The Grizzly, March 27, 2014

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Bonner leaders attend Jamaica service trip this past spring break

The Ursinus Bonner program made its fourth-annual service trip to Jamaica for spring break. The Bonner program offers a first-year trip to its members. In the second semester of Bonner leaders’ first year in the program, they travel as a group to a community off-campus.

This year, the group consisted of 10 Bonners in their first year of the program and two Bonners in their second year along with Dr. Christian Rice, the director of the program, and Elizabeth Cannon, the coordinator.

The group was accompanied by a team of missionaries from Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Penn. For the majority of the trip, the group stayed at Camp Hope located on the south coast near Whitehouse, Westmorland.

Alongside members of the Jamaican community, the Bonners engaged in a variety of activities. The first Sunday, they attended a Salem Moravian Church “Harvest Thanksgiving Service.”

The Bonners were invited to the service and subsequent harvest by Pastor Phyllis Seymour. Here, they had a chance to buy locally-grown foods such as sorrel and Jamaican apples.

The Bonners were assigned to work sites, including local churches, schools and homes. Mainly, the work involved painting. Some Bonners questioned how their privilege would play a role in the experience.

Sophia Rice, a second-year peace and social justice major, said, “It made me uncomfortable knowing that I was using my economic and social privilege to benefit from a less privileged community.”

She said privilege exists in many forms. “America has the privileges of money, many hospitals and greater gender equity,” Sophia Rice said. “Jamaica has the privileges of a culture that values honesty, deep human connection and leisure time.”

“It is how I used that opportunity to better myself and how I will pay it forward that matters,” Sophia Rice said.

The Bonners worked with Jamaican students at various levels. They had the chance to run two after-school sessions with elementary-aged students. Three high-school students came to Camp Hope to talk with the Bonners about their experiences.

See Jamaica on pg. 3

Google VP talks this weekend about careers in conjunction with a liberal arts education

Laszlo Bock, senior vice president of people operations at Google, will speak on Saturday, March 29, about the ways in which a liberal arts education prepares an individual for future careers. The talk will take place at 10:30 a.m. in the Musser Lecture Hall of Pfahler.

The talk is a part of the U-Inspire! Speaker Series and will be about 20 or 25 minutes, according to Gregory M. Weight, assistant dean for academic affairs.

The talk will include “what the work culture is like at Google and probably a little bit about (Bock’s) own experiences working at Google all within the context of...the liberal arts,” Weight said.

Before his job at Google, Bock was vice president of human resources at GE Capital Solutions and before then he was vice president of compensation and benefits for GE Commercial Equipment Financing, according to “Business Week.” Before this, he was an engagement manager at McKinsey and Company. Bock attended Pomona College, a liberal arts institution.

Weight said Bock has a strong human resources background and the talk is not just for people pursuing a career in technology. Google “has other opportunities for people outside of just making a better search engine,” Weight said.

Weight said Google is not just looking for those who are seeking careers in technology. “Google is looking for people with strong critical thinking skills, who work well with others,” Weight said.

Not only does Google provide a variety of jobs, it could indicate how some companies determine who to hire. Weight said corporations are taking from aspects of Google’s culture as well as their hiring processes.

“I think we’ll be able to see the effects of Google’s approach,” he said.

The talk “gives students a unique opportunity to see what their values are and perhaps what the future of hiring practices might look like,” Weight said.

The talk will include information about what Google employers look for in prospective employees, Weight said.

Engagement and creativity of employees have a major impact on the success of Google, as Bock wrote on the website of Think With Google.

“We spend more time working than we do on almost any other activity in our lives,” Bock said. “People want all that time to mean something.”

He said he ensures that the time is purposeful through his ap...
Art and art history departments take students to New York City

Annual trip to take students to different exhibits on museum mile

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On Saturday, March 29, students from all majors are invited to join Ursinus’ art and art history departments on a trip to New York City.

While art and art history students are required to attend certain museums with their professors, outside students are free to roam the city all day.

“We always do a New York trip in the fall,” Jackie Brown, an art professor, said. “We usually do a D.C. trip in the spring, but this year, we decided to do a second New York City trip because there are some really exciting things going on in the city right now.”

Brown is taking her Art, Science and the Environment class to two venues: the School of Visual Arts, where her students can see artists and scientists collaborate in their nature and technology laboratory, and the Parson School of Design, where students will be exposed to bio-arts and how they combine the art and science fields.

