10-30-2014

The Grizzly, October 30, 2014

Rachel Brown
Yongshi Li
Olivia Frymark
Andrew Simoncini
Brian Thomas

See next page for additional authors

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Authors
Rachel Brown, Yongshi Li, Olivia Frymark, Andrew Simoncini, Brian Thomas, Joao Angelotto, Andrew Mackin, Steve Valverde, Rayleen Rivera-Harbach, Allie Cook, Drae Lewis, and Gerard Brown
Residents relocated after fire

Yongshi Li
yll@ursinus.edu

Residents of 444 E. Main Street were relocated on Oct. 20 after a fire caused by a candle burnt their house the night before, according to Debbie Nolan, dean of students.

The fire, caused by a candle in one of the residence rooms, was reported at 11:07 p.m. on Oct. 19, after which it was quickly extinguished by the sprinkler system. Everyone in the house evacuated without injuries. No other houses were affected.

“The actual fire damage is contained to one room, while smoke and water damage is much more pervasive,” said Nolan.

“The college is working with local authorities to assess the extent of damage and the costs for restoration,” said Nolan.

The costs and time to restore the burnt Main Street house remains unknown.

Most of the residents went to the BPS residence hall that night as a temporary solution, where blankets were provided and delivered by Campus Safety.

“We don’t know what happened to our stuff and we didn’t sleep much. We’re shocked,” said Joyce Zheng, one of the residents 444.

Residents were gathered in Wismer at noon to hear about their choices of longer accommodations, and some logistical and emotional issues. Deans, assistant deans, a counselor and IT staff were present to give support to the residents. After, they were taken to move their essential personal belongings to new rooms in another residence hall.

“Black ashes are all over and the smell is disgusting. As there is toxin from the fire, we’re told to leave all the food and throw our pillows away,” said Zheng.

The college continued to provide support as much as possible to the affected residents.

“We also engaged faculty and parents through email,” said Nolan.

See Fire on pg. 2

Winegar, who has held the position of executive vice president since July, was confirmed in the role of interim president “to send a clear message from the board that he’s performing the duties of president,” Nolan said.

The appointment of an interim president was a likely next step because some functions of the college require the consent of both a president and a dean, Winegar said.

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See Fire on pg. 2

444, a residence hall on Main Street, is shut down due to a recent fire caused by a candle.

Photo courtesy of Alexis Primavera

Board announces national search for new president

Rachel Brown
rabrown@ursinus.edu

The presidential transition at Ursinus will move forward with Dr. Terry Winegar as interim president of the college and the announcement of a national search for a new president, according to board of trustees chairman Alan Novak. The board finalized this course of action with a unanimous vote when they met in full on Friday.

Winegar, who has held the position of executive vice president since July, was confirmed in the role of interim president “to send a clear message from the board that he’s performing the duties of president,” Novak said.

The appointment of an interim president was a likely next step because some functions of the college require the consent of both a president and a dean, Winegar said.

Winegar appointed Dr. Peter Small, chair of the biology department, as interim dean of the college. Small will continue to teach this semester, but the dean’s office will find a replacement to chair the biology department.

“He’s a very experienced faculty member,” Winegar said. “He has also worked in this office previously as a dean. Particularly for an interim arrangement, you want someone who can walk in and do the job and I had absolute confidence that he could do that.”

Winegar will serve as the college’s president as the national search for new leadership begins. In the coming weeks, Novak will name a search committee consisting of 14-17 representatives from the faculty, staff and students.

The board agreed to “expedite the timeline” for the search with the goal of naming a new president so that he or she will be active in the role by the next academic year, which begins on July 1, 2015, Novak said.

Novak confirmed the board’s commitment to the college’s Strategic Plan, but also said that they are looking forward to the fresh perspective of a new president.

“The Ursinus DNA, what really makes us Ursinus, is in that Strategic Plan,” Novak said. “However, we’re not going to say to a candidate, ‘this is the plan, take it or leave it.’”

Winegar will not participate in the national search for a new president, but is deciding if he wants to be considered for the permanent presidency.

