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ABC pilot series filmed in Olin auditorium this weekend

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The Ursinus campus became immersed in the Hollywood entertainment scene this past Saturday and Sunday.

Olin auditorium was the filming site for a TV pilot series called “How to Get Away With Murder,” produced by Shonda Rhimes, was filmed in Olin auditorium last Saturday and Sunday.

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The ABC show "How to Get Away With Murder," produced by Shonda Rhimes, was filmed in Olin auditorium last Saturday and Sunday.

Both Facilities Services and Campus Safety worked diligently to help transform campus from a small liberal arts college into an actual law school setting prior to filming.

Facilities staff helped with the removal of seats and the big screen from the auditorium, determined the places where cast, crew and other entities could park and ensured the overall building control of the space used to film.

Campus Safety was also on-call for any potential safety issues and concerns that could have occurred both on- and off-set.

Other departments at Ursinus had to make adjustments to their use of space in lieu of the shooting.

The athletics department had to make adjustments to their use of space in lieu of the shooting.

See Filming on pg. 3

See Survey on pg. 3

Survey requests faculty input about classroom facilities improvements

A survey regarding classroom improvements in Ursinus buildings was sent to faculty members on Feb. 19 by the Committee on Technology and Computing in hopes of upgrading facilities in need.

Matthew Kozusko, professor of English and member of the CTAC, sent the email and said that while the CTAC is in charge of collecting faculty opinions about classroom improvements, it does not ultimately decide which facilities will actually be upgraded.

“We really don’t know what money there is or who’s really in control of it or when it will be spent, but we are assured that, with best intentions, the information of which classrooms could use attention is needed by the people who make those decisions,” Kozusko said.

Some of the confusion in this process is a result of the current transitional period within the committee. The Chief Information Officer of the school recently stepped down and the committee is working alongside an interim CIO while the search for a permanent replacement is being conducted.

Besides the CIO, the CTAC consists of three faculty members, several staff members and a student representative. Kozusko said wide representation is important to the committee, but the survey was sent to faculty members only.

“This (survey) wasn’t sent to students, not because nobody cares, but because we’re trying to get input from faculty who have a slightly different perspective on classrooms and might notice things that students don’t,” Kozusko said.

Kozusko said he likes the new Classroom Cruiser 3000 chairs in Olin 103 and would like to see more discussion-friendly classrooms available, especially for the Common Intellectual Experience classes.

Hugh Clark, professor of history and East Asian studies, participated in the CTAC survey and was the driving force behind obtaining the new chairs in Olin. He said his goal is to make buildings more comfortable for students.

“I find the desks in these rooms (in Olin) demeaning to you as a student,” Clark said. “You sit around those in high school.”

Clark said the history department purchased the table in the Olin 305 seminar room after negotiations with facilities director Andrew Feick.

“I am much happier teaching a class in here,” Clark said. “The class is more engaged... but you can’t have a class bigger than 14 (students).”

Clark would like to see Olin refurbished in response to the feedback the committee receives. He said he understands the project would be costly, but it is also necessary.

At the end of February, between 40 and 60 faculty members responded to the survey. By the time the survey closes within the next week or so, Kozusko said he hopes to receive at least 80 responses out of the potential 120 faculty members that could respond to the emailed survey.

One of the goals for the survey is to compare faculty responses and suggestions to see if potential changes would be mutually beneficial for different branches.

See Survey on pg. 3
Student government votes on constitution

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Last Wednesday, the USGA held a meeting to vote on USGA constitution changes. The vote was taken, and now the USGA constitution is being changed this month with the addition of the Student Senate as well as other major additions.

“Our old constitution was constituted in 2007 and doesn’t have a way for the executive board to vote,” current USGA President Jerry Gares said. “That’s never a good start to a constitution.”

The constitution will clearly define what the new Senate is, how it is formed, who gets spots in the Senate and how the voting process will go.

The timing of the overall voting process is being changed. Now the new group of USGA board members will officially start their terms on April 1 rather than March 15, allowing for a two-week transition period of on-the-job training from the exiting member.

Another one of the major changes include the USGA executive board expanding from five chairs to nine chairs. The chairs in existence right now are the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and social chair.

The four new spots on the USGA are going to be representatives from each class year to make the organization more democratic, according to Gares. This board will be voting on things instead of the USGA president making most of the decisions.