“This is not something that is open to the public,” Brown said about the lab in the School of Visual Arts. “It’s an exciting opportunity. We were able to schedule a behind-the-scenes look at this facility, which is one of very few bio-art facilities in the world.”

Sarah Kaufman is taking her photography classes to see an exhibition of works by Robert Capa, an important figure in photojournalism, in the International Center for Photography.

Kay Healy, who teaches Painting II, is bringing her students to the Whitney Museum of American Art where they will meet a guest speaker who represents the city’s public art program in the High Line park.

Art history students in Deborah Barkun’s Art Crimes course will visit the Nazi degenerate art exhibit at the Neue Galerie. Brown said this exhibit highlights current events issues.

“(The exhibit) is art works that were confis­cated during the Holo­caust, and there was recently sort of a treasure trove of artworks that were uncovered,” Brown said. “There’s a lot of controversy as to who owns those works and where they should be housed.”

Angier Cooper, a junior psychology major and studio art minor, is taking the Art Crimes class this semester and looks forward to seeing the exhibition and exploring the city during this trip.

“(The New York City trip) adds another dimension to your education and what you’re learning in class, and it’s nice to put the materials that you read about in different forms to give you a broader understanding of what you’re studying,” Cooper said.

Brown said going on field trips are a crucial part of the art and art history department curriculum.

“There’s something potentially transformative about seeing and experiencing artworks first-hand and it’s something that can’t be captured through writing and reading about artists and researching them,” Brown said.

“It’s something that really needs to be experienced through your embodied presence in the space with a work.”

Celia Morrison, a junior philosophy major and biology minor, went on the New York City field trip last fall with her studio art class.

“We have opportunities around here, like Steel City (in Phoenixville), where you can actually exhibit your own work,” Morrison said. “You have your own art on display and for sale, but there’s not much in the way of exposure to touring artists or brand new artists unless you go to places like New York.

Though the art and art history departments benefit from field trips, the entire student body can take advantage of this trip to New York City.

Morrison attended the trip to D.C. as a freshman before taking art classes and found the experience meaningful.

“It can create a new conversation with your friends,” Morrison said. “Going to an art gallery is a completely different experience than talking about a movie or another commercial art form.”

Students who attend this trip do not necessarily need to attend art museums at all.

“You don’t have to go because you’re interested in art at all,” Cooper said. “You can take advantage of the fact that it’s another opportunity that Ursinus is providing.”

Students interested in purchasing bus tickets for this New York City trip can visit Colleen Gryz­wacz, the media and communications studies student and administrative assistant, in Ritter for more information.

Gares reveals priorities for his final week as president of USGA

Budget allocation and May concert are primary concerns

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The last week of Ursinus Student Government Association President Jerry Gares’ term is quickly approaching as his senior year at Ursinus comes to a close. However, Gares has a few things he wants to accomplish before he leaves office.

One of his goals is to solidify the concert happening in early May that multiple groups on campus have been planning.

Gares has been meeting with people to figure out the logistics such as security and budget for the concert. He hopes to finalize before April 1, which is the last day he has over his presidency.

“I think it’s a big event for this campus, so that’s really taking up a lot of my focus,” Gares said.

Another one of his goals is to keep working with the newly formed Student Senate, that he helped create after the Reimert shutdown earlier this semester.

There is an idea to have the Student Senate take a retreat this summer like the USGA retreat but to have it be smaller in size and concentrated on working on issues.

“It’s a really great group,” Gares said. “I’ve formed a lot of bonds and connections with a lot of the people on there, so I want to make sure that the group survives and thrives going into the future. I would say forming this group was my proudest accomplishment.”

One more goal he has is to work on changing the Activities Fee Allocation Committee funding that supports the student activities on campus. The budget is about $260,000 for the entire campus which is currently split between different clubs.

He plans to go through the budget with Todd McKinnon, director of leadership development and the Student Activities Office, to see how the money can be better used for the benefit of the student body.

Examples of how the money has been used for the entire campus from recent years are shutting down ESPN. Two years ago, the money was used to obtain Wi-Fi in Lower Wismer.

“It’s something that really needs to be captured through writing and reading about artists and researching them,” Brown said.

