered essential by most pilots when flying in the mountainous areas for which the region is known. The people on board included army officers and a member of the Nepali Congress.

Venezuelan opposition leader faces arrest

Leopoldo Lopez, a vocal opponent of the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, signaled that he would personally lead a rally in Caracas, the country’s capital, this Tuesday, reports "Reuters News." Lopez faces charges of murder and terrorism in connection with deaths in the widespread protests in Venezuela in recent weeks.

Lopez said that the primary mission of the upcoming rally would be to deliver a petition to the local state prosecutor seeking the resignation of President Maduro.

Photo courtesy Steven M. Falk

Students check in at the Job, Internship and Networking fair last Wednesday, Feb. 12. More than 30 alumni represented their employers at this year’s fair.

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Heavy snowfall no match for facilities; Ursinus remains open

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It is no secret that this winter has brought a lot of snow to Ursinus. With each snowfall, there are hopes among the students for a snow day, but Ursinus' facilities services are on top of the removal process with the fall of the first snowflake.

Ursinus has been covered in snow this entire winter, but the campus remains open thanks to the facilities services and their snow removal plan. The efficiency of the crew is not without costs. The Department of Transportation has spent nearly $9 million on snow removal, which was only planned to spend $3 million.

Feick said about his emails. "The campus conditions in hopes an incoming winter storm.

Once the snow falls, priorities are given to different locations and pathways. All emergency roadways and pathways are the primary target and are cleared of snow first. Secondly, the walkways, parking lots and primary driveways are cleared of snow.

Lastly, any alternate routes or secondary parking lots have their snow removed. Anti-icing and de-icing procedures are done when and where it is necessary around campus. Ursinus puts the safety of their students and faculty before all else. This is evident through the reoccurring emails warning students and faculty of icy and slippery conditions.

"The primary reason is to inform the community about campus conditions in hopes an informed community will be safer," Feick said about his emails. "The hope is always to prevent an accident or injury."

To help accommodate students in the winter weather, there are spaces available on campus for faculty to spend the night. Whether it is avoiding the drive home or the drive back to campus in the morning after a heavy snowfall, faculty can sleep in an open dorm on campus.

Many of the dining staff have seen their eating facilities closed entirely due to snow since 1996. As taxing as this winter has been, it is most likely not over.

"We are, as is the entire region, nearly out of ice melting products, and there is no more to be done," Feick said.

Ursinus has not had its campus closed entirely due to snow since 1996. As taxing as this winter has been, it is most likely not over.

Word on the Street

How do you think Michael Sam's coming out will affect American sports culture?

"I hope in a positive way. I hope he inspires other athletes to come out. Any team that passes up on a great defensive lineman is missing out."

—Keaton Sanders, 2015

"I think that it's awesome that he had the courage to come out before the draft. It opens doors for other athletes and I hope that it doesn't affect his draft because that would be awful."

—Nishant Chatarjee, 2016

"I think his coming out will make other gay athletes more willing to come out. It's getting a lot of publicity and I don't think that it's negative."

—Moira Kisch, 2016

"I think that Michael Sam's coming out is another step toward equality in the U.S. He's breaking down barriers with the increasing number of states legalizing gay marriage and reducing ignorance of the gay community."

—Jon Livezy, 2017

"I think that more people in the NFL will be more comfortable with their sexuality."

—Dan Dehelian, 2015

Facilities works to remove snow from the pathway in front of Myrin on the morning of Feb. 3.

Photo by Heidi Jensen

Facilities works to remove snow from the pathway in front of Myrin on the morning of Feb. 3.

Word on the Street

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Student response counts when hiring faculty

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Many departments are looking to hire new tenure-track professors for the 2014-2015 academic year. Campus-wide emails have been sent about presentations that potential professors are giving. Students are encouraged to go because their feedback is crucial in the decision-making process.

The politics, French and studio art departments are looking to add a new professor that will be on the tenure track. Each department has brought in three candidates to campus to hold presentations to show the way they would teach a class. There are many steps before the three top candidates are brought to campus.

Ads are placed in professional journals to attract candidates. The politics department had 200 to 300 applications for one position in the department. The French department had 165 applications, and the studio art department had 200 applications.

The current professors in each department view the applications and choose 10 to 15 applicants to interview over the phone or Skype.

