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Dave Muoio
Deana Harley
Jonathan Vander Lugt
Larissa Coyne
Olivia Z. Schultz

See next page for additional authors

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Authors
Dave Muoio, Deana Harley, Jonathan Vander Lugt, Larissa Coyne, Olivia Z. Schultz, Evan Hill, Sophie Snapp, Shawn Hartigan, John Carty, Dana Feigenbaum, Giovanni Waters, and Karch Connors
Faculty start first creative art exchange at Myrin Library

Deana Harley
deharley@ursinus.edu

From April 21 through the 24, Myrin Library was decorated with rope holding different photographs, drawings, writings and art pieces created by students. The first ever Ursinus Creative Exchange began on Monday when the pieces of art were put up. For the last couple of weeks, students were encouraged to submit any type of art to an email account so that it could be printed and hung on the first floor of the library.

Meredith Goldsmith, an Ursinus English professor, had the original idea for the event after visiting a print democracy event in Russia. Goldsmith has been working with the Library of the Future group, a group dedicated to making sure Myrin Library is operating at its full potential and serving students as best as it can, according to the library website.

Goldsmith contacted professor Sarah Kaufman from the art department and asked if she wanted to come up with an idea for a print exchange on campus. Kaufman also worked with Charlie Jamison, director of Myrin Library, to come up with a concrete idea and finalize details for the event.

Together Kaufman and Jamison set up the email account that pieces were emailed to, printed pieces for students who did not have access to printing their own and got the library ready for the event.

Kaufman found help from Facilities Services and other members of the art department to bring everything together. Kaufman said it was a lot of little things happening from a lot of people. Kaufman said she hoped the installation would activate discussion of art on campus.

"My hope was to bring together faculty, staff, students and general community members to share their creative output in a really democratic way," she said. "People don't have to be enrolled in an art class to participate, and we really wanted that broad participation."

The event lasted for four days with a final reception for faculty and students on Thursday, the day of CoSA. Kaufman said she anticipated a really "celebratory" See Exchange on pg. 3

UC sustainability and graduation speaker important to upcoming commencement

Students proceed in to the graduation ceremony last year. This year's graduation is May 16 at 10 a.m. on the field in front of the Berman Museum.

John Vander Lugt
jovanderlugt@ursinus.edu

With the spring semester drawing to a close, in about two weeks, the school will send the class of 2014 off with baccalaureate and commencement, or, as many colloquially call it, graduation.

"The first thing that we have to do is figure out what all the things that go on at graduation that they could do more sustainably.

"The thing I am most proud of is how the commencement committee has embraced sustainability."

— Shannon Spencer
Ursinus campus sustainability planner

The planning that goes into making an event like graduation sustainable is essentially figuring out the things that go on at graduation that they could do more sustainably.

"The first thing that we have to do is figure out what all the things that happen at an event, in this case commencement." Spencer said in an email. "For example, for commencement some of the things we do are send out invitations, rent a tent, provide caps and gowns, decorate and serve food and beverages at various events.

"Once you have a list, you identify things that have a sustainable alternative," Spencer said in an email. "If the cost (of the sustainable option) is similar or less than the cost of the less sustainable option, then we tend to move toward the sustainable option."

For Spencer, the most impactful sustainable change happening at graduation this year is the switch to purchasing rental regalia as opposed to purchased caps and gowns. Purchased regalia are often thrown away, and renting them this year and in coming years will remove a sizable imprint on the waste stream, according to Spencer.

The first event that graduating students will need this regalia for is the baccalaureate, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 in the Bomberger Chapel.

Speaking at the service will be honorary degree recipient Rever-
Bearitones and B’Naturals will take the stage this weekend for semesterly concerts

Larissa Coyne
lacoyne1@ursinus.edu

The semestery a capella student groups’ concerts will take place this weekend in Bomberger auditorium. The women’s group, the B’Naturals, will perform their concert, called “Nothing but Trouble,” on Friday, May 2, at 9 p.m. The Bearitones concert will take place on Saturday, May 3, at 9 p.m. and is called “A Hard Day’s Note.”

Also, the two groups have recently recorded for an upcoming album. Each group has recorded three songs they have either sung in the fall concert or will sing in the upcoming concert, according to Marcos Crespo, Jr., senior Bearitones member.

The B’Naturals recorded “I Hope You Dance,” “Come on Eileen” and “Too Close.”

“It was such a fun process,” Kimberly Nolan, sophomore music director of the B’Naturals, said.