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Letters to the Editor (grizzly@ursinus.edu)

All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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Top stories from around the globe

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Syrian conflict with Turkey

Turkish forces destroyed a Syrian air force jet amid claims the jet had violated Turkey's sovereign airspace. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey celebrated the event recently while saying it was a demonstration of what would happen if other countries interfered in their territory.

"Why? Because if you violate my airspace, our slap after this will be greatly hard," he said.

According to "The Wall Street Journal," Syrian military officials stated the jet was well within the Syrian border occupied with the government's conflict with rebel groups seeking to overthrow the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Turkey has denoted its support for the anti-government militias several times since 2010, when Turkish air defenses shot down a Syrian helicopter.

Landslide in Washington State

A landslide wreaked havoc in the Pacific Northwest this week, killing three people and injuring seven more, with 18 residents of the town of Oso still missing, according to "The New York Times." The deluge of mud had emerged from hillsides above the town that had been loosened by a week of constant rain. Witnessed a "wall of mud that turned houses to sticks." In the town that was 50 miles north of Seattle, 30 houses were destroyed, most of which were unoccupied at the time. The wave of earth set out of control by rains measured 135 feet wide and 150 feet deep, erasing roads leading into the town and leading to fears of flooding down river from Oso if the streams blocked by the newly moved landmass suddenly break. Survivors have been advised to move to higher grounds as more rain is predicted in western Washington.

Ebola virus in Guinea

The BBC reports that an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus has reached the capital of the West African country of Guinea. Health officials in Conakry said the disease, for which no cure or vaccine is known, has killed almost 60 people in the country among hundreds of those infected. The virus is said to spread quickly in close quarters and kills within 25 percent to 75 percent of those afflicted within a month. The first cases were reported hundreds of miles from Conakry in the South Guinea region of the country last month. A pandemic in a densely populated city center like Conakry could prove catastrophic. Authorities place emphasis on isolation and are seeking to quarantine anyone showing any possibility of infection. France, the former territorial owner of the country when it was a territory known as French Guinna, has pledged its assistance.

Russia troop build-up

The commander of NATO forces in Europe, Supreme Allied Commander General Philip Breedlove, stated his concerns with the number of Russian ground forces collecting along Russia's borders with Ukraine, the BBC reported this week. NATO has paid close attention to Russian troop levels during the Crimean crisis, saying the build-up was related to the Russian annexation of Crimea. A European country has not annexed territory in another since World War II. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deschitsya said that the risk of war with Russia grew greater every day. While Russia maintains its armed forces are complying with international treaties, suspicions of the local populations have increased as pro-Russian forces seize important elements of local infrastructure, including power plants and chemical factories.
Spring concert coming in May

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Ursinus students looking for late-spring, pre-exam week fun should keep an eye out for the upcoming free-for-students concert featuring Moosh and Twist and DJ Slink, and the Reimert after-party following it that is scheduled for Saturday, May 3.

Dubbed Ursinus May Day, the planning for the event started last fall.

"Around mid-October, I sat around with a few people and said, ‘Why don’t we look into this concert idea,’” Jerry Gares, USGA president and one of the leaders of the concert planning, said. “I don’t know where it’ll go, but let’s look into it.”

Gares then formed an exploratory concert committee to help hammer out the issues involving the early planning of a concert.

“We started throwing out feelings about genre,” Gares said, “and what we got back from most people was some type of hip-hop. Because we started a little later than we should have, we had to move quickly, artist-wise.”

An online survey that took place in November between Moosh and Twist, DJ Slink and Flatbush Zombies placed Moosh and Twist first. Flatbush Zombies would have been the most expensive, but given the price difference between them and the other two groups, the committee was able to book both Moosh and Twist and DJ Slink.

After receiving approval from the school and getting the contracts with the performers signed, Gares said that the group’s focus shifted to the logistical issues of running a concert.

Security, approval by the Borough of Collegeville, power, lighting, sound needs and advertising were all cited as hurdles that the committee has been navigating in its meetings this semester.

“This is the first time I’ve ever taken the lead on something like this,” Gares said. “The nice thing is that I’ve formed a lot of good relationships with people on campus throughout my presidency. “It has really taken almost every department to get this done right,” Gares said. “That’s been the part that’s the most daunting. We’re like an octopus—there are so many arms out reaching to different people.”