"If we did not have dedicated administrative assistants, it would be almost impossible for us to carry out a search smoothly while we are still teaching our own courses," said Colette Trout, a professor in the French department.

After the Skype interview, the department narrows the search down to the three candidates, who are then brought to campus.

Rebecca Evans, the chair of the politics department, said, "When the candidates are brought to campus, they meet professors in and out of the department, students in the department, a CIE coordinator, Dean Winegar and President Fong."

The studio art candidates also give critiques of student works.

Each candidate and possible new professor will be asked about how they teach CIE because they will each be teaching CIE at Ursinus. The professor must be able to teach courses not only in the department they are working for, but should also be able to teach interdisciplinary courses.

The liberal arts approach to education is also something that professors want to hear about. Evans said. "Small class size is just one piece of the answer that professors want to hear from candidates. They want to know what a liberal arts education means to them."

Each candidate gives a presentation that the whole school is invited to. Each student at the presentation is provided with a slip where they can answer questions and share their opinion on the candidate.

Students that are majoring or minoring in the department are invited to lunches to talk informally with the candidate.

"We ask the students how engaging and interactive the professor was and how their informal conversations went," Evans said. Student feedback is crucial in making the final decision. "Students majoring or minor-
Supply chain is our biggest food risk

Michael Sam shouldn’t need a press conference

If you were to do any sort of research on the situation involving Michael Sam, you would likely find what seems to be universal support from his community at Missouri, the National Football League and the nation at large. Granted, there is going to be some anti-gay zealot organization ranting about how the world is going to hell in a handbasket.

For the most part though, support seems to be at every turn for Michael Sam, and it should be. Sam is only 24-years-old and has decided to come out while a part of Missouri locker rooms for almost a decade, I understand that chemistry is of the utmost importance.

One of the many issues I have, and many others have, is the hypocrisy of the NFL fans, executives, players and coaches who are against Sam. I do not hope for a day when all gay athletes can be open about their orientation and accepted—I hope for a day that they do not have to hold a press conference to explain their orientation, a day when every athlete can play their sport and not feel the need to announce how they live their lives.

An individual’s sexual orientation is not my business and not your business. Why in the world should athletes, or anyone for that matter, have to deal with scrutiny and judgment for their romantic life?
Record-breaking career for UC swimmer

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Malena Lair Ferrari, standout swimmer and student in the exercise and sports sciences department, had very different upbringing from many of her peers at Ursinus.

Growing up, there were often three different languages being spoken in Lair Ferrari’s house, English, Spanish from her mother and German from her father.

“I learned English through the neighborhood friends and pre-K,” Lair Ferrari said. “But it’s always funny to watch friends listen to our family speak because honestly you don’t know what language you’ll get until the word has been spoken, and many times you’ll get all three languages in one sentence.”

While Lair Ferrari did grow up in America, and her two siblings were born in America, at home, English was not the primary language.

“Seniors because they were pitching different positions, rather than just concentrating on pitching. There were guys that got their first at-bats as seniors because they were pitchers for the first three years. We got depth. That’s what we went after.”

“I think depth is our biggest strength (this year),” senior Josh Schnell said. “Every person has something to contribute and each individual fits into our system... We have a lot of depth at all positions now and everybody is back and healthy.”

In order to find that depth, Exeter hit the recruiting trail looking for tall, strong, versatile athletes. The problem with that is that tall, strong, versatile baseball players are often playing at the Division I or II levels, or in pro systems, and as a result, Exeter uses his “model ballplayer” as more of a guide than a requirement.

“Josh is the same way,” he said. “He really made a commitment to himself, not just bigger, but more flexible. His a little faster, and his hands are a little quicker than last year.”

Schnell was second among returnees with a .292 batting average and third with his .400 on-base percentage, and he was one of only two Bears to hit a home run last year. His comments about his responsibilities as an upperclassman echo Exeter’s.

“They all bring something to the table,” Schnell said of the team’s freshmen. “It’s our job (as seniors) to lead by example and do some one-on-one coaching. With this many kids, it’s tough for our coaches to give each person individual attention, making it our responsibility to help them out any way we can.”

“Both of our senior pitchers (Ryder and Berardi) are just bulldogs on the mound,” Exeter said. “They do. They’re going to be a very young team. There are going to be ebbs and flows this season no matter what.”