The B’Naturals focused on their time commitment and their emotional connection to their songs to make the show shine this year, according to Nolan.

The Bearitones focused on the energy of their show this year. Crespo said compared to his freshman year, the energy of the group and its performances has increased a lot.

“Our spring concert is by far more explosive energy-wise,” Crespo said. “Our interaction with the audience is completely different. There’s more interaction with the audience.” Crespo said that the energy is higher than other performances he has done in the past.

Crespo said the group is always trying to work on implementing a diversity of genres.

“There is a competitive rivalry between the groups to perform to the best of their ability, according to Crespo.

“The girls are phenomenal this year,” Crespo said. “The better the B’Naturals perform, the better we perform, and the better they perform, the better we perform. We respect each other as talent and we don’t like to be bested either.”

According to Katie Williams, senior vice president of the B’Naturals, the B’Naturals focused on dynamics this year. They also focused on song selection, according to Nolan.

“This year when the group was

See Concert on pg. 3

Photo courtesy of Kimberly Nolan

Caitlin Jackson (right) and the B’Naturals practice in the basement of Bomberger Hall. Their next concert is tomorrow, Friday, May 2 at Bomberger auditorium.

Safety and care remain
important RA qualities

Olivia Z. Schultz
olschultz@ursinus.edu

Any student that lives on the Ursinus campus has a resident advisor, also known as an RA. Students are able to see RAs at their designated tables in Lower and in their hallway, house or suite.

Before each semester starts, the RAs and backups have an extensive training session. The RAs and resident directors, also known as RDS, meet, train and discuss what it means to be an Ursinus RA. The RAs meet for 10 days in August and three days in January before the start of each semester. The RAs on campus also meet for two hours every week to catch up.

Melissa Sanders Giess is the head RD and works with three other RDS. Reese McKnight is the RD for the freshmen centers: BWC, BPS and Sprinkle. Jared Rodrigues is the RD for the Main Street houses. Colleen Valero is the RD for Reimert, New, Richter-North and 201 9th Avenue. The four RD’s work together in selecting the RAs on campus.

“Every day, even if it is something small, someone needs something from an RA,” Sanders Giess said. “There is a lot of professional mentorship in being an RA. Employers are also looking for skills that you have for being an RA.”

Sanders Giess said that given the small size of the school, the RAs are more present than on other college campuses.

“They have to follow the rules all of the time,” Sanders Giess said. “They are role models on campus.”

It takes a certain type of person to be an RA. The RDs look for students that have potential for leadership skills.

“(RAs) need to have a passion for helping others,” Sanders Giess said. “We want people who will make the most out of their Ursinus experience.”

There are information sessions that students must attend in order to apply for an RA position. There is a paper application, a group interview and an individual interview to see what people are like off-paper.

“We want to see how our applicants are spontaneous with us and other RAs,” Sanders Giess said.

Before the RDs look at the applications for potential new RAs, they look at the returners.

“We always try to honor their requests on where they want to be placed,” Sanders Giess said.

The RDs decide on RAs based on what activities applicants participate in such as teams they are on, if they are a part of Greek life and where they are from, Sanders Giess said.

Experience is also important in selecting RAs, according to Sanders Giess.

“We want our RAs to have a diverse background,” Sanders Giess said. “That’s why we let students who want to study abroad apply and become RAs.”

The RDS put RAs in residences where they know they will succeed.

“We try to divide the new RAs with returning RAs into the teams of Main Street, freshman center and New, Richter-North and Reimert,” Sanders Giess said.

Sanders Giess said RAs must care about other individuals more than themselves.

“There is a connection to Ursinus that RAs have and they really care about everybody,” Sanders Giess said.
Zainab Hawa Bangura, who has served similar roles at Spelman and Bearea College in Kentucky after graduating from the Howard University College Jr. Campus Christian Center at the Willis D. Weatherford, according to the speaker for commencement.

The variety of items in the collection were each selected by a committee of our students, and staff. At the reception, each participant took home another participant’s work.

Dalliet Hemphill, professor of history and American studies and a member of the committee, was not a part of the decision making process for this year’s speech but was able to shed a bit of light on the process.

“What happens is people make recommendations (for honorary degree recipients),” Hemphill said. “Basically anyone can make one. What this committee does is review these people’s backgrounds and records. They assemble information on their careers.”

Ambassador in Residence and professor of international relations Joe Melrose was involved in the nomination process for Bangura. He has known her for about 15 years due to his work as the United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone and he said that Bangura’s speech at commencement will have much to offer students.