“I care about this place and I really believe in its mission,” Winegar said. “I think we’ve got outstanding faculty and staff that work every day to provide the best education for our students that we can and the best living environment for our students’ development, but it will take some thought to be sure that I want to move into the president’s role on a permanent basis.”

The “ambitious” campaign plan to raise $100 million for Ursinus by 2019 was also approved at the board meeting.

“It’s the most important thing we can do. It shows that we are maintaining our momentum, not slowing down,” said Novak.

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Yik Yak exposes use of fake IDs

Olivia Frymark
Ofrymark@ursinus.edu

The increased student presence on the social media platform Yik Yak has intensified and highlighted the dangers of underage students getting caught with false identification with the intent to purchase alcohol. Since returning to school, many students have noticed the amplified police presence at the local Wine & Spirits.

"PSA: there are cops down at the wine and spirits checking all IDs for fakes,"” just got my fake taken away at the w&s and I got a citation be careful,"” and the pigs were never this harsh about alcohol last year"” are all examples yaks that have been posted regarding the issue. Yik Yak is not only being used throughout campus but within the local community.

"All instances of students getting in trouble this past year have been in-state students with out of state IDs,"” said officer John Barnshaw of the Collegeville Police Department in a recent interview.

Pennsylvania state law "prohibits the purchase, possession or consumption of liquor or malt or brewed beverages by those under the age of 21."

Students who challenge the law can be cited for the attempt to purchase alcohol as a minor. But underage students are not the only ones who can get in trouble. Barnshaw explained that the Wine & Spirits, along with any liquor store, can be cited for knowingly selling alcohol to a minor.

Due to the influx of students with fake IDs this school year, Wine & Spirits has been calling the police department down to the store more often.

While the department has been handling the situations, they are not out to get any students.

"We’ve been repeatedly called down there [to the Wine & Spirits], we aren’t sitting out there watching for it,"” said Barnshaw.

"I was caught with my fake ID a few weeks ago, it was terrifying,"” said a junior who wished to remain anonymous. "I’ve received warnings before, but when I read a yak that said the Wine & Spirits wasn’t strict, I thought I’d give it a try. But boy was I wrong,"” the source continued.

One of the downsides to Yik Yak is that anyone within a five mile radius can read the posts. Along with the college, the police are continuously monitoring the platform.

"It’s supposed to be anonymous, yet it’s not totally anonymous,"” said Barnshaw. "If there is a threat posted, we can go in and get a search warrant to find out exactly who posted what."

In contrast, the police did not act on yaks they read, rather only cited students when they were called down to the store.

Barnshaw and the police department are hopeful that these incidents will not continue.

"Most of us here went to college. Most of us understand that if you get in trouble here it can come back to haunt you,"” said Barnshaw. He concluded, "We’re not trying to get people in trouble, we want students to learn."
Midterm elections approaching

Brian Thomas
brthomas@ursinus.edu

The 2014 midterm election season is in full swing, and on Tuesday, Nov. 4, people throughout the country will vote in gubernatorial, senatorial, House and local races. Many students choose to fill out an absentee ballot for their home state and district. In most places, the deadline to do so is the Friday before Election Day. Many other students, however, choose to register at Ursinus. It can be hard to know who to vote for, or even who is on the ballot if this is the case.

In Pennsylvania, a highly competitive and nationally watched race for governor has been waged since May.

Democrat Tom Wolf, a York-based businessman, is running against incumbent Republican Tom Corbett. Both have fought combative campaigns, with the race being consistently ranked in the Washington Post as one of the most competitive races in the country.

Wolf and Corbett present two distinct options for the commonwealth. Wolf’s main priorities include implementing an extraction tax to help fund public schools.

Local politics is also prevalent in this year’s election. Ursinus students will have the opportunity to vote in races for both State Senate and State House.

Running for State Senate are Republican John J. Rafferty, Jr. and Democrat Kathi Cozzone. Rafferty, the incumbent, states on his website that his legislative priorities include increasing funding for Pennsylvania’s infrastructure, reducing property taxes and ensuring quality care for seniors.

Cozzone lists her priorities as increasing funding for education and reforming state government by increasing accessibility to voting and cutting expensive perks for legislators. She also expresses support for the extraction tax proposed by Wolf.