Gares and the committee are using those relationships to work with the various departments on campus to form a coherent plan for the event. May 3 offered the least conflict among other events on campus, and the concert will be in the gravel lot behind New Hall.

The plan is for the concert to last from 6 p.m. to about 9 p.m., and following the event, the aforementioned after-party will take Reimert. Featuing raffle prizes and food, the after-party will serve as a way to keep the celebration going,” Gares said. “We’re going to do our best to make that a really fun environment.”

The committee does not yet have a cogent weather-related backup plan.

Two places immediately come to mind as replacement venues: the Field House and Helfferich Gym.

The problem with each of those places is that the sound quality in the Field House would be poor and the gym presents difficulty regarding the number of occupants it can hold in terms of fire code.

“A last-minute switch presents difficulties for everyone,” Gares said. “It would just be a mess... At this point, because we’re still trying to finalize everything, we haven’t gotten comfortable with a rain location... It’s something that I wish I had a better answer for.”

Despite the issues with a weather contingency plan, Gares overall optimism for the concert has not been dampened.

“I would really like this concert to be something that continues (long-term),” Gares said. “For that to happen, this one needs to go well... Moving forward, this is going to be something that falls into CAB’s lap.

“This is something that I’d love to see as an Ursinus tradition,” Gares said. “It’d be neat to have a second-annual and third-annual spring concert. It’s something that gives the campus some kind of identity and spark. I’m a big believer in that this campus needs something fresh and I think (the concert) would breathe more life into this place.”

Enactus reaching out

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Enactus is an international, non-profit organization that brings students together with academic and business leaders in the hopes of making a difference in the world. Enactus works to create opportunity to give back and work side by side with people in need.

Enactus has charters in over 31 different nations and a countless amount of universities and colleges. In the United States alone, there are nearly 530 teams working on over 2,000 different projects. It is a student-run organization on each campus. Each charter takes on different activities and projects that benefit the society and community around them. They work with other companies and industries in the area that support Enactus.

Enactus reaches out on pg. 5

Heart of the Street

Would you choose Ursinus again? Why or why not?

"Yes. I do feel like I got a really well-rounded education here. I’m about to graduate and I was exposed to a lot of things I don’t think I would have been if I went somewhere else." —Christina Gratkowski, 2014

"Yes. It took a bit to get adjusted, but the education and community are second to none." —John Roda, 2015

"Yes. After three years, I really do feel like it changes your life." —Nora Kornfeld, 2015

"I would choose it again for everything but my major because it lacks the essential requirements necessary to prepare for the real world in business.” —Tyler Schindler, 2014
Watson winner to study black masculinity through art, culture

His personal project for the fellowship is titled, “Releasing the Caged Bird: Chronicling Artistic Expressions of Black Masculinity.” During the 2014-2015 year he will travel to the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Germany and France to seek a deeper understanding of “Black men’s use of artistic expressions to create a sense of identity rooted in their link to African ancestry.”

The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship is a one-year grant for independent study and travel outside of the United States. The scholarship is presented to a select few college seniors who are first nominated by their home institutions and then individually interviewed and selected by a group of Watson program representatives who are Watson fellowship alumni. Each fellow is awarded a stipend of $28,000 to use for the duration of the fellowship year.

According to Melissa Hardin, the dean of international studies, unlike other fellowship programs, “the challenge of the Watson is to create a project that only you are in control of.”

She also said that the goal of the Watson is not to seek a means to an end for the project itself, but “the growth that comes from the project.”

Hardin said that with the Watson, “It doesn’t matter what you’re into, just how and why you’re into it.”

Young said that being a Watson recipient is “truly humbling and it’s an honor to be the first African American student selected from Ursinus.”

He has received a tremendous amount of support from friends, family and faculty. “I feel very grateful to have the support of the whole community around me,” Young said. “It’s an exciting opportunity that few people in the world have and it’s an experience that is truly life-changing.”

Young’s Watson project was inspired by his previous experience in cultural research and activism.

In March 2011, Young traveled to Alabama to study the role played by African American churches and socio-political organizations that advocated civil rights changes in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the fall of 2012, Young studied abroad at the University of Ghana in Accra where he conducted an independent research project at the W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Center for Pan-African Culture while living with a Ghanaian family.

Earlier this month, Young traveled to Lingnan University in Hong Kong, China. There, he was a student consultant for the Teaching and Learning Initiative, led by Meredith Goldsmith. White abroad, he and the others involved in the initiative were creating a student consultant program for the students of the university.