“I think that is why it was such a success,” Jamison said. “We had, at last count, over 150 submissions out there, and we had never done this before, so we had no idea what was going to happen.”

Both Kaufman and Jamison said that they hope the event becomes an annual installation. Jamison, alongside members from the Library of the Future group, is planning many different events for Myrin in the upcoming fall, including speakers and a variety of events for students and faculty to attend.

“Last night at rehearsal we were focusing on making each song exciting,” Williams said.

Top stories from around the globe

Evan Hill
evhill@ursinus.edu

Syrian chemical weapon removal nearly complete

Syria has removed 92.5 percent of its known chemical weapon stockpiles and is on track for the June 30 target date, according to “The Wall Street Journal.” The war-torn country has been home to a frantic effort to remove its massive stockpiles of chemical agents, such as mustard gas. The weapons are linked to attacks on civilians since the Ghouta chemical attack in August 2013, which killed at least 281 people.

The news of the attack nearly provoked an armed response from the United States, but military intervention was considered universally unpopular by the public at large. The destruction of chemical weapons was agreed upon in a treaty brokered by Russia and stemming from off-the-cuff remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

The 1,260 cubic tons of chemical weapons removed thus far are stored off-shore outside the Syrian port city of Latakia. Hopefully, 560 tons of the most dangerous chemicals will be safely destroyed at sea, although destruction at sea aboard a small ship has never been tried before.

The toxins are stored and guarded by members of Danish and Norwegian naval forces under NATO command.

Two popes canonized as saints

Pope Francis confirmed Popes John Paul II and John XXIII as saints as a crowd of 100,000 people watched, according to the BBC. The Pope was allegedly attempting “balance the conservative legacy of John Paul with the reforming zeal of John,” according to analysts of the Vatican. The new pope replaced Pope Benedict, who stepped down last year.

The process of a ceremony dubbing two saints simultaneously has never been done before, which is representative of the attention to change paid by Francis, who rekindled some lost interest in the Vatican by American Catholics. Other acts and comments by Pope Francis indicate he intends to reduce the Church’s zeal in supporting anti-gay and anti-abortion causes.

The run up to the mass that made history was not without its moments of bad publicity. A large crucifix dedicated to Pope John Paul II fell and crushed a man, killing him, in an accident in the northern Italian city of Cevio.

The 98-foot statue of Jesus on the cross, weighing an estimated 1,350 pounds, came loose from its foundations and struck the young man, who was 21 years old, ending his life instantly. This freak accident was not a solo occurrence.

South Korean Prime Minister resigns

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won resigned this week after admitting he mishandled the scandal surrounding the sinking of a ferry packed with 476 people, mostly students, that led to the drowning deaths of at least 187 people, although hundreds are missing and presumed dead. “The New York Times” reported that the South Korean President had accepted the letter of resignation but had yet to set a final day for the Prime Minister.

The South Korean Navy has provided divers to assist the retrieval of bodies, and the entire crew of the vessel that sank has been arrested. Many crew members survived the sinking because they boarded the ship's few life rafts before attempting to save others, as they are required to do by South Korean maritime law.

The captain of the ship was said to have been asleep at the time the ship struck ground.

Divers have recovered at least 48 students clad in life preservers trapped below deck in a single room made for 30 people. Officials have said the boat was overcrowded by at least 200 people over its capacity.

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Abigail Wood performs a dance choreographed by a guest artist, Jenn Rose of Philadelphia, in the fall 2013 dance concert. The upcoming dance concert will take place May 1-3.

Olivia Schultz
olschultz@ursinus.edu

Before the semester ends, the Ursinus College Dance Company will put on one more show.

This concert will differ from previous semesters.

The theater will not be the primary location of the performances. There will be site-specific pieces that will take audiences on a journey.

"Finding Place: a moving dance concert" is the title of the performance.

The first piece will take place outside, so if there is rain, bring an umbrella. The second piece will take place in the lobby of the Kaleidoscope building.

"From the lobby, the performance progresses to the Blackbox Theater where Jeanine McCain's piece will be performed "in the round," according to the company's press release. The last few performances will take place in the Lenfest Theater.

Choreographers include Ursinus dance professors, Karen Clemente and Jeanine McCain.

Outside dancers and choreographers from different dance backgrounds were brought to Ursinus to create this unique show.

McCain is also the artistic director and producer of the show.

