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Photo courtesy of College Communications

Suzanne Fong will receive an honorary degree, along with her late husband Bobby Fong, at this year's graduation ceremony.

Fongs to receive honorary degrees

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For faculty and students at Ursinus, the recent passing of Dr. Bobby Fong came as a shock.

With the appointment of Dr. Terry Winegar (the previous dean of the college and vice president of academic affairs, as interim president) the administration has been working constantly to keep moving forward, while still demonstrating the immense gratitude that they feel towards Dr. Fong for his work at Ursinus.

In preparation for the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2015 to be held on May 15, Suzanne Fong has been recognized and asked to give a speech in order to provide the graduating class and those in attendance with a unique perspective that the faculty feel only she can offer.

"After the day that Bobby died, we saw a real power in her presentation and in her message to the community and it became clear that she was the obvious person to give a commencement address under those circumstan-

es," said Dr. Winegar, who played a key role in the decision to have Suzanne speak at graduation.

At Ursinus, it is customary for the individuals asked to speak at the baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies to receive honorary diplomas from the school as a form of recognition.

Given the unusual circumstances however, this year the college will be awarding two honorary degrees.

One will be given to Suzanne, and the other given symbolically to Dr. Bobby Fong with the notion being that the two of them can graduate with the class that they came in with.

"I think it is an honor to Bobby as well as me, I think what really touches me is the idea that we kind of get to graduate with our class" said Suzanne Fong.

Uncharacteristically they will be awarded baccalaureate degrees as opposed to doctorates so as to receive the same recognition as the class of 2015.

Suzanne's role on campus has been significant since Dr. Fong took his position in 2011.

"The 'non-job' job of president's spouse is a hard one to define. It sounds like a lot of small things, but it adds up to a 20 to 30 hour a week job," said Suzanne.

Taking part in college fundraising, communications with the faculty and students on campus, and the organization of all of the president's events, the job of spouse to the president may be described as "behind the scenes, paying attention to various members of the campus community."

Because of the nature of Suzanne's role on campus, her message will be one of resilience.

"It's not very traditional to have a campus spouse speak because it's one of those jobs that doesn't have to be done but it makes the campus a somewhat more comfortable and welcoming place when it is done," said Suzanne.

Suzanne says that she hopes to

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UC partners with community college

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Ursinus is close to finalizing a formal partnership with Montgomery County Community College that would make it easier for students to transfer to Ursinus.

The partnership, which is officially called an articulation agreement, would specify what students at Montgomery County need to do to gain admission to Ursinus.

"Why one would do this is that it makes it real clear to students what their benefits are," said vice president of enrollment Rick DiFeliciano.

Ursinus only grants transfer credit for courses equivalent to ones they offer, which can be hard for a prospective transfer student to know.

The articulation agreement would list the specific courses that are transferable, guarantee that transfer students will be able to access housing information and make it known that they are able to participate fully in any activity at Ursinus that four-year students can.

"This agreement specifies all this, it says 'don't worry'," said DiFeliciano.

Montgomery County Community College already has a number of articulation agreements with other colleges and universities in the area. Temple, Drexel, Bucknell and others have specific partnerships with the college that smooth the transfer process into their programs.

According to DiFeliciano, Temple's program is the largest, often welcoming 400 or so transfer students a year. While Ursinus wouldn't have as large of a number, DiFeliciano said that "we would love to see ten or twenty students a year coming here from there, it's in everyone's best interest as long as they know the rigor that is required on the academic

side."

In order to compete with the other programs, Ursinus' articulation agreement would likely guarantee some sort of scholarship to transfer students.

One component of the agreement would be to offer a CIE-type class to students at Montgomery County who are interested in transferring.

CIE is not offered anywhere other than Ursinus, and therefore transfer students cannot come in with that requirement fulfilled on their transcript. Another possible option would be offering classes at Ursinus for Montgomery County students so that they could get a sense of the culture at Ursinus.

Amy Kolesnik, a student at Gwynedd Mercy University, had originally hoped to transfer to Ursinus from Montgomery County Community College after receiving her associate's degree.

"I had a really hard time finding out what scholarships and financial aid would be available to me as well," said Kolesnik.

She eventually was told that she wouldn't have an admission decision until May or June, which, according to Kolesnik, is after the deadline to commit to most other schools.

"Their decision didn't come until June 15. Some of my emails went totally unanswered," said Kolesnik.

Vivian Viera, a current sophomore at Ursinus, had a similar experience when transferring here from Brookdale Community College. Viera had the goal of transferring to a four-year school after taking a number of core requirements at community college. While Brookdale had an articulation agreement with Rutgers University, Viera decided to apply to Ursinus. Like Kolesnik,

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Merit scholarships increase because of higher tuition

The final installment of a three-part investigation into the cost of an Ursinus education

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The amount of money awarded for merit scholarships will increase for incoming freshman next year.