“The expansion of the executive board came for a reason,” Gares said. “The reason is that we are changing class governments.”

The USGA believes that class governments in their current settings are ineffective in governing. Class councils generally put most of their efforts into fundraising for their respective classes. These class governments will be turned into elected class fundraising boards.

“They still run but they wouldn’t be considered student government,” Gares said. “They are a group under student government but they have a clearer goal now.”

One more change is that the Campus Activities Board, also known as CAB, is being taken over in part by the USGA and Student Activities Office, also known as SAAO. The social chair of the USGA will now also be the president of CAB.

Working on CAB will now be the social chair’s main job. The social chair will work with the Assistant Director of Leadership Development and Student Activities, Angela Cuva, to set programming and get help from the rest of the CAB board to run the programs.

The rest of the CAB positions will be elected as volunteer positions. CAB receives $90,000 of the annual budget.

“It’s such a big part of the student budget that it’s our responsibility as student government to look over that,” Gares said. “We need to have someone here to make the CAB become their sole responsibility.”

With elections being held the first week of March, Gares said he is eager to set up a lasting system of student government for Ursinus in general, the future USGA board members and the different groups under them.

“Student Activities Office, the registrar’s office on the third floor of Myrin Library, where students can add or drop classes.

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The registrar’s office processed 1,200 drops and adds, and 275 students withdrew from a course with a W last semester under a drop/add policy that has not changed since at least the 1980s, registrar Barbara Boris said.

Boris did not say how many students withdrew with failure after the midterm period because the number was “too small to report.”

After registration ends, Ursinus students may drop or add courses to their schedule with the permission of their academic advisers and the instructors involved. The primary purpose of the instructor signatures is to help faculty keep track of the number of students in each class, said Jay Miller, associate dean of the college and chair of the college and communication studies department.

“If you say you’re going to drop, and you left a space in that class and somebody else wants it, the only way the faculty member is going to know that you’ve officially dropped is if they initial it and that becomes then permanent,” Miller said.

Students can also enroll in a class during the drop/add period without the backing of the professor, if there is room.

“The student could argue to get into the class,” Miller said. “Really, do you want to get into the class if you’re going to start out on this bad foot of, ‘I’m coming in anyway and I’m going to the dean,’ but theoretically the student should be allowed to get in. “They probably can go and talk with somebody in the dean’s office, or maybe with somebody in the advising area about what they should do,” he said.

He also said faculty have expressed concern that the two-week drop/add period is too long.

“Some people believe that it’s much too long, because you have a student who may come into your class on that Friday at the end of the two weeks, and then they’ve got two weeks of work to catch up, so they’re really two weeks behind at that point,” Miller said.

“We discussed that and we decided that it would stay where it is.”

Once the drop/add period ends, rare exceptions might be made by the dean for students who need to add a course to graduate, for example, Miller said.

Every drop that occurs between the end of the second week and the start of fall or spring break appears on the student’s transcript as a W, or withdrawal without failure. After that, dropping a course comes with a grade penalty. This year, the last day to drop with a “W” is on Friday, March 28.

The Ursinus policy is similar to those of other Centennial Conference schools.

At Haverford College and Bryn Mawr College, classes start on a Tuesday, and the drop/add deadline is at the end of the third week.

At Muhlenberg College, the drop/add deadline is the Thursday of the second week. Students may withdraw from a course with a W during the first nine weeks of the semester.

At Swarthmore College, a lottery system is used for registration, according to swarthmore.edu. The drop/add period begins when the lottery results are announced, and the deadline is at the end of the second week. The last day to drop with a W is March 28. At Franklin & Marshall College, “The deadline to add a course is the same as the ‘withdraw-without-record’ deadline, typically 13 calendar days after the start of the semester,” according to the college catalog.

UC add-drop policy is similar to other liberal arts colleges in PA

Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

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Kozusko hopes the narrative style of the survey—as opposed to checking off pre-written responses—allows faculty members to have a more free way to respond and comment with no limited options and to provide as many details as they are willing to provide.

Faculty members have not been asked recently about classrooms that need upgrades, but Kozusko said a similar question may have been asked in a different form from another committee that may have been looking to make decisions about where money should be spent on campus.

Kozusko said building changes resulting from the survey responses should happen within the next few years and could happen as soon as this summer, though he said it is anyone’s guess. If the faculty responses clearly show one specific area that needs improvement, this upgrade could occur sooner.