Dance professors from other colleges came to Ursinus to choreograph.

Guest artists include Tim O'Donnell from Arizona State University and Gesel Mason from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Mason is one of the choreographers for the final pieces in the Lenfest.

Philadelphia dancers and choreographers also came to Ursinus.

McCain is also the artistic director and producer of the show.

Word on the Street
What do you want to accomplish before you graduate?

"Slide down the fountains naked."
—Connor Kanya, 2014

"Find a job."
—Angela Araujo, 2014

"Lay in front of Bomberger looking at the stars with friends until 7 a.m."
—Lauren MacDonough, 2014

"Snuggle time with (fraternity) brothers."
—Russell Mach, 2014

"Go on a walk or run on the Perk trail."
—Kyra Tan-Tiongco, 2014

"Work on keeping in touch with professors."
—Noelle Sassany, 2014

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Fulbright winner will travel to Spain

Shawn Hartigan
shhartigan@ursinus.edu

Senior Danielle Miller was recently awarded the Fulbright research grant, which will allow her to partake in biomedical research in Barcelona, Spain from September 2014 to June 2015.

The lab Miller will be working in is at the Institute for Research in Biomedicine at the Barcelona Science Park, which is associated with the University of Barcelona. Miller said that there were almost 100 applicants for the 24 grants awarded in Spain.

Miller is a Doylestown, Pa. resident who majors in biochemistry and molecular biology and Spanish, with a minor in chemistry. Miller is active in Phi Alpha Psi and was a UC EMS captain, an admissions tour guide and a member of the Biochemistry Club and Beardwood Chemical Society.

According to the Fulbright website, Senator J. William Fulbright introduced a bill in the United States Congress in 1945 that called for the use of surplus war property to fund the “promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science.”

On August 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill into law, and Congress created the Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.

The program currently awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study and operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.

In order to be considered for the research grant, students must have a contact in the country they wish to study.

Victoria-Codrina Popescu is one of Miller’s professors who happened to have a friend living in Spain. Her friend told Popescu that her wife would love to have Miller work in her lab.

To receive the grant, Miller first had to write a personal statement, confirm her contact at the lab, have the lab send a letter to the Fulbright board saying that they knew she was coming and explain the role she would play in the lab.

In addition to the personal statement, Miller had to write an essay on why she wanted the Fulbright scholarship, why she was a good candidate and what the Fulbright would do for her.

This will not be the first time that Miller will be away from home.

Last semester she studied abroad in Madrid. She was there for a full semester but enjoyed it so much that she extended her stay by six weeks.

She has her sights set high and is trying to put herself in the best position possible to achieve her goals.

“I eventually want to go to medical school,” Miller said. “For the summer I’ll be studying more and taking my MCAT, then going to Barcelona in September.”

“After I return to the States I will have a year off to do something on interviewing for medical schools,” Miller said. “If I really like the research in Barcelona, then I will probably apply for something research based, but it’s up in the air right now.”

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Dance continued from pg. 4

to help put together the UCDC show, including Jeannine Osayande and Ira Bond from the Dunya Performing Arts Company.

The stage and house managers are both Ursinus students. The stage manager is senior Evan Schelly, and the house manager is senior Brian Anderson. All of the dancers are Ursinus students.

The show then moves through the unique landscape of the Kaleidoscope lobby, where Amy Smith’s piece will take place. Smith is a guest artist from the Headlong Dance Theatre in Philadelphia.

“A sense of place” is what the audience will feel while going from location to location, according to the press release. The element of the journey was incorporated with this new style of performance from UCDC.

“What I think is so wonderful about UCDC is it gives our students a professional level rehearsal and performance experience,” McCain said.

“For the final piece on the Lenfest stage, choreographer Jeannine Osayande and lead musician Ira Bond have collaborated on a dynamic African Dance piece including live drumming,” according to the press release.

Soccer continued from pg. 4

ing a good time playing soccer and that the money they paid is going to a good cause.”

Any money that can be raised by students has a substantial impact on the individuals the organization is aimed toward benefiting. Ragball International is not very well known. It is an organization run by a few individuals who have separate primary jobs.

Because of this, their resources are limited thereby increasing the need for external support. Although this organization gained a lot of traction during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, it has since then lost support.

In an effort to expand Ragball International’s work to the Ursinus campus, Enactus has hosted a number of Ragball soccer events in previous years and hopes to make the tournament an annual event.

To participate in the tournament, students paid an entrance fee of $2.