“My hope is that my acceptance will encourage other minority students to consider applying for the Watson and other programs that offer opportunities for travel, study and self-exploration,” Young said in an email.

Cody Young, the 2014 Watson scholarship winner.

Keon Jerry
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Cody Young, a senior at Ursinus, has recently been chosen as a Thomas J. Watson fellow for the 2014-2015 year. Of the 700 applicants and nominees from the various participating universities, only 44 students were selected to receive the fellowship for the 2014-2015 year.

Young is a philosophy and sociology double major with a minor in Africana and African American studies and he is currently senior assistant to the chaplain and assistant professor Reverend Charles Rice.

Since 2002, Ursinus has had a total of eight students become Watson fellows. For the 2014-2015 year, Young will be the ninth as well as the first African American student from Ursinus to participate in the Watson fellowship.

Young became a member of the Brothers’ Network, an arts and culture-centered non-profit organization focused on serving black men. As a member of the network, he attended theater and poetry performances and wrote his own poetry to perform. “The focus of the Brothers’ Network is to challenge and re-imagine narratives of black masculinity through the realm of arts and culture,” Young said. “Poetry is a tool of reflection and transformation that has allowed me to understand more about myself and more about the world that I live in. Using that lens will allow me to better understand the experiences of the other black male artists that I encounter.”

Young’s desire for the understanding through the art of poetry has become the main focus of his Watson project.

His personal project for the fellowship is titled, “Releasing the Caged Bird: Chronicling Artistic Expressions of Black Masculinity.” During the 2014-2015 year he will travel to the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Germany and France to seek a deeper understanding of “Black men’s use of artistic expressions to create a sense of identity rooted in their link to African ancestry.”

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Feminism suffers from misconceptions

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I have often heard people say that they are all for equal rights for women, but do not wish to be called a feminist. All feminists are not obnoxious, male-hating, lesbian, protesting, Birkenstock-wearing, bra-burning, peace-loving liberals, though there are feminists like this.

There are also feminists who wear dresses with ruffles and whose favorite color is pink. Feminism does not correlate with our outer appearances. It has been 94 years since women earned the right to vote. There is still a gender pay disparity, with men being paid more for equal work, according to the American Association of University Women. How can this information not motivate people to care about women's rights? I have found so many people say that they are interested in supporting equality for women but fear the term feminism.

At the heart of feminism is the desire for women and men to be equal, socially, politically and economically. Why is this term so misunderstood?

Labels define who we are and how we are perceived by our peers, friends and even strangers. Today we want to know everything about everyone: are they gay, are they straight, are they rich or poor. Labels scare people. The term “feminist” scares people because of stereotypes and media portrayals. As humans it is our natural inclination to organize information based on categories and labels.

There is a lack of knowledge about who can be a feminist. You do not have to be a woman to be a feminist. President Barack Obama has declared himself one. While the main goal of feminism is equality for women, there are many benefits to men as well.

Feminism frees everyone from the gender roles that bind us to traditional assumptions about the way things are supposed to be.

The meaning of feminism and feminists has been lost due to stereotypes and extremism. The basis of “inadvertently stepping on someone who wants women to be treated equally. This definition does not involve man-haters, bra-burners, lesbians or people who wear Birkenstocks. It is a loose term that is not exclusive.

In CIE 200, my class discussed feminism, and our professor asked who considered themselves to be a feminist. I was the only one to raise my hand. I described the reason why I identify as a feminist and how I want gender equality.

After my explanation other students said that they consider themselves to be feminists because they want gender equality as well. Students said that feminism is portrayed negatively and they did not know the true definition.

If anyone has seen me around campus, I am often in a dress, heels or wearing a sparkly beret. I dress femininely and stereotypically—I probably wouldn’t be categorized as a feminist based on my appearance.

The beauty of feminism and gender equality is embracing who we are. The beauty of being a modern woman and men is that we can embrace who we are. There are not strict dress codes anymore.

Feminists can be the president of the United States, they can be your professor, your hall mate or even you. Today, being a feminist does not have to be negative.

Most young women and men want gender equality. Given that, they are technically feminists. The desire for gender equality and being a feminist goes hand in hand.

Send us your thoughts to: grizzly@ursinus.edu

Have feedback on anything we covered?
We welcome your letters to the editor!