Along with the classroom improvement survey, the CTAC has been working on a new survey for Ursinus’ laptop program.

Butera, a sophomore business major, said, “It was both exciting and nerve-wracking since real celebrities were there. The overall concepts of the law school scenes shot today were also very engaging.”

Junior theater and media and communications double major Marquis Wilson described some of the challenges of extras who worked from early in the morning until late at night.

“Even though the constant waiting and repetition of takes could be tedious, I liked the environment and was open to this new experience,” he said.

Since “How to Get Away” is currently a pilot program that may or may not be picked up by networks, it is unknown as to whether or not future shoots will be done at Ursinus.

“It really depends upon the criteria for what the producers of the show are looking for,” Cawley said. “Both Ursinus and ABC representatives would have to give more discussions if the show is indeed picked up and aired regularly on television. Ultimately, it would be great to see Ursinus on television.”

By Monday, filming was over, but the set was still being taken down.

Top stories from around the globe

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Turbulence in Crimea

Ethnic Russian crowds in the disputed Crimea region of Ukraine celebrated as recently installed pro-Moscow leader Sergei Aksyonov indicated he would apply to join the Russian Federation and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced he would accept the application, completing what many international observers deemed a Russian organized annexation of the state, reported the BBC. Crimea is a strategically important area bordering both Russia and the Black Sea that was formerly a part of the USSR under Russia but had recently been controlled by Ukraine. Crimea’s population is approximately 60 percent ethnic Russians, with the remaining 40 percent being a mix of Ukrainians and Tatars.

Malaysian Air Flight 370

The search for missing Malaysian Air Flight 370 expands as hopes for the 239 people on board dim, according to “The Wall Street Journal.” The number of countries aiding in the recovery effort is roughly 20, covering a massive area stretching from Southeast Asia to areas in India and Kazakhstan. The Boeing 777 has been missing for almost two weeks, and authorities are perplexed as to what fate it could have befallen: At this point, Malaysian investigators believe the two on-board tracking mechanisms, radar and GPS based, were deliberately turned off, and that the plane was intentionally diverted from its original course to Beijing, China to a trajectory that the final satellite communication places over the Indian Ocean.

Iraqi oil output increase

Iraq is now pumping more than 3.6 million barrels of crude oil a day, announced “The Wall Street Journal.” This marks the highest level of Iraqi oil production since 1979. Even though Saddam Hussein came to power and streamlined the nation’s oil production via nationalization. The surge is mainly due to a staggering increase in production of more than half a million barrels a day in February alone. The news offered slight relief to international oil consumers, coupled with the increases in U.S. and Canadian production rates, who were worried about shortages in the global oil supply due to disruptions in Russian oil pipelines that run through Ukraine to service European countries. Though the country has the fifth highest supply of untapped oil reserves and likely much more undiscovered, it had suffered difficulties meeting production expectations due to governmental inefficiencies and red-tape, in addition to resurging instability in the region due to sectarian and religious violence as American troops withdraw from Iraq.

Nigerian gay laws

Nigeria has increasingly alarmed Western observers as it stepped up anti-gay legislation over the past months, as reported in “The New York Times.” The Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, signed into law a bill criminalizing homosexuality in recent weeks, which has led to violence and persecution against both people who are openly gay or those who are merely suspected of such. Gay sexual relations have been illegal in the country since it was a British colony, however, such rules were rarely enforced. Now, merely being of a non-traditional sexual orientation is illegal, and local municipalities have greatly increased the rate of punishment, include whippings and beatings, as well as imprisonment. Nigeria’s largest newspaper published an article last week entitled “Nigeria’s Top 200 Homos,” which was essentially a hit-piece listing publically known gays and lesbians and called for punishment.

WWW.URSINUSGRIZZLY.COM
Hillel brings Jewish culture to campus

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The spring semester is in full swing at the Hillel House—the Jewish cultural center of the Ursinus campus—with an extensive set of events planned for the coming months. Sophomores Josh Hoffman and Ryan Zeitzer, who serve as co-presidents of Hillel, both emphasize the vitality and importance of the organization.

"It’s a way for people on campus to connect to Jewish culture or Jewish religion, or Israeli culture, if they so desire," Hoffman said. "Basically, anything related to Judaism that people want to connect to or get involved in, we can offer that service."