“If we peak and continue to trend upward throughout the year, and do manage to sneak into the playoffs, a lot of things can happen,” Exeter said. “I’ve seen teams make that run, even though they’re quite young. That’s what we have to try to do.”

The Bears’ first home game is on March 4 against Arcadia. Their conference slate will begin on March 29 with a home doubleheader against Gettysburg.
Winter sports end regular season on high note

Wrestling undefeated in conference, basketball teams win final home game

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Ursinus wrestling finished a perfect regular season on Saturday, defeating Washington & Lee 41-3 and Muhlenberg 59-0. The Bears improved to 16-0 overall and 8-0 in the Centennial.

Against Washington & Lee, Ursinus picked up wins from freshman Alex Kramer at 141, junior Richard Jasinski at 149, sophomore Anthony Carlo at 165, juniors Daniel Manganaro and Christian Poma at 197 and freshman Matan Peleg at 285.

Muhlenberg contested just two bouts. Junior Christopher Donaldson at 125 and freshman Derek Arnold at 149 posted wins for the Bears.

Ursinus will host the Centennial Conference wrestling championship on Saturday.

Gymnastics

Women’s gymnastics team placed fourth at the Shelli Conway Towson Invitational, where it competed alongside three Division I squads.

Ursinus finished with a team score of 183.775. The Bears were best on the vault, scoring 46.675, followed by the beam with 45.875, the bars with 45.750 and the floor overall.

“Competing against Division I teams can be intimidating at times, but it is an awesome experience,” junior Kristin Aichele said. She was named East Coast Athletic Conference Specialist of the Week for her Feb. 8 performance against West Chester.

At that meet, Aichele earned a 9.775 on the vault as well as the beam, season highs for her that also topped the Ursinus record for beam.

Aichele said she thinks the Bears have a chance to place in the top three of the ECAC and move on to nationals as a team.

Men’s basketball

Senior Ryan Adams goes up for a dunk in a game against Washington College on Feb. 15. Bears won 89-78.

Sophomore guard Malik Draper scored 27 points as the Ursinus men’s basketball team won its final home game of the season, beating Washington College 89-76.

Senior forward Ryan Adams had 22 points, while fellow seniors Jesse Kraska and Pat Vasturia contributed 13 and 12, respectively.

The Bears fell behind by three early in the second half before putting together a 13-0 run to take a 49-39 lead, according to the Ursinus athletics website. Washington came back to lead 58-56 with 10:12 remaining, but Draper answered with a three-ball to give Ursinus the lead for good, according to the Ursinus athletics website.

“Coach wanted us to focus on keeping them on the perimeter and forcing them to settle for threes,” Vasturia said, “and I thought we did a pretty good job of that.”

The Bears will be at Muhlenberg on Saturday for their last contest of the season.

Women’s basketball

Ursinus women’s basketball won its fifth straight game on Saturday, topping Washington College 67-61 in Helfferich to move to 8-8 in the Centennial and 11-11 overall.

Sophomore forward for the Bears and Centennial Conference player of the week for Feb. 9 Jessica Porada scored a career-high 31 points and added nine rebounds as Ursinus kept its Centennial playoff hopes alive.

Before the game, Ursinus honored seniors Diamond Lewis and Devin Butchko. Lewis scored 10 points and grabbed four boards.

On Saturday, the Bears finish the regular season at Muhlenberg.

Men’s track and field

Ursinus men’s track and field took fifth at the Ursinus Open on Friday with 60 points. Wesley won the men’s side of the meet with a score of 116.5.

Junior Marquis Wilson placed first in the shot put for the Bears, while senior Brian Clancy finished third.

The Ursinus 4x400-meter relay team, which consisted of Erich Keyser, Skyler McCormick, Richard Schulz and Darius Jones, broke the school record for that event on their way to finishing second at the meet. Jones also demonstrated prowess in the field events, taking first in the high jump.

Sophomore Andrew Mackin took second in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:00.20.

Women’s track and field

Ursinus women’s track and field tied with Millersville for second at the Ursinus Open on Friday with a total of 89 points. The Stockton women scored 136 to win the meet.


The Bears also finished second in the 4x400-meter relay behind Goodenough, Farrell, sophomore Kristen Prijts and senior Emily Lamb.

In shot put, senior Amanda Birbrauer placed second for Ursinus.