Finally, students will get to vote for a representative to the larger State House of Representatives.

Republican Mike Vereb and Democrat David McKenzie are fighting to represent the 150th legislative district where Ursinus sits.

On Oct. 25, Ursinus students, alumni, and staff celebrated homecoming on a bright, sunny day. The festivities included a football game, food and beverage tents, alumni reunions, and activities for the kids.

International Perspective

Halloween compared to other international holidays

Joao Angelotto
joaoangelotto@ursinus.edu

When I walked into Target and saw three entire aisles of Halloween products, a variety of orange, black and purple candies, costumes and other decorative items, I knew Halloween was indeed a really important date for Americans.

From some movies I used to watch as a child in Brazil, I had the basic idea of what it was like: kids dressed up like scary characters knocked on their neighbors’ doors asking for chocolates and other sweets and repeating the words “trick or treat.” I could not have been more jealous of them because it was a chance to get free candy. At that time I really wished my country had Halloween as a holiday.

Despite my childhood candy cravings, Halloween seemed pointless to me as I grew up. I never have fully understood why Americans were so passionate about this holiday and about everything that comes along with it, like pumpkin carving.

This is not shocking if you take into consideration the fact that my country lacks many of the aspects of Halloween, starting with the absence of pumpkins and other seasonal differences.

Thinking about it, I noticed that Halloween is in fact related to a holiday in Brazil that can be called Memorial Day, in which people remember their loved ones that are already gone by visiting and adorning their graves with flowers.

Expanding it to other places, Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is celebrated in Mexico at the same time of the year as Halloween, and involves rituals to pray and remember the family members who have died.

As a foreign student, I am able to live in another country and to realize holidays that occur in different countries are a form of exploring different cultures and the way people express their beliefs and continue with their traditions.

Could you imagine a Christmas without winter, cozy sweaters or a real Christmas tree? Well, that is what actually happens in Brazil, where all the pine trees are made of plastic and poor Santa Claus has to bear high temperatures from the summer in the Southern hemisphere.

Comparatively, it is really hard, if not impossible, to find two different countries that celebrate Christmas the same way, since it has a religious value.

This is true for almost every holiday, including Easter, Mother’s day, and Valentine’s Day, for example.

Another aspect of this topic that is important to consider is that some countries have unique holidays that come from their own culture and that are not shared with any other county.

Brazil is famous for Carnival, a 5-day long holiday in which Brazilians celebrate dancing samba and having fun in the streets before the beginning of Lent.

Americans go out to parks, have barbecues, and watch fireworks in the sky on their Independence Day, which has made them known around the world for their patriotism.

I am still scared of how my first Halloween will be, mostly because I do not know what to expect it from. One thing I know is that it is going to be a completely different experience, and I am ready to make the most of it. Isn’t it what studying abroad is all about? Well, wish me good luck. Or should I wait for Saint Patrick’s Day to ask for it?

Author Bio

Joao Angelotto is an international student from Fortaleza, Brazil. He is a biology major and a member of the UC Men’s Swimming Team.
The Colonial Theatre facade circa 1958. The theatre is famous for being the location of scenes from the 1957 movie The Blob.

The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville

Steve Valverde
stvalverde@ursinus.edu

The Colonial Theatre is a large vintage theatre located in the heart of downtown Phoenixville. The theatre has been continuously operating and attracting guests since the turn of the 20th century. It is the only functioning large vintage theatre located in the heart of downtown Phoenix-County.

The Colonial Theatre draws in so many viewers because we screen such a wide variety of diverse films from classics to fright night films and also due to the fact that we are the theatre associated with the 1950’s thriller ‘The Blob’,” said Colonial Theatre patrons services manager, LuAnn Roth.

The Theatre currently shows art and independent films seven nights a week, including classic films and movies for young audiences. It also serves as a theatre for live performances such as comedy acts, concerts and community events.

The theatre was opened in 1903 by proprietor Harry Brownback. Brownback worked at a pottery plant, which caught fire and closed in 1901. Out of work, he decided to pursue his dream to construct a theater allowing viewers to have the opportunity to see stage shows right in town.