Feminism’s shortcomings alienate potential allies

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I do not hate feminism. I have some qualms, however, with what I see in feminist culture today.

When people draw lines regarding who can contribute to what, who is more oppressed or who is more privileged, it ends up feeling more like a competition than a united movement. Because of this, many people avoid feminism or are intimidated by it.

Intersectionality was summarized by Ava Vidal to mean, “start listening to and including various groups of women, and their multi-layered facets and experiences of life, and respect them in the overall debate.”

That sounds pretty nice, doesn’t it? The problem is that people are really bad at considering others.

"Intersectionality is difficult for everyone because we all think our problems are the most important," feminist Jia Tolentino said. That is exactly where I begin to take issue with intersectionality—in practice.

America has a “binary paradigm” regarding race, where we tend to make everything about black versus white, and other races in America fall by the wayside. Why do I only ever see black feminism and white feminism?

What about Hispanic or Latina women? What about Asian women? What about Native American women? What about Middle Eastern women?

I love the idea of intersectionality because it is so true that women of different backgrounds have different experiences influencing their feminism, and it would be phenomenal if we could bring that kind of equality into feminism. But all I really see is the self-important attitude that Tolentino acknowledged.

“We have grown accustomed to thinking about America in black and white,” scholar Amitai Etzioni said.

It’s a shame, but it’s true. The fact that we still draw lines between the two is bad enough, but it leaves other minorities feeling left out when they are rarely acknowledged for having their own set of problems.

Intersectionality is difficult for everyone because we all think our problems are the most important.”

— Jia Tolentino

Feminist

In an NPR article, Lindsey Yoo addressed how the faction of feminism designated for “women of color” does not resonate with Asians, or Hispanics in some cases.

“This dismissive attitude toward Asian Americans causes a dangerous rift in the ever-evolving journey toward true solidarity and the dismantling of racial and gender hierarchies,” Yoo said. “It’s difficult to feel like an ally.”

Michelle Goldberg of “The Nation” called attention to “…a nascent genre of essays by people who feel emotionally savaged by their involvement in (online feminism)—not because of sexist trolls, but because of the slashing righteousness of other feminists.”

Katherine Cross, a Puerto Rican trans student working on her doctorate, wrote about her fear of “inadvertently stepping on an ideological land mine and bringing down the wrath of the online enforcers” every time she wrote a blog post.

Why shouldn’t she worry when just that has happened on countless occasions to other “allies”?

This feminist-on-feminist cruelty is a turn off to me and many other people who otherwise would identify as feminists. Popular feminist Flavia Dzodan was up in arms about an occurrence she found very offensive, and she said, “Then I do not want any f***ing sisterhood with you... If you are not angry at this, like I am, then I know we are not part of the same team.”

Woo, harsh words. It is that kind of attitude that will weaken and divide your movement. If you have a disagreement, maybe you should find alternatives to dropping sisters like hot potatoes.

If you have a disagreement, maybe you should find alternatives to dropping sisters like hot potatoes.

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Gymnast refuses to let disease slow her down

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On Saturday, Feb. 8, two records were broken on the Ursinus College campus. Kristin Aichele played a part in both of them. Both records have been held for longer than Aichele has been a student at Ursinus. Aichele set the vault record last year but wanted to claim the title on her own with no names beside hers.

Ursinus competed against best Chester that meet on Ursinus's campus. The Bears started it on the vault where Aichele set a career high of a 9.775, not only was this a personal high, but she also broke her own record, which she shared with Kristin Grimmel, who set it Feb 22, 2003, and Bree Morrissey, who set it Feb 24, 2007.

In addition the Ursinus team upset the school record earning a season high of 47.825, which was originally set on March 12, 2004 when the Bears competed in a quad meet at Rutgers scoring 47.80.

"Last year I broke the vault record at an away meet at Temple," Aichele said. "It was just the inscription on the cake breaking it again this year and having the record all to myself."

Although Aichele has enjoyed great success at Ursinus, she has seen her fair share of adversity. In 2009, Aichele could sense something was not right.

"My stomach constantly hurt, Aichele said. "It progressively got worse over time to the point where my mom was really worried about me."

"She had lost about 15 pounds... I knew something was wrong with her."