Hillel orchestrates a number of popular events on campus, among them being the weekly Shabbat dinner hosted by the house, which is located in Yost Hall at 25 Sixth Avenue, on Friday evenings at 7 p.m., held to mark the start of the Jewish Sabbath. Also held weekly are a series of Lunch and Learn sessions with Rabbi Stillman, in which students meet at a designated table in Wismer Hall and discuss the Torah portion for the particular week.

Hillel House also organizes the wildly popular Bet Cafe, a monthly talent show that features student performances ranging from poetry readings to live music. The cafe offers baked goods for attendees in exchange for an optional donation, which, according to Zeitzer, goes to fighting hunger in the Philadelphia area.

The opportunities offered by Hillel extend beyond Ursinus' campus. On Feb. 7 and 8, Ursinus Hillel members traveled to West Chester for a Shabbaton retreat in cooperation with the Arcadia and West Chester branches of the organization. The events of the weekend included a Shabbat dinner, morning and evening services, relaxing activities and discussions of topics relating to Judaism.

In addition, Hillel recently launched its monthly film series dedicated to movies relating to Jewish faith and culture. The event kicked off Feb. 11 with a Hillel House screening of the 1960 film "Exodus," which focuses on the 1947 founding of the state of Israel.

In April, Hillel will host its annual Passover seder in Unity House.

Hillel has a deep history of social consciousness, particularly in the environmental realm. According to Hoffman, the group is closely involved with the Sustainability offices on campus—for example, the two groups collaborated yearly on the Tuva Shevat of "Shabbat of the Trees" seders. In addition, nearly all food offered at Hillel dinners is vegan.

As Hoffman, an environmental science major and Ursinus Green fellow, said, "kindness to animals and stewardship of the earth" are key facets of the Jewish faith.

Zeitzer points to other concepts within the Jewish religion that relate to modern conservation, such as Tikun Olam, or "repairing the world."

Along with this sense of stewardship and service comes the fostering of a friendly, non-discriminatory atmosphere that makes itself most visible at Hillel’s numerous gatherings throughout the year.

"No one should feel left out here," Hoffman said. "No one does feel left out here. It’s a home for Jews and Gentiles alike."

Hillel encourages students to attend the organization’s weekly meetings at Hillel House on Thursdays at 4:15 p.m.

Fitness alternatives outside of the gym

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Fitness and exercise are activities that many students try to fit into their schedules. At Ursinus, there are opportunities to exercise without just lifting weights or running on a treadmill.

Zumba is one of the trendiest ways to exercise. Dancing is fun and a great way to exercise, but dancing can be embarrassing to do in front of strangers. Aqua Zumba is now being offered in the pool. The classes are meant for people who are comfortable in water up to their chest.

Matthew McGuriman, the assistant swimming coach and director of aquatics, runs the Aqua Zumba classes on campus.

"One of the cool things about water aerobics is that water provides resistance in all directions for all movements," McGuriman said. "This would be somewhat of a process to replicate in the gym.

When the spring weather turns, using outdoor resources will provide another way to get fit. A popular alternative is running on a treadmill.

"It was my first time in Times Square. It was this backdrop of pictures and lights moving everywhere."

"I went to South by Southwest. I got in for free accidentally."

"I didn’t do anything fun. I was helping my grandmother move and the car broke down, so we sat in the car for two-and-a-half hours talking about life."

"I flew back from Hong Kong and I was jet-lagged."

"I went to New Orleans to visit my best friend." —Katie Carr, 2016

"It was my first time in Times Square. It was this backdrop of pictures and lights moving everywhere." —Andrew Tran, 2016

"I went to South by Southwest. I got in for free accidentally." —Max Bicking, 2016

"I didn’t do anything fun. I was helping my grandmother move and the car broke down, so we sat in the car for two-and-a-half hours talking about life." —Blaise Laramee, 2016

"I flew back from Hong Kong and I was jet-lagged." —Christine Saraco, 2015
Weed-out courses debated in sciences

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The thought that there may be a weed-out mentality on our campus is a touchy subject for both professors and students.

An interview with Ellen Dawley, who is involved with the biology, neuroscience and pre-med departments on campus, said that the concept of a weed-out mentality was offensive and that "no one but students think there is a weed-out mentality."

Some students believe classes to be weed-out classes because they are so difficult that students often give up on the subject after taking them. However, they are not intentionally difficult as a means to weed students out of these specific courses of study.