All the money made is given to the organization and will ultimately go toward providing the South African children with some income.

Additionally, Ursinus students could purchase T-shirts for $10 to also support the cause.

Five teams were registered to play at the game on Sunday. Ultimately, a team of Alpha Phi Epsilon members emerged victorious in the tournament.

The tournament will likely become an annual event.

To support Ragball International, visit the organization’s Facebook page or purchase the handmade ragballs online that are constructed from waste materials.

“Every penny makes a difference in these kids’ lives,” Lair Ferrari said in an email. “I’m happy that we are able to get some money together to send them.”

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### Happening on Campus

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<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Memoir of Secrets in Lower Wismer, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Shabbat dinner in Hillel house, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>First annual UC Mayday concert in gravel parking lot, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>CoSA make-up day</td>
<td>Reading day</td>
<td>GSA meeting in Olin 104, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s forum in Wismer main lobby, 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ursinus College Dance Company spring concert in the Lenfest theater, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>B’Naturals concert in the Bomberger auditorium, 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Bearitones concert in Bomberger auditorium, 9 p.m.</td>
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The United States Food and Drug Administration addressed a national debate in 2010 regarding caffeinated alcoholic beverages by effectively banning the sale of several popular products in this category.

One such beverage, Four Loko, had quickly expanded in popularity among younger alcohol consumers, mainly due to its combination of a high alcohol content — 12 percent by volume — with a caffeinated punch. The FDA noted this combination as one of the underlying reasons for the ban, considering drinks of this nature unsafe.

Admittedly, the Four Loko scenario is an isolated, alarming incident. A beverage with a marketing scheme that specifically targets a younger crowd through colorful designs and high alcohol content in small doses cannot remain off the radar of the FDA for long.

The issue, however, sparked debate about whether alcoholic energy drinks are dangerous enough to be banned.

Phusion Projects, the producer of Four Loko, was investigated by the attorney general offices of several states amid allegations of marketing its products towards underage consumers.

In March 2014, the company agreed not to "(i) promote the misuse of alcohol or mixing flavored malt beverages with caffeinated products; (ii) manufacture, market, sell or distribute any caffeinated alcoholic beverages; (iii) provide materials to wholesalers, distributors or retailers promoting mixing flavored malt beverages with caffeinated products; (iv) sell, distribute or promote alcohol beverages to underage persons or hire underage persons to promote these college-related logos to promote its products; or (v) use Santa Claus in its promotional materials," according to Lexology.

Proponents of a ban cite the health risks posed by the combination of alcohol and caffeine. Although the simultaneous consumption of alcohol and caffeine is generally considered to be detrimental to health, this risk alone is not enough to support a ban on alcoholic energy drinks.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reported that more than 80,000 people die per year from alcohol-related causes. This has not stopped the consumption of alcohol across the nation.

Those who are of a legal drinking age are considered to be able to understand the contents of the products they consume and the effects of these contents on their health and behavior. It is impossible to not be an informed consumer with the vast amount of Internet resources at one's disposal.

A person who is of a legal drinking age should be able to understand the risks involved with consuming alcohol alone, in addition to the possible added risks of caffeine.

One of the main arguments against the sale of alcoholic energy drinks is that the combination of caffeine and alcohol creates a masking effect, causing consumers to underestimate the amount of alcohol in their systems and therefore drink more.

A recent examination conducted by contributors to "Aperture," an Internet-based research journal, looked at the effects of moderate consumption of alcohol mixed with energy drinks on individually reported psychological and physiological results. Twenty-eight adults completed self-evaluations of mood and sensory skills before consumption and at several intervals after consumption. The results yielded no self-reported effects on psychological performance.

Another point to consider when looking at the effects of alcoholic energy drinks on the human body is whether or not the simple expectation of consuming this type of beverage can be a factor.

"Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology" tested whether caffeinated alcoholic beverages or the expectation of receiving these beverages affected cognitive and behavioral functions.

Participants were given the alcoholic equivalent of four standard drinks and were randomly assigned to four groups: no caffeine and no expectancy, caffeine with expectancy, no caffeine with expectancy, and caffeine without expectancy. The study found that caffeinated alcoholic beverages can increase the risk of more drinking, but the expectation of receiving these beverages can reduce the effects of inattention to intoxication levels.

The simple expectation of consuming caffeine — for example, reading the label and understanding the risks involved — can reduce the severity of alcohol-related psychological and physiological issues.