— Karla Aichele
Kristen's mother

"She had lost about 15 pounds;" Aichele's mom, Karla Aichele, said. "It was to the point where she was just bones. She slept all the time and was constantly exhausted. I knew something was wrong with her."

Finally, after having many tests done, in August of 2009, the gastrointestinal doctor diagnosed Aichele with Crohn's disease. Crohn's disease is a form of inflammatory bowel disease. It customarily affects the intestines but can also occur anywhere from the mouth to the end of the rectum. Aichele was then out of gymnastics for four months. Aichele slept for around 15 hours a day in summer and if she was not sleeping, she spent most of her time in bed.

After returning to gymnastics Aichele sprained both of her ankles, leaving her out of the sport again for the remainder of the season. She still spent most of her day in the gym conditioning and doing the things that did not involve her ankles.

"My life hasn't changed much since I was diagnosed," Aichele said. "I occasionally have flare ups, but I've been able to manage. After my diagnosis, I had lost a lot of weight and muscle so it was hard to get back into things. The only other life change is that I constantly have more doctors' appointments."

Since her freshman year, Aichele has been in the beam and vault lineup in every meet, making a huge impact on the team since day one. Freshman year, Aichele placed sixth at nationals earning her First Team All-American.

While Ursinus did not make it as a team they still qualified to nationals as an individual on both beam and vault. Sophomore year, Aichele helped lead the team to nationals as a team for the first time in five years.

In August of 2013, one of those flare ups occurred again. Aichele's flare was the first since 2009.

"I just was curled in a ball laying on the floor," Aichele said. "I didn't want to do anything but sleep. My stomach constantly was hurting me, and I lost a lot of weight again. My doctor put me on steroids to control my body and pain. I could not believe this was happening to me again."

The flare up occurred until this past November. She now gets a shot every other week and another shot once a month to prevent this from happening again. However this did not prevent her from excelling in gymnastics this season.

"I did not even notice a change come completion time," gymnastics head coach Jeff Schepers said. "She was the same Kristin she has been the past two years. Unless you knew her very well, you could not even tell she had another flare up."

Fortunately, Aichele's career is extremely promising, and she is expected to contribute for the Bears and compete at national winning caliper. Although the tribulations she has faced linger in her memory, they also provide fuel to her fire.

Early March Madness games filled with surprises

Mercer topples Duke, Dayton takes down Ohio State, Syracuse and Harvard edges out Cincinnati

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Last Thursday marked the beginning of every college basketball fan's favorite time of the year: March Madness.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament is a three-week, single-elimination tournament featuring the best teams and best players throughout Division I basketball.

Ranging from national powerhouse mid-major conference winners, 64 teams faced off against one another this past weekend, which has been considered by many to be the most exciting opening weekend in recent history. In Thursday and Friday's round of 64, 10 games were decided by five points or less, and five games had to be settled in an extra overtime period.

The upsets began early, as the first contest between 11-seed Dayton and six-seed Ohio State saw the Flyers come out on top 60-59 after a last-second score. The Buckeyes were kept in the game by the efforts of star point-guard Aaron Craft, who had 16 points.

The winning ways for the lower seeds continued in the next televised game, as Ivy-League champion Harvard took down perennial Big-East contender Cincinnati 61-57.

A popular pick in many brackets—including President Obama's—the Crimson took the lead in the opening minutes and never looked back. Harvard became the first Ivy-League school with tournament wins in consecutive years since Princeton in the 1983-1984 season.

The upset of the tournament so far, however, came on Friday afternoon, when the highly favored Duke Blue Devils were ousted by Mercer, a 14-seed. The Bears shot 56 percent from the field and were led in scoring by Jakob Gallon, who had 20 points. Mercer had a late 20-5 run to seal the victory, which included a stretch where they scored 11 straight points. Duke's freshman star Jabari Parker, who is projected to be a top NBA lottery selection, was held to 14 points, shooting 4-14 from the field. The Atlantic Sun Conference champions gained the respect of Duke's famous coach Mike Krzyzewski, who visited their locker room after the game.

"You guys have a hell of a basketball team," Krzyzewski said, according to SI.com. "I love the game, and you guys play the game really, really well. And your coach coaches it well. If we had to be beaten, I'm glad we got beaten by a hell of a basketball team."