"The intro level courses—which are no doubt very difficult—are rigorous because they are preparing students for future courses," Dawley said.

Making these courses difficult is important in preparing students for their future science courses and careers, but students from all majors are required to take a lab science before graduation. There used to be a "baby bio" course on campus, but it was discontinued, despite the perception that the other intro lab courses are too challenging for non-science majors.

Dawley said the "baby bio" course was "too easy" and that the purpose of having a lab science as a requirement is not so that students can take an easy course and get it over with, but to expose them to lab sciences, which are challenging in general.

Previously, many students flocked to the Intro to Neuroscience course to fulfill their lab science, but now that course has been revised to make it a more thorough preparation for neuroscience majors, who are not required to take the course but often do.

"The intro level courses—which are no doubt very difficult—are rigorous because they are preparing students for future courses."

— Ellen Dawley
Professor of Biology

Dawley foresees this being a "huge problem" for the students who must fulfill their lab science requirement.

An anonymous professor in the math department brought up the point that some curricula are dictated by forces outside of campus.

The professor said, "Most majors have a set curriculum dictated by forces outside of biology, said, "Every course in college 'weeds' people out. In some sense, they are the purpose of college: for students to explore what they like and are interested in and what they are good at. If you mean, do the faculty have a secret meeting and say, 'How can we weed out students who are not very good in biology,' no. But we do encourage students to pursue their interests and for them to explore their options."

"Adding a student perspective, senior Ben Mooney said, "I honestly believe this goes on to delineate between students who are absolutely committed and want to do something larger-than-life, like completing the med school track, and those that were just interested in the classes."

Sophomore Ed Lee said that if Ursinus science departments were trying to weed out weaker students, they would not offer so many opportunities for students to improve through supplemental opportunities such as PASS, supplemental instruction and one-on-one help from the professors themselves.

The existence of weed-out courses is debated among students and faculty. Some students believe that these classes are used to eliminate potential science majors, while faculty suggest that the difficulty of these courses is to the benefit of students.

Trying to incorporate some form of exercise into a daily routine can be simple. Borsdorf suggests stretching every 20 minutes while studying. Since schedules tend to be packed, it can help to designate some time every week for exercise. Finding a workout buddy can also help with motivation.

Borsdorf also suggests walking everywhere you can and to always take the stairs. Trying to integrate small portions of exercise into everyday life will help relieve stress and maintain health.
Hey, white guys: Your say is the say

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If you are an Ursinus student reading this article, there is a fairly strong chance that you are more privileged than I am. The word “privilege” has several different meanings, but in the context of this essay, privilege will be explicitly associated with being a straight, white, affluent male. These qualities grant so many endless opportunities and advantages that to even attempt to list them all would be ludicrous. They are simply fundamental elements of our world that supersede specificity.

Too many men at this school exhibit blatant, complete misunderstanding of their own privilege. Frankly, I find it comical that someone could claim the 21st century white voice “deserves a say” when we live in a world where the white voice is the only one. This does not mean that certain people shouldn’t be allowed to enter into discourse. Everyone has the right to their own opinion. Yet let us please, please remember that the oppressor cannot be oppressed. We live in a world in which minorities have to advocate for themselves, where those who are collectively viewed as lesser beings have to fight against inequalities every single day.

Oftentimes people do not understand why I grit my teeth when they titter that I am not really their “black” friend because I act “white.” To them, speaking with eloquence, dressing in a certain way, believing certain ideals and defining myself within certain parameters means that I cannot possibly be a black girl. This is the definition of white privilege.

To associate me with white is to associate me with something positive, with something to aspire to. As much as I may not fit into your idea of how a black girl should act, when I exist in the world, I am not passing as white. I am clearly a person of color. Even writing this article plagues me with nervousness because I am conscious that people will be upset with me, that people might make assumptions about me, what have you. The fact that I am someone who has faced the trials and tribulations of this white, patriarchal system and feel shame about pointing out said system is a reflection of how easy it is to keep the oppressed stifled. Writing an opinion piece should not make me feel conscious of my race.

White privilege is not having to fight against structural injustices every single day. White privilege is not having to console your 10-year-old brother because someone at school called him the n-word and fighting back tears because you have shared the same experience. White privilege is not having your mere existence perpetually scrutinized because it does not fit into the stereotypical definition of your race.