The highest valued merit scholarships are being increased from \$30,000 to \$32,000 because of the recent increase in tuition, according to Rick DiFeliciantonio, the vice president for enrollment.

"We'll bump up all the merit awards by about a thousand dollars," he said.

Merit scholarships don't increase every year, so why was the decision made to increase them this year as opposed to last year or the year before?

"We reassess the merit award every two or three years," DiFeliciantonio said. "We decided this

year that it was time to readjust to make sure the merit award is keeping pace with the increases in tuition. We hadn't had an increase in the merit award for a few years."

For the 2015-2016 school year, the total cost of tuition is increasing by 3.5 percent. "When we go up two or three percent in tuition that could be a few thousand extra dollars added on, and the merit award begins to look less attractive relative to the price," DiFeliciantonio said.

Currently, the smallest merit scholarships awarded are usually around \$10,000, and about three fourths of students at Ursinus receive merit scholarships, according to DiFeliciantonio.

"We're not going to be able to get the top notch students when costs go up unless we increase merit awards," said Susan Spar-

row, director of scholarships and financial aid. "Merit scholarships have a lot to do with marketability: we look at how much we have to increase our scholarships to make us marketable compared to other schools."

Although merit scholarships are increasing for incoming freshmen because of higher tuition costs, any students who are already enrolled here will not be receiving any additional merit money, according to DiFeliciantonio.

"When kids come here they're just thinking about the cost per semester and the amount of money they receive through scholarships or loans. They don't consider that as they go on in their college careers they'll have to pay more and more every time tuition is hiked up," said Dylan Stephens, a sophomore. "The concept of providing

scholarships, which are essentially tuition discounts, that don't increase proportionally to tuition, just seems a bit sly."

"We made the decision not to alter merit awards each year, but to save the money we'd use for that and instead use it for need-based appeals," said DiFeliciantonio. "We use that money to help parents in need, like those who've just lost jobs or have another kid starting college."

Merit scholarships are determined by the Admissions Office. The amount of money students receives for these scholarships depends on the GPA, the quality of the high schools they attended, the rigor of the courses they've taken, and their involvement in extracurricular activities.

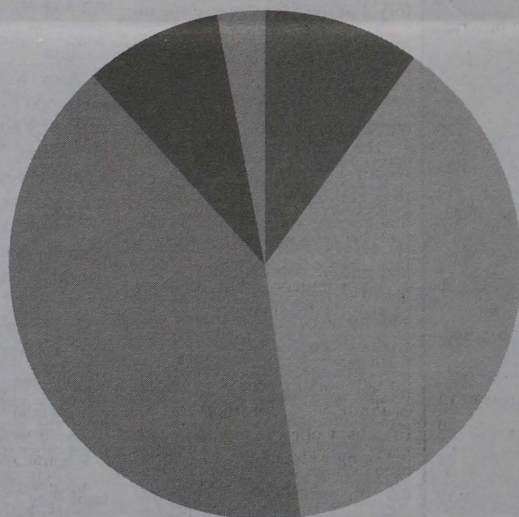
SAT scores also do not affect the amount of scholarship money a student receives.

"The SAT is not something we require here, so we don't think it's fair to advantage or disadvantage a student who chooses to send in scores," DiFeliciantonio said.

Ursinus also considers leadership positions when determining the amount of merit money for students' scholarships. Leadership positions include sports captains, editors, leads in plays, leaders of clubs, or student council presidents.

"These are the things that map to success in college; it shows commitment, dedication and perseverance," DiFeliciantonio said. "If students don't stay involved during their college careers, no matter how smart they are, there are at risk for not staying at that school. We don't just want to admit students here; we want to admit students who are going to stay."

How much of the student body receives certain amounts of aid per year? (2013-14 academic year)



- \$10,000 and under (9.90%)
- \$10,001 - \$15,000 (37.90%)
- \$15,001 - \$20,000 (40.50%)
- \$20,001 - \$25,000 (8.7%)
- greater than \$25,000 (3.0%)

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she didn't receive a decision until after the deadline to commit to the other school she was accepted to had passed. "It was a big risk because if I didn't get in, I was kind of stuck," said Viera.

"That's actually not the norm," said DiFeliciantonio. He added that "it's not surprising that we've stubbed our toes, that's one of the reasons to do this," referring to the articulation agreement. Increased partnership between the two institutions would likely help for the schedules and deadlines to be more in sync. "The more students there are, the more we get used to each other's schedules," said DiFeliciantonio.

The articulation agreement is in its final draft stages and will likely be finalized by both institutions in the next few months.