The Colonial was originally home to vaudeville acts and musicals. The first stage show opened on Sept. 5, 1903 with the internationally acclaimed actor Fred E. Wright starring in the musical “The Beauty Doctor.”

The Great Houdini performed at the Colonial in 1915, where he freed himself from a burglar-proof safe in front of three hundred spectators. The theatre purchased a Wurlitzer organ in 1917 to accompany silent films and to be used for organ recitals.

In 1957, Good News Productions produced “The Blob” starring Steve McQueen. Scenes from the movie were filmed inside the Colonial Theatre. There is a scene in the film where everyone runs out of the theatre in mass hysteria due to the blob. During this scene, an exterior shot of the Colonial Theatre marquee and facade are visible. In the movie, the Colonial marquee announces that the theatre is “healthfully air conditioned.”

In the mid-1990s, the Colonial Theatre was renovated and restored for use as a community theater after the formation of the Association for the Colonial Theatre (ACT). The group’s mission was to reopen the Colonial by establishing a board, conducting market research and developing business plans.

In 2005, the ACT refurbished the outer façade of the theatre reminiscent of the 1950’s, when “The Blob” made the theatre famous.

Today, the Colonial Theatre continues to show classic movies as well as low budget independent films and family movies.

According to the Colonial Theatre website, every Sunday at 12:30 p.m., visitors have the opportunity to tour the old building and hear stories about the theater.

“My favorite part of the theatre is the main auditorium,” said Roth. “It is just so ornate and beautiful.”

During the summer, the theatre hosts “Blob Fest,” an event filled with many festivities including food, games and a street fair outside the theater, culminating with a showing of “The Blob” at midnight. During Halloween, the theater hosts “Fright Night,” featuring classic horror cult films.

Viewers are drawn to Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville

Recent alum discusses life after undergrad

Andrew Mackin
amackin@ursinus.edu

“The personal relationships with professors is really what helped me transition into the real world,” said Sam Stortz, a graduate of the Ursinus class of 2013.

Eighteen months after graduating, Stortz is now living on his own, and believes that his education at Ursinus helped him get to where he is now.

Stortz, a business and economics major, now works for a software company in Upper Dublin, Pa. The close-knit relationships that some professors share with their students are something special, according to Stortz.

“I had a great relationship with my advisor Eric Gaus,” Stortz said. “I would meet with him on a weekly basis, usually to work on my capstone.”

These weekly meetings with his advisor prepared Stortz for the weekly meetings he now has with his boss.

“Every Friday my boss calls me into his office, and we discuss my plans for the future week,” Stortz said. “I can thank [Gaus] and Ursinus for preparing me for those meetings.”

The professors made themselves available to students a lot, and those meetings can help prepare students for professional meetings, Stortz said.

Stortz now works for SofterWare, a company that he interned with while at Ursinus. He was recently promoted to marketing coordinator, and referenced his good relationship with his boss as the reason for his promotion. He can also thank Ursinus for connecting him with SofterWare to begin with.

“I was put in contact with Soft­erWare through an Ursinus connection and now I work full-time there,” said Stortz. “I'm very lucky to have a stable job this soon after college.”

Stortz recently moved out of his home in Upper Dublin to a house in Manayunk. This move had been planned months ago. He believes this move was his final step to becoming fully independent.

“The move was pretty seamless,” Stortz said. “It brings me back to my time at college, but definitely not Reinert.”

During his time at Ursinus,
Student interns at Disney World

Rayleen Rivera Harbach
rriveraharbach@ursinus.edu

Pulling off the old-time wild west in full authentic costume, a real western accent and only a pocket watch to tell time was the reality for Lindsay Flor during the fall semester of 2013.

Walking around Walt Disney World as a character in Disney's Frontierland was a typical day for Flor, a senior media and communications major and film and english double minor at Ursinus College. She got the exclusive behind the scenes experience in Disney World and saw how all the magic is made as her ILE internship.

At Ursinus, every student has to fulfill their Independent Learning Experience (ILE) requirement in order to graduate.