While the health risks of consuming alcohol are well-documented and the combination of caffeine poses an additional potential threat, this risk alone should not allow alcoholic energy drinks to be banned.

If the combination of caffeine and alcohol is enough to ban alcoholic energy drinks, that rationale could be extended to eliminate the consumption of most common alcoholic mixtures, like rum and coke and Irish coffees.

Until there is proof that the combination of alcohol and caffeine poses a threat beyond that which can be understood by an informed consumer, there should be no ban on alcoholic energy drinks.

The issue of banning Four Loko has sparked a broader discussion about the risks and implications of combining alcohol and caffeine. The consequences of this combination are complex and multifaceted, and it is important to continue researching and understanding the risks involved.

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Temple cuts cast shadow over men’s gymnastics

Dana Feigenbaum
dafeigenbaum@ursinus.edu

Temple University’s athletic director Kevin Clark announced in December that Temple would be cutting seven varsity sports starting in July.

Baseball, softball, men’s crew, women’s crew, men’s gymnastics, men’s outdoor track and field and men’s indoor track and field were being dropped. Due to a donation from Gerry Lenfest, the crew teams were reinstated to renovate the boathouse.

Temple senior associate athletic director Larry Doughtery said the athletic department would not be able to give the quality of student athlete care that all athletes deserve if the school kept all of the programs.

Cutting sports is a common thing happening in the NCAA all over the country. Division III student-athletes, however, continue to graduate with higher rates than their peers, according to research from the NCAA. Even though players are involved in sports, they are committed to receiving an education.

Although Temple is in Division I, cutting sports is still happening at Division III schools. Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga., cut varsity athletics completely from their college in 2012. Dropping sports is less common at Division III schools, but it could still be possible.

At Ursinus there was a recent cut in the cheerleading team. Two years ago, the athletic department chose to no longer fund this team, and it became a club sport.

Cutting the men's gymnastics program at Temple devastates young male gymnasts, who are not able to watch their sport at a higher level anymore.

Not only do they love the sport and love watching the Temple meets, but when they grow up, they will have fewer schools to pick from because there are not as many schools with gymnastics programs.

While an education is very important to many gymnasts, having gymnastics alongside the education makes the school more appealing.

Temple cutting gymnastics decreases the popularity of the sport as a whole. In the Philadelphia area, young male gymnasts come from all over to watch them because they are one of the only programs remotely nearby. While dropping the sport will save money for the university, it does not take into account the other negatives that the decision will have for the community.

Unlike football, basketball and many other sports, men’s gymnastics only has three conferences: the Big Ten, the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League and the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.

Temple is part of the EIGL and has been the champion for the past two years. With the biggest competitor dropping the program, it is uncertain how the conference commissioners will react.

"The real fear is that if the team gets dropped, there will eventually only be two conferences," Adrian Evans, a senior captain of the Penn State men's gymnastics team, said, according to "Onward State."

Evans said that each loss of a men’s gymnastics program is a threat to the collegiate sport as a whole.

I think by cutting this program it creates a loss in many different areas, not just the gymnastics aspect. Some of these gymnasts have been doing gymnastics their whole life and started their collegiate career at Temple. Why should they have to move schools in order to complete their collegiate career?

The loss will also change the way that men’s gymnastics is perceived in the eyes of young male athletes. They will no longer have local role models to look up to or the opportunity to join the program that they loved watching as they grew up.

As the school year is coming to an end, the program has still not been rescued, but both the men and women’s crew teams have.

Temple gymnastics will be truly missed by not only its athletes, but also everyone in the gymnastics community.

It is not simply a sport at Temple University. It is a family, and this family will no longer exist after July.

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John Parry
joparry@ursinus.edu

 brazzlyopinion
Opinion: NFL players earn every cent

Giovanni Waters
giwaters@ursinus.edu

Although professional football is one of America's most popular sports, there has always been a collective perception among most people that NFL athletes make more money than they deserve. Because the average American makes an annual salary of $45,000 according to the Official Social Security Website, it has become hard for many people to believe that football players, such as the New Orleans Saints' quarterback Drew Brees, are signing contracts where they are guaranteed $40 million in one year.

Although there are a few NFL athletes making Drew-Brees-type money, the majority make nowhere near this much. The average NFL player makes far less and in considering the dynamics of the NFL, as well as what it takes to make it into and last in the league, I do not believe NFL players are overpaid.