Saturday and Sunday's round of 32 saw some of the tournament's top dogs fall, as top-seeded Wichita State, two-seeds Villanova and Kansas and three-seed Syracuse were all sent home over the weekend. Wichita State, last year's Cinderella nine-seed that advanced all the way to the Final Four, entered this year's tournament with an undefeated record. The Shockers fell to Kentucky in the round of 32, 78-76.

The Villanova Wildcats, coming off a 20-point domination of low-seeded Milwaukee, fell to Connecticut 77-65. Kansas, who has two potential top lottery picks in freshman sensations Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid, was seen by many as a favorite to advance to the finals at the beginning of the season. However, a back injury to Embiid kept him from the tournament, and the Jayhawks struggled without him on Sunday, losing to Stanford 60-57.

Syracuse was taken down by this year's Cinderella, Dayton, who will join the Tennessee Volunteers as the lowest seeds in the Sweet 16 rounds that take place on Thursday and Friday of this week.

This weekend also saw the elimination of Creighton, whose star player Doug McDermott ranks fifth on the all-time NCAA Division I scoring list with 3,150 points over his four-year career. McDermott led the nation in scoring this year at 26.7 points per game. He stayed hot in their 76-66 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette on Friday, posting 30 points and 12 rebounds. The famous Doug "McBuckets" could not stay in rhythm on Sunday, however, as Creighton was blown out by sixth-seeded Baylor 85-55.

After a short break, the tournament will resume on Thursday, March 27, with only 16 teams remaining. The first game broadcasted will pit Dayton against Stanford on CBS and tip-off at 7:15 p.m. Games can be viewed on CBS and TBS throughout Thursday and Friday.
Baseball, men’s and women’s lacrosse stay strong as softball bounces back after loss

The Ursinus men’s lacrosse team opened Centennial play with a win last Saturday on Patterson Field, topping Swarthmore 8-7. The win helped the Bears improve to 5-3 overall.

The game came down to the wire. Swarthmore was ahead by a goal with roughly two minutes left. The game winner came from junior attacker Steve Smyrl with just over a minute left in regulation.

Smyrl had a fantastic day for the Bears with three goals. Sophomore Brian Neff locked down the net in the last period, saving four goals in the final period. The Bears travelled to Franklin & Marshall on Wednesday and will host Dickinson on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Women’s lacrosse

The women of the lacrosse team improved their overall record to 5-1 after a win over Swarthmore to open conference play last Saturday. The final score of the game was 12-10.

Young talent dominated for the Bears throughout the game. Freshman midfielder Jayme Verma had three goals and two assists.

Sophomore goalie Margaret Phibin saved 13 of 23 total shots by the Garnet of Swarthmore.

The Bears took a break from conference play on Tuesday and faced The College of New Jersey. The team will head to Dickinson on Saturday and will hope to take another conference victory.

Baseball

The men of the diamond swept PSU-Berks last Saturday, winning both games of a doubleheader. In the first game, the Bears won 6-1, followed by a 11-5 win in the second game.

Senior Josh Schnell had an excellent day for the Bears. In game one, Schnell had two hits. Senior James Hoff also had three RBIs during the first game.

Schnell kept his momentum going during the second game, scoring six RBIs and hitting 4-5.

Senior pitcher Steve Berardi got the win in the first game, and freshman pitcher Seth Regensburg went for six innings.

The Bears will host The College of New Jersey on Thursday.

Softball

The women of the diamond split their home opening doubleheader against Dickinson last Sunday. In the first game, the Bears lost big against the Red Devils, scoring none to Dickinson’s 16. In game two, the Bears bounced back and squeaked past Dickinson 7-6.

The game two win was aided heavily by junior catcher Nikki Djambinov. Djambinov hit a grand slam in the first inning, with two outs against the Bears.

The Bears were set to play conference opponent Franklin & Marshall last Tuesday, but the game was rescheduled for Thursday at 3 p.m. The day will hold another doubleheader.

Upcoming Ursinus Athletics Schedule

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<tr>
<td>3/29- versus Dickinson at 1 p.m.</td>
<td>3/29- @ Dickinson at 1 p.m.</td>
<td>3/29- Danny Curran Invitational @ Widener at 9 a.m.</td>
<td>3/27- versus TCNJ at 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>3/27- doubleheader versus Franklin &amp; Marshall at 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>4/2- @ Washington College</td>
<td>4/1- @ Washington College at 3 p.m.</td>
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