Fulfilling the ILE requirement includes doing research with an Ursinus professor, a study abroad program, student teaching or an internship. Many students at Ursinus actually end up doing more than one ILE requirement.

Jill Fazzini, the Career and Professional Development office manager, said the amount of students who do internships vary. During the fall and spring semesters there are less students doing internships whereas during the summer there are close to 180.

Students can find more information about an internship experience by dropping into the Career and Professional Development Office.

Flor decided to get her ILE fulfillment by applying for the fall 2013 Walt Disney World Internship in Orlando, Florida. She became interested in the Disney Internship after a friend of her mother brought it to her attention. This was a dream come true for Flor.

The Disney program encourages students to do an internship in the parks while simultaneously taking classes at the Disney University for more hands on experience and insight to what Disney is all about.

Flor took two courses along with her internship in Florida. The first was called creativity and innovation, which was a critical thinking class where students learned creative advertising and marketing strategies.

Then she also took a leadership course which dealt with taking charge in any role of a company and the management side of business.

As far as the internship responsibilities went, Flor was an attractions attendant at Big Thunder Mountain Railroad in Frontierland. She had to talk and dress the part of an old-time westerner. "Howdy ya'll" and "buccaneers" were common terms she used on a daily basis.

"Even though that field experience isn't directly related to my major which is media and communications, working for Disney itself is related to my major," said Flor. "You're not seen as just a worker, you're seen as a performer on a stage because all of Disney World is seen as a show."

At Disney World, any time an employee was out in the park and on duty they were performing. The term is emotional labor, which means you are working as well as advertising the company at all times.

Disney wants their workers to embody their image and instill the values that are held at such a high standard to the Disney brand. The Disney attendants are even taught certain terms and gestures which they say and do all the time. As an employee your job is to sell the company.

Some of Flor's job perks included seeing the planning and executing of Magic Kingdom's fireworks display, seeing the decorating of the castle for Christmas, company tours, exclusive access to the attractions after hours, and buckling celebrities into roller coasters while staying composed.

Disney also owns ESPN, ABC and Marvel, so jobs and internships within the company could range from being a character in one of the Disney parks to being a productions assistant on ABC network's show "The View."

"Working in the college program at Disney gets students in the system," said Flor. "There is a website for Disney employees. I now have access to it, and can see what other jobs or internships are available within the company. It is a huge advantage going to the Disney University because now I am in the system and have a profile. When the employers are looking to fill positions within the company they don't even have to interview me because they can see my information, past experience in the company and references."

Now as a Disney University alumnus, Flor can apply to exclusive jobs and internships that are only available to the alumni of this program.

Those professional jobs and internships are anything from public relations positions, production positions, and entertainment positions. These all lead to full-time positions in the company.

Stortz was a member of the cross country team and track team. He was team captain his senior year. "I really learned how to manage my time while running at Ursinus," Stortz said. "I was in season year-round, which requires more focus than you would think."

Stortz had to learn about time management to be successful at sports and his academics at Ursinus. He translated this skill that he acquired into his job after college.

Time management is crucial in an office setting, according to Stortz.

Running in college has had lasting effects on Stortz as well. He now runs in his free time, and completed his first half-marathon last Sunday. "It's nice to have running as a hobby, especially because it's a healthy hobby, and it's free," said Stortz.

Stortz is currently training for the Philadelphia marathon.

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**Happening on Campus**

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<td>Halloween Pause for Paws</td>
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<td>Peace Corps and City Year information session</td>
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<td>Island Biogeography of the Anthropocene</td>
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Must Halloween costumes for women be sexy?

Allie Cook
aicook@ursinus.edu

I love Halloween just like the next person. Free candy, haunted houses, and decorations and then there are the costumes. Oh yes the costumes. Halloween is the one day where you can dress up and be whoever you want: a pirate, an army person, and even a pig. Or maybe I should properly say that men can dress-up and be whatever they want.

Women are held under the societal constraints that whatever their costumes portray must be “sexy”: a sexy pirate, a sexy army woman, and a sexy pig. It is almost as if society expects us to wear as little clothing as possible on the one night where we are allowed to “dress-up.”