If you will never have to experience this, if you will never have to doubt how your race affects your choices from day to day, you cannot dare to compare our experiences. You cannot plead to have a say.

In a recent interview, Academy Award winner Lupita Nyong’o said she prayed to be lighter skinned when she was younger in order to have a chance at success as an actress. To the affulent white man who is blind enough to deny his privilege, I ask you: have you ever wished to be a black woman? Have you ever yearned to wear those shoes? Would you, if you had the chance? I implore you to really know the distinction between empathy and sympathy. You may recognize injustices, but until you have lived them, don’t you dare try to claim them in any shape or form.

During a recent class discussion of white privilege, a student challenged my claim that all white individuals are more privileged than an equally destitute black individual. If this is true, how do you explain the misconception that blacks and Latinos use most welfare benefits when in reality it is whites that use the majority of them? While 31 percent of blacks are on welfare and 15 percent of whites are, the population disparity between blacks and whites is immense. The 2010 U.S. Census claimed that 77 percent of our population was white and a mere 13 percent was black. Why don’t we know that? How is this not common information?

Because all portals, even those we view as universal truths, are whitewashed. Educate yourself. Do not be ignorant to the greater, structural truths that have led to injustices for people of color since our nation’s inception.

The worst thing that white privilege does to white people is make them cognizant of their advantages in this world. It makes them uncomfortable. White privilege is something that we should all collectively accept as a truth and recognize the way in which we can utilize said privilege.

To ignore it, to skirt around the issue, is simply reaffirming the imbalanced power dynamics already implicit in our society. When the white voice in a room is the one that is the most listened to, they have the ability to advocate for change in a way that a person of color cannot.

Those who are oppressed cannot overcome their oppression. Those who opt to take advantage of their privilege and use it for the benefit of the collective, however, can implement a great deal of change.

Media criticism harms American troops

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The United States liberal media have given Americans the opportunity to exercise our right to freedom of speech. To voice our opinion is one of the many freedoms that we enjoy and it is what helps make us great as a country. It is what allows me to express my opinion to a mass audience, as I am doing now. There is a time, however, where I believe that freedom cripples us as a nation.

In the book “Lone survivor: the eyewitness account of Operation Redwing and the lost heroes of SEAL Team 10,” U.S. Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell repeatedly expressed his frustrations with the U.S. liberal media and the rules of engagement set in place for the military. Throughout the book, Luttrell talked about how he experienced firsthand what affects the rules of engagement and American liberal media had on him and his teammates. He goes on to essentially blame the media for the deaths of his three friends and teammates and eventually the deaths of many other SEALS who tried to save him. He explains that the possibility of being tried in court for murder by the U.S. because of the media criticism and the rules of engagement, caused him and his teammates to make a decision that ultimately cost them their lives. I was also persuaded by “Into the Fire: a first-hand account of the most extraordinary battle in the Afghan War.” In that book U.S.Marine Dakota Meyer explains the terrible position that his fellow Marines, U.S. Army and Afghan soldiers were in. This was a direct consequence of the engagement rules that are set in place by the U.S. government.

These rules are often supported by anti-war journalists and liberal media outlets. Because of the lack of air support that the soldiers got due to the fear of injuring or killing innocent Afghans, many Afghan and U.S. soldiers were killed or injured. Most of those U.S. soldiers killed were close friends to Meyer.

In the end, Meyer received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic act—making multiple trips into the kill zone in an armed Humvee while being shot at to save his men. He did this despite direct orders from the nearby Tactical Operations Center. “Into the Fire” makes it clear that the rules set for the military caused mass confusion for the chain of command involved in the battle. The argument needs to be made that we are crippling ourselves through media.

“The New York Times” noted that the rules of engagement give U.S. soldiers permission to fire when they believe they are threatened, “but with every additional civilian who is killed by American fire, the human cost rises—both in terms of the lives lost and the psychological damage suffered by the Americans in uniform.”

A real example is the story of Lt. Clint Lorance, who was charged with murder after ordering his troops to open fire on two men on motorcycles as they approached their patrol in July 2012. The soldier’s defense attorney told a local news channel that Lorance’s orders were justified due to intelligence information and an attack in the area by the Taliban a day earlier.

The 28-year-old Lorance also faced charges of attempted murder, ordering soldiers to wrongfully shoot into a populated village, making a false official statement and impeding the investigation into the shooting. In the end, he wound up being sentenced to 20 years in prison. It completely baffles me why we choose to accuse our fellow Americans, who are just kids more often than not, of murder.