First of all, the average NFL athlete makes an annual salary of $1.9 million. This seems like a lot, but the NFL brings in annual revenue of $9 billion. With athletes serving as the main commodities of this business, it makes sense that the owners provide them with somewhat of a large portion of the overall revenue.

Critics argue that occupations such as firefighters, teachers, doctors and law enforcement officers that contribute to society deserve more money than these athletes, but there is not enough money being generated to specifically support them. Sports analyst and researcher Jeffrey Guerrero said, “It is just completely outlandish to even consider raising a normal citizen's salary by hundreds of thousands of dollars to reach the salary of a NFL player, unless the entire nation would like to have their taxes raised by a ridiculously large amount.”

Also, most of a NFL athlete's contract is not guaranteed money, meaning if a player gets injured, cut or traded before fulfilling the length of their contract they only get a portion of the salary, and in this occupation, having a career threatening injury and/or losing your job at any time is very realistic.

Secondly, the talent and work ethic required by an NFL athlete places them in a category that only a small number of people can be placed in. Based on laws of supply and demand, rare commodities often command high price tags, and NFL athletes are among the rarest commodities there are. They are valuable, and in living in a culture where sports are highly valued, it is no surprise how much they make.

NFL athletes do not get much of a break. There is no offseason. They must work year-round. This leaves them with very minimal time to spend with their friends and families. NFL players also have to maintain their incredible physical condition because their job is always on the line. There is a constant pressure to keep their production level as high as possible because competition is always fighting their hardest for a spot on a team.

Lastly, not only does being an NFL athlete demand a lot, but it also comes at a great cost. According to “Sports Illustrated,” on average, a career in the NFL only lasts three and a half years. Most NFL players lack the education, skills and life experience to obtain continuous employment outside of football, which is not surprising with less than one-third of retired NFL players being college graduates.

According to researchers at Gameovers.org, 65 percent of NFL players retire with permanent injuries, limiting what they can do, because their body quickly falls apart after all the years of physical abuse they suffered on the field. Finally, according to “The New York Times,” the average lifespan of a NFL player is 53-59 years, compared to the average lifespan of a healthy male being 75 years. By participating in this violent sport NFL stars are giving up to 16 to 22 years of their life, and for most people there is not a price you can place on taking away that many years of an individual’s life, even if the offer is in millions of dollars.

The NFL generates as much money as it does because of the value we place on the sport, and whether or not that seems fair does not mean it is wrong for these athletes to do what any one would do, which is trying to maximize their salaries from the large revenue their organization generates, especially when it is very demanding and costly to participate in a sport as brutal as football.

In a business bringing in annual revenue of $9 billion, and the Saints having enough salary cap space to make the payment, Brees, or any player, has the right to capitalize on whatever money he can get. Wouldn’t we all?

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NBA owner accused of making racist comments

John Carty
jocarty@ursinus.edu

On Friday, April 25, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling was accused of making several racist remarks during a phone call to his alleged girlfriend V. Stiviano after she posted a picture to Instagram of herself with former NBA all-star Magic Johnson.

During the recorded phone call with Stiviano, who, ironically, is African American, Sterling is accused of stating, “It bothers me a lot that you want to broadcast that you’re associating with black people. Do you have to?” Sterling later said, “You can sleep with (black people). You can bring them in but don’t do whatever you want. The little I ask you is not to promote it on that... and not to bring them to my games.”

The alleged remarks made by Sterling came after Stiviano posted the picture with Johnson, who attended one of the Clippers’ playoff games last week. Sterling is accused of saying, “Don’t put him (Johnson) on an Instagram for the world to have to see so they have to call me. And don’t bring him to my games.”

Members of the Los Angeles Clippers organization are used to making headlines. Currently, the third seed in the NBA Western Conference playoff race, the Clippers enjoy everyday media attention due to the performance of the all-star tandem of Chris Paul and Blake Griffin.

This is not the first time Sterling has been accused of racist behavior. In 2006, he was sued by the United States Department of Justice for housing discrimination. The suit alleged that Sterling refused to rent to non-Koreans in the Koreatown neighborhood and to African Americans in Beverly Hills.

Sterling was also accused of stating that Hispanics were not good tenants because they “smoke, drink and just hang around the building,” and that “black tenants smell and attract vermin.”

In 2009, Sterling agreed to pay a $2.73 million settlement fee and nearly $5 million in attorney fees as a result of the suit. Sterling was also sued in 2009 by former NBA all-star and former Clippers executive Elgin Baylor for employment discrimination based on age and race. Baylor claimed to have been undervalued during his tenure with the team and then fired for his race. He accused Sterling of saying that he wanted to fire his team with “poor black boys from the South and a white head coach.” The lawsuit was eventually rejected by a Los Angeles state court in 2011.