Not only is it a problem that these costume choices are sending out the message that women aren’t sexy unless they are wearing revealing clothes, it is also really offensive. There are plenty of women in the army who fight for our county every day. Yet people think a great Halloween costume is to have the “sexy army woman.” The skirt is extremely short and she barely has a shirt on and is wearing flats.

On the other hand the men’s army costume consists of army pants, big army boots, an army jacket, and utility belt with a fake gun. Not only are these costumes completely unequal but it is as if we are making fun of women in the army when they are putting their life on the line every day to keep us safe.

Last month Emma Watson, now a U.N. Women Goodwill Ambassador, launched her “HeForShe” program, in an attempt to have more males as “advocates for ending the inequalities women and girls face globally.” I believe this is a step in the right direction, because as of now it has seemed that feminism is only a woman problem. But feminism is a problem for the whole entire world. Until women can function equally in society, society will never truly function properly.

In her speech at the U.N. headquarters talking about feminism Watson said, “why is the word feminism such an uncomfortable one? I am from Britain and think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and decision-making of my country. I think it is right that socially I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights.”

Although Halloween costumes seem like a miniscule ordeal compared to equal pay and political decision making, I believe it is just as important. Until everyone can see men and women have equality in everyday activities, then no progress can be made with larger ordnals.

For me this whole costume fiasco takes the fun out of dressing up. Instead of dressing up for what you want to be for Halloween it seems that society has shifted so we should dress up for how people are expecting us to dress up -- and that is not the point of Halloween. Hopefully soon we will reach a point where a woman can walk into a Halloween store and pick out whatever costume she wants without feeling like she needs to be sexy in order to be accepted.

Occupy movement in Hong Kong persists

Chinese government blocks media coverage of protests

Yongshi Li
yoli@ursinus.edu

Since September, Hong Kong University students and professors joined non-violent sit-ins outside of the Hong Kong government headquarters. Their protests were an expression of their disagreement with the Beijing government stepping into Hong Kong’s election of the chief executive.

While the Beijing government wanted to handpick candidates to hold the positions, Hong Kong was aiming for open elections. This conflict received international attention when Hong Kong police started to use pepper spray and tear gas toward peaceful and innocent protesters.

What news that has been covered in overseas media struck a balance between voices from different sides, voices from student leaders, student protesters, government leaders, pro-communists and people who are against the pro-democracy movement. There has been an unusual variety of opinion covered by the media.

On the other hand, news that appeared in mainland China was more of a single tune. I was so surprised to find out during the early stage of Hong Kong’s protest that there was barely news coverage on the major search engine in Mainland China: Baidu.

The scene of Hong Kong protesters pouring on to streets was interpreted as Hong Kong’s people going out to celebrate China’s National Day in advance. What was really happening then was blocked from people in mainland China. Later, Instagram was blocked as well, along with sensitive key words such as “umbrella revolution.”

If people tried to post something containing information about the protests, some popular phone applications would prevent them from doing so.

As a result, people in mainland China had no way of knowing what was happening unless they had a personal contact in Hong Kong.

News restriction is one of the reasons why people from mainland China have a low interest in Hong Kong’s protest, unlike newsreaders in Taiwan or America. However, there are reasons related to media contributing to this indifference.

Under different political systems, it is not rare that Hong Kong people and people from mainland China develop different opinions, customs, and maybe some conflicts. Newspapers from mainland China and Hong Kong exaggerated the conflicts somehow during the long-term coverage. As a result, misunderstanding between them continues to grow.

There are articles published in mainland China that says Hong Kong residents are ungrateful for all the support and benefits that the Beijing government gives them. And Hong Kong suffers greatly once the supports are gone.

Personally, I cannot agree with this statement. Mainland China does provide vegetables, electricity and so on to Hong Kong, but not for free. Hong Kong citizens are paying for all the goods at a fair price.

“There is nothing to be grateful for. There are always mutual benefits between mainland and Hong Kong’s exchanges. Hong Kong contributes a lot to the mainland’s economic development as well,” said Isaac Hui, a translation professor at Hong Kong Lingnan University, who also joined the protest.