We do this, when in their minds, they were just doing their job and protecting themselves and this country. They are fighting for the very freedoms that we as citizens, through media, are using to criticize them.

Our current enemy is smart, whether we realize it or not. They are aware of our media and will use the rules of engagement and criticism from our citizens against our soldiers. This is how we are crippling our military.

A large majority of this country does a great job in supporting our troops, but the ones who do not are hurting us more than we may know.
Softball looks to fill big shoes

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Much like Ursinus’ other amond-based team, the Bears’ softball program was helmed by a new face in 2013, leading to a 15-9 overall record coupled with an 8- mark in the Centennial Conference. The 2014 Bears have lost their top performers from that squad—three best hitters and go-to starting pitcher—but second-year pitcher Samantha Campo heads into the spring season filled with optimism and high hopes for this year’s Ursinus softball team.

Though coming into last season with significant experience, both playing and coaching in the Centennial Conference helped Campo adjust. She was hamstrung by the fact that she came on as head coach after the athletic application deadline had passed.

This year’s recruiting class was the first that she was able to recruit.

“I think we really ended up with a solid group of girls,” Campo said. “They really make up the bulk of our team. It’s a good thing—they’re going to bring a lot of energy and a new dynamic to the team, so it’ll be interesting to see how it pans out.”

Campo herself was a four-time first-team All-Centennial Conference selection as a pitcher for three years and utility player for the fourth season, and that type of versatility is what she looks for when trying to find athletes.

“We look for complete players,” Campo said. “We want players that are able to do multiple things. If you’re a shortstop that’s also pitcher and played outfield, you’re going to be a higher commodity than a one-dimensional player.”

Hopefully for Campo and her team, the incoming freshmen and added year of experience for the girls already on the squad can help mitigate the loss of her three best hitters by nearly every statistical measure: Allison Pfommer, Amy Gentile and Kelly Schymanski—who was also the team’s primary starting pitcher.

“You’re never going to replace players like that,” Campo said. “But Amy has actually joined our coaching staff this year to bring her experience and wealth of knowledge of the game.

“It’s really going to be an asset,” she said. “Especially to the younger girls and even the ladies that she’s already played with.

“Hopefully there are going to be new people to take on those same roles,” Campo said.

Cafiff Whelan and Zoe Henke figure to be the team’s primary pitchers in 2014, according to Campo.

“They’re super,” Campo said of her to-be pitchers. “They’ve done a great job in the offseason so far. They’re prepared for this season. It’ll be exciting to see both of them in action, both pitching and hitting.”

On the offensive side, Campo mentioned junior captain Delia Morehead as someone that she expects to lean on in 2014. Though Mercurio hit only .198 last season, Campo has plenty of faith in her moving forward.

“She has a lot of potential to do great things at the plate,” Campo said. “She also has some speed, and that’s going to be good. There are others as well that have shown a lot of improvement, so it’ll be really exciting.

“Our main focus is to be competitive every day,” Campo said of her expectations for this year’s team. “Whether that’s through scoring runs, getting hits or hitting our spots pitching, our goal is to be in every game, no matter what.”

The team’s first home contest will be March 18 against Lebanon Valley, and their conference slate will begin March 22 at home against Dickinson.

Sleepers set to battle during 2014 March Madness

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The stage has been set for the 2014 NCAA men’s basketball tournament. As the month of March passes its mid-way point, 64 teams have been chosen to participate in the tournament. Those 64 teams are separated into four 16-team regions: South, West, Midwest and East.

In years past, there have been teams like 12th-seeded Morehead State defeating fourth-seeded Louisville in the first round of the 2011 tournament and the eighth-seeded Butler Bulldogs making a run in that same year.

This year, there have been some head-scratchers in the seeding with Louisville, Michigan State and UCLA, winners of the American Athletic, Big Ten and Pac-12 Conference tournaments, respectively, all receiving seeds in the tournament.

The sleeper teams often bring the most controversy to the tournament. The 2014 tournament is no different. In an article on Bleacher-Report.com by columnist Kenny DeJohn, the University of Connecticut Huskies were chosen as sleepers, along with other teams.