Johnson responded to the alleged remarks via his Twitter account and said, “LA Clipper owner Donald Sterling’s comments about African Americans are a black eye for the NBA... My wife and I will never go to a Clippers game again as long as Donald Sterling is the owner.”

Miami Heat star Lebron James even chimed in on the issue and said, “There is no room for Donald Sterling in our league.”

Even President Barack Obama released a statement about the alleged comments by Sterling and said, “When ignorant folks want to advertise their ignorance, you don’t really have to do anything, you just let them talk.”

Instead of speaking publicly about Sterling, who has yet to release a statement himself, the Clippers players instead made their own silent protest during their playoff game at Golden State on Sunday. The team ran out of the tunnel before the game and threw their warm-up uniforms onto the ground. They went through their entire warm-up routine with their shirts inside out, hiding the Clippers logo.

The players also wore black arm bands and wrist bands during the game, along with black socks.

“It just us, only us,” the Clippers’ star point guard Chris Paul. said to his teammates before they ran out of the tunnel. “We’re all we got.”

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Centennial Conference Standings

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Men’s lacrosse, both tennis teams finish strong

Men’s lacrosse finished up its season with an overall record of 9-6 and a conference record of 5-3. The Bears won their last three games of the season, beating McDaniel 12-6, Haverford 9-6 and Muhlenberg 16-9.

Despite the team’s impressive season, the Bears were not able to clinch a spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs. Even though they tied with Dickinson and Gettysburg, point differentials in criteria bumped the Bears out of the playoffs.

Junior Jake Weber, sophomore Tucker Noel, junior Kevin Kohout, senior Dylan Spangenberg, sophomore Logan Panacione, sophomore Rob Dewey, junior Cody Lefevere, junior Steve Smyrl and senior Jimmy Stanley all contributed goals toward the win against the Mules.

Women’s lacrosse

The women’s lacrosse team ended its season on April 26 with a loss against Muhlenberg, with a score of 16-10. The Bears ended their season with an 8-8 overall record and 3-6 in the Centennial Conference. Freshman Emma Ebert, sophomore Devin Brakel, sophomore Mary Deliberti, senior Amber Moyer, senior Caroline Cannon and freshman Jayme Verman scored goals against the Mules. Verman put up five of the total goals.

Verman finished among the top Centennial performers, totaling 60 points for a ninth place spot. Sophomore goalie keeper Margaret Philbin finished second in the conference in saves with 114.

Baseball

Baseball ended its season on April 27 with a loss to DeSales, 8-2. The Bears finished up 17-17 overall and 8-10 in the Centennial Conference. Freshman Austin Feuerman led the bears by going 2-2 on the day and hitting both a single and a double. Seniors Josh Schnell and Ralph Aurora both got hits during their senior day game.

The team had 21 freshmen get playing time throughout the season, so expectations are high for the Bears of the diamond.

Softball

Softball lost a doubleheader to Swarthmore on April 26 to finish the season with an overall record of 10-24 and 2-14 in the Centennial Conference. The first game was scored at 3-0, while the second had a score of 4-1. Senior Caitlin Whelan pitched her final game today for a little more than five innings and allowed four runs.

Sophomore Zoe Heinke finished the season with an impressive 68 strikeouts, enough to earn sixth place spot in the Centennial.

Men’s tennis

The men’s tennis team finished the season at 13-7 overall and 3-6 in the Centennial Conference. The seniors put on a terrific performance to help with the 7-2 victory. Seniors Evan Stutchin and Evan Lord have had record-breaking careers at Ursinus. Stutchin leaves holding the records for career singles wins, career doubles wins, overall wins and most singles wins in a season, for which he is tied with sophomore Tyler Arsenault. Lord holds the record for doubles wins in a single season.

Women’s tennis

The women’s tennis team won its last two matches to finish the season with a 9-9 overall and 4-6 in the Centennial Conference. The Bears' final match was against McDaniel on April 26 and they finished with a score of 9-0.

Track and field

Both the men and women’s track teams took first place at the Grizzly Invitational on April 19. The teams scored 289 points and 277 points, respectively. Both teams also competed in the Penn Relays and West Chester Open. The Centennial Conference Championships will begin on May 3 at Swarthmore College.