Overseas news coverage plays an essential part in the success of Hong Kong’s protest. It helped the world put the spotlight on Hong Kong, which gave protesters more confidence and support, as well as adding pressure to both Hong Kong government and Beijing government. As the world is watching, government needs to think back and forth what to do and what not to do. President Xi in Beijing said it was not ok to use violence to disperse protesters, which was an outcome partly due to media pressure.

When asked about the influence of western media, Hui had a more complicated view. “Over the years, they have turned a blind eye to Hong Kong’s situation. Most westerners’ concerns are the so-called business opportunity and economic prosperity in the mainland. It’s good that they finally care, but it might be too little, too late,” said Hui.

No matter how little the influence is, one cannot deny media does a lot in spreading the news about Hong Kong and gathering attention. How media depicts the news affects people’s opinions toward it and how they react to it.
Local athlete Stong giving field hockey a scoring spark

Drae Lewis
dlewis@ursinus.edu

Leaving for college can often times be a big transition that most high school students will experience after graduation. A new environment can seem as if a journey now awaits but for Danielle Stong, home is where she belonged. Now in her junior year, Stong couldn't be happier about making her decision to attend Ursinus College and play field hockey for the Bears.

"All of my best friends here are on my team and we are very close. There is always someone there to pick you up when needed which is nice. I really enjoy it here," said Stong.

The recent Boyertown graduate was recruited to play field hockey here after being recognized for her talents on a local club team within the area.

"Danielle was part of a local club team called High Sticks; a lot of the players are from this area. We were able to watch her play at many different events. In fact, my assistant coach has worked with that club team in the past as well and still does. With that connection, we got to know Danielle," said women's head field hockey coach Janelle Benner.

Familiarity within the coaching staff seemed to be a perfect match. Not to mention, the supporting cast also played a huge role in Stong's decision to attend UC.

"Our assistant coach currently was actually my first coach at the local high school here so that helped and it was basically all comfort coming here. It's small and very home like, I like the close relationships I heard about making here. Also, my high school coach also went to Ursinus and told me about the program and that I would be a great fit here," said Stong.

Playing a college sport and living close to home does have some benefits. Due to the short distance of travel, Stong is often greeted with a local group of fans and is never too far away from a home game.

The men's and women's swimming teams are seen here practicing on Monday, Oct. 27. The women's team begins their Centennial Conference title defense on Nov. 1 at Dickinson.

Diving into 2014-15 slate

Drae Lewis
dlewis@ursinus.edu

A perfect season has to be just about every athlete's dream. It signifies teamwork, practice, and an incredible amount of discipline. Last year the women's swimming team captured an impressive 11-0 record and won the Centennial Conference.

"Last season was like a fairy tale for any athlete. A perfect record, beating our rivals, and winning our champion meet, it was amazing," said Chelsea Kozior, one of this year's captains. "We worked really hard, had an awesome team, and had great support. Everything just fell into place for us and it was unforgettable."

This year, the team hopes to feed off of the energy from last year's performance.

"I think that last season really all started with the end of the season before. Our championship meet came down to the final relay," said head coach Mark Feinberg. "We came up just short and it was something that really motivated the team last year."

With the first meet this Saturday, Nov. 1 at Dickinson, the team is working hard to continue their regular season winning streak.

"This year, we have the same goal of winning again and we are putting the work into making sure that happens. Every team in the conference is now after us like we were after them last year. We have the team to pull through and have a very good season this year," said junior swimmer Conrine Capodanno.

Unlike recent years, Ursinus Women's Swimming is taking over the conference and gaining a lot of attention from within. The turnaround speaks volumes to the coaching staff and athletes that the school has produced over the past decade.

"When I started ten years ago, we were dead last. At that time recruiting was very difficult but you know, as you start working your way up towards the top of a conference and start winning meets you can attract better swimmers," said Feinberg.

With a new mindset, the team this year is experiencing a new perspective. At the same time, these ladies are ready to swim.

"It's a very different battle now we are fighting in years past. Instead of hunting, we are the hunted. And this is an extremely competitive conference so we are pushing a boulder uphill. That being said, we're putting in a lot of work and doing really well in practice. We're really looking forward to competing," said Kozior.