Despite disappointing losses to Houston and SMU this season, the Connecticut Huskies have beaten up on teams who are considered their best opponents. They have taken down Florida, Cincinnati and Memphis. Their last contest against a good Memphis team was indicative of how good of a team Connecticut can be.

Another team named by DeJohn is Stanford. The team ultimately lost to UCLA in the Pac-12 tournament, but Stanford’s win against Arizona State in the previous match was one of its most impressive this year. In the 79-58 rout, Stanford had four starters in double figures.

North Dakota State was also named. The Bison of ND state have faced relatively easy competition throughout their season.

With a 12-2 record in the Summit League, North Dakota State hardly struggled in their conference. Favorites to win the tournament include Florida, Wichita State and Arizona.

Wichita State has had a Cinderella season thus far, going undefeated in regular season play. Re-seeded Creighton, whose record is 26-7, is matched against number 14 Louisiana-Lafayette with a record of 23-11 and number 11 Nebraska with a record of 19-11 will play number six Baylor with a record of 24-11.

Arguably, the best player in college basketball this season has been Creighton’s 3,000-point scorer Doug McDermott.

The NCAA tournament has been known to bring in extremely high TV ratings. Last year’s final between Louisville and Michigan averaged 23.4 million viewers, according to fast Nielsen overnight ratings, up from 20.9 million in 2012.

The first round will begin on March 18 in Dayton, Ohio. The second and third rounds will be held on March 20, 21, 22 and 23. The South and West regionals will be held on March 27 and 29. The East and Midwest regionals will be on March 28 and 30. The national semifinals will be on April 5, and the championship game will be on April 7 at AT&T stadium in Arlington, Texas.
Spring sports in full swing at UC

Men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s tennis all boast winning records

Men’s lacrosse sits at 3-2 as of Monday, March 17.

In early March, the team took down Messiah and Widener but lost to Ithaca on March 8. The team lost to Montclair State but took a win against Wheaton of Massachusetts.

The upperclassmen of the men’s lax team have been outstanding.

Senior Shawn Caven has owned the faceoff space, winning 31 of 50 attempts. Junior Steve Smyrl sits with 12 goals, while junior Jake Weber sits with 10 goals.

The Bears will open conference play on Saturday against Swarthmore on Patterson Field.

Women’s lacrosse

Women’s lacrosse opened its season with a bang, with three wins and one loss as of Monday, March 17.

The team took down Albright, Cabrini and Rowan and played Widener on Tuesday.

Sophomore goalie Margaret Philbin is second in the conference in saves with 43 and will look to improve as conference play heats up.

Freshman Jayme Vermon has been stellar, netting 10 goals in her first four games.

Beginning Saturday, the team will open up conference play against Swarthmore.

Baseball

Baseball sits with a split record at 4-4. Thus far, the team has beaten Penn State-Harrisburg, Ohio Wesleyan and Benedict twice.

The team has had some serious contributors to start its season.

Seniors Ralph Aurora and Josh Schnell have batted in four and three runs, respectively, while sophomore Chris Jablonski leads the team with six RBIs. Freshman CJ Diana batted in five runs.

The Bears will continue to play out of conference until March 29, when the team will take on Gettysburg.

Softball

The softball team sits with six losses and four wins. Junior Ellen Goldstein has been hitting well, batting in four runs and averaging .423 at the plate. Delia Mercuro, also a junior, has a batting average of .323 and has five RBIs.

The will open conference play on March 22, facing Dickinson following a double header against Lebanon Valley last Tuesday.

After its opener, the team will face conference opponents until mid-April.

As with many of the Centennial teams, the women of the diamond must own conference opponents if they hope to reach a post-season.

Men’s tennis

The men’s tennis team has beaten every opponent it has faced thus far, aside from St. Scholastica on March 11. The team currently holds an impressive record of 7-1.

The doubles teams did well over spring break in Orlando. Seniors Matt Hope and Evan Stutchin won their match with a score of 8-4. Seniors Evan Lord and Logan Metcalf-Kelly won their round with an identical score.

In singles play, Stutchin won 6-0 on the day.

The team will begin conference play against Swarthmore on March 20 and hope to continue its hot streak.

Women’s tennis

Women’s tennis sits with a record of 4-3 as of Monday, March 17. The team has taken down Immaculata, York, Seton Hill and Penn State-Berks.

Over the break, the team lost to St. Scholastica and Roger Williams.

The team opened conference play on Tuesday against Moravian and will face Alvernia on March 21.