Aside from practices and winning, the team atmosphere continues to grow outside of the pool as well. The strong culture and bond amongst the team really is something that the team seems to enjoy.

"My teammates are like my family and I do almost everything with them. Without them and without the drive that we give each other, we would not have done as well as we could have. We want everyone to do extremely well, because in the end, each individual swim, whether good or bad, has an effect on the team," said Capodanno.

More importantly than the goal setting inside the pool, there is also a lot of focus regarding what happens in the classroom too.

"Our biggest goal has nothing to do with the water. Our biggest goal is we want to continue to be academic All American; every

cooked meal.

"Even though I don't go home a lot, I like having the option to do so. My family gets to come to every home game and they have been to every away game too. I also really like having a support system because it's not just my immediate family who come to the games. Old neighbors that live in the area and even my uncle and cousin come which is great," said Stong.

Having spent time on campus as a child, the experiences were too much to pass by later in life.

"I actually grew up in Collegeville. I didn't go to Boyertown all my life. I used to play a lot of intramural basketball games here I was on the campus a lot and I would even come to the field hockey games here too," said Stong.

"I really like it here at Ursinus," Stong said. "I would recommend for people to come here for sure, even if they are local within the area."

Swimming continued from pg. 7

season, every year and we did that last year," said Feinberg.

Good teams are led by great leaders. Good teams are also led by great student athletes. The combination between the coaches and students on the schools swimming roster seems to be molding together nicely.

"I think my focus, as well as every other coach at Ursinus, is the student achievement," said Coach Feinberg. "Swimming is a great sport because you have both team and individual. The team has goals, which we talk about but we also want to push for individual goals which is sending kids to nationals. We certainly have kids who can do that this year."

Upcoming Schedule:

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JON VANDER LUGT JOVANDERLUGT@URSINUS.EDU

From walk-on to starter, Hans Seri is excelling on defense for the Bears

Gerard Brown
gebrown@ursinus.edu

Gnoleba (Hans) Seri is a junior starting defenseman for the Ursinus College men's soccer team while also wrestling for Ursinus. He stands at 5-foot-7 inches, and weighs in at 169 pounds. His freshman year he started off as a walk-on trying to make the soccer team.

When he came to the first practices when school started he felt a bit out of place. "I felt like an outsider since I wasn't there for the preseason work outs and practices," said Seri.

At first glance, head coach Kyle Rush stated his impression of Seri was that "he was physically impressive." This young man has worked very hard to get to his starting position on the soccer field, and has earned the respect of his teammates as well.

Seri stated, "After making the team I became closer to the guys. That's when I found myself playing the way I really wanted to."

Off the field his teammates realize his work ethic as well.

"He lifts more than anybody on the team and isn't the biggest guy on the team," said junior captain Jesse Hart. "He plays against some of the best forwards in the conference and wins his matchups."

Seri understands that being physically talented can only take one but so far. "I had to improve on understanding soccer," he stated. "In college you always have to be thinking while playing."

Although he has become a key player on the starting lineup for the men's soccer team he has never stopped working. "His mentality and work ethic are unmatched," coach Rush stated. "He is always excited to do the work and never acts as if he is above the work. That type of mentality has spread throughout the team."

Seri made it clear that this change in work ethic happened after his sophomore year. It wasn't the best year for him athletically and he could've been putting more effort in when he worked out.

"I had to learn how to take care of my body doing two sports," said Seri.

His change in his work ethic hasn't gone unnoticed by anyone on his team. Coach Rush stated that Seri "single handedly gives an identity defensively. He's a tough kid and other players are intimidated by him because of how physically fit he is."

This is also a big year for Ursinus men's soccer team. They have the ability to possibly finish with back-to-back .500 or better record which hasn't been done in a few years.

There has been improvement as years have gone by for the soccer team. "The team since I have been here has become more devoted on and while doing work out sessions," said Seri. "Our goal is to be tougher than all the teams."

Seri is seen here in the Bears' homecoming match against McDaniel on Oct. 25. Ursinus prevailed in the crucial conference match 3-2, and at 3-3-2 in the Centennial, are in position to clinch a spot in the conference playoffs.