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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Changes to Title IX brought changes to sexual assault documentation

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There has been a change in the way sexual assaults are documented on Ursinus' campus. This change has caused the number of reported "sexual assaults" to rise in the annual crime report, which is published in October of each year and has crime statistics for the last three years.

Previously, the documentation included "sexual assault forcible", which included rape, and "sexual assault non-forcible", which included things like statutory rape and incest. Now, fondling is also included in sexual assault forcible.

There has also been a new group created, which includes dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. These three things were not documented under sexual assault previously.

The changes were made after the "Dear Colleague" letter was sent out in 2011. The Dear Colleague letter was sent out to colleges and universities in 2011, and described protocol for how universities should handle cases of that related to gender discrimination, which includes sexual assault.

After the letter, schools were expected to be more transparent with what was happening on their campuses, which is why fondling, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking are now documented under Title IX.

Kim Taylor, Title IX coordinator, says the increase in number is an effect of the documentation standards. This does not necessar-

ily mean that more people are being assaulted, it means that more people are reporting and more incidents are being documented.

"I personally do not believe that in previous years that number was significantly lower," Taylor said, "I just think that people did not know how to report it or did not report it."

Taylor went on to say that she believes the documented numbers are still not completely accurate because of students who don't report an incident of sexual assault, whether that be due to fear or embarrassment or any other factor.

"I think there are a number of reasons for people not reporting," Taylor said, "some people are really fearful of the fallout from reporting it. They fear retaliation, they fear, on a small campus like Ursinus, being socially ostracized, they fear that nobody is going to believe them."

When a student does report an assault, the claim eventually gets to Taylor, who then gives the case a "case manager".

Cases are handled on an individual basis, but Taylor says the administration always tries to keep the reporter in control of what happens, unless the assailant seems like an immediate threat to campus.

The reporter can decide whether they want to take legal action or not, and can discuss all of their options with Taylor.

One of the options for a victim of sexual assault would be to talk to a Peer Advocate. The Peer Advocates are a group on campus that are dedicated to preventing sexual assault by educating stu-

dents on the issue and acting as a support system for students affected by sexual assault. The Peer Advocates can be contacted by email at peeradvocates@ursinus.edu.

Kelsey Knowles, Title IX Education Associate, says she is glad to see that people are brave enough to report incidents of assault.

"It's always concerning to see any raise in numbers, especially a serious issue like sexual assault," Knowles said, "but at the same time it's being categorized a lot differently and I'm glad that all of those people felt encouraged to report it, which is definitely a good thing."

To educate students on sexual assault and the procedures that ensue when an incident is reported, the Peer Advocates are undergoing training from a program called "Step Up!" this week.

Step Up! is a bystander intervention program that aims to encourage students to step in to any situation that they feel is unsafe. The advocates will be trained in the program, and then hopefully go on to train other students to intervene in situations instead of being a bystander. Step Up! has partnerships with schools all across the nation.

Knowles and Taylor both agree that it is best when these incidents are reported instead of ignored, that way the victim can receive available services.

"If people are reporting now or more often, it's a good thing because they are then able to get support," Taylor said.

mencement, Dr. Winegar said "I was reminded how close many of the seniors were to Bobby and Suzanne,"

"They started at Ursinus at the same time, he was the only president that they'd ever known," Winegar said. "They knew him from around campus, they all had stories to tell about him and I think they just assumed that he'd

be the one that handed them their degree and shook their hand."

He went on, "In the end, we concluded that the best way to recognize that relationship, was to give him the same degree that the seniors were going to receive."



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International Perspective

Being an international student is difficult but gratifying for Zhu

Lilith Zhu

Liberal arts aim at creating citizens who are able to take part in civic life. In other words, it aims at creating better citizens who are able to understand their place in this globalized world. Ursinus College, as a liberal arts institution, provides its students with all the skills they need to reach this goal. As a college where students are learning how to live in a globalized world, and more importantly, to have better critical thoughts, Ursinus students need to learn about different cultures; and for that reason each year there is a higher number of international students who are now part of the Ursinus community. In fact, this year, Ursinus College welcomed the highest number of international students in its history. For me, being one of the international students has been one of the most gratifying but difficult experiences of my life.

Most students would agree that adjusting to all the changes of college life is difficult and daunting, but for international students these tasks are even harder. I remember how much I struggled in my classes my first semester at UC; not understanding anything from my CIE class was just one of the situations I faced, but the hardest one was dealing with all the cultural differences.

Fortunately, for most of us, Ursinus College is well-known for being welcoming and helpful. This helped me a lot because not only were my classmates helpful, but also my professors made a great difference. From the beginning, I was encouraged to take part in classes and even though I was not confident about my English, my professor published a continuation I wrote of a fragment Sappho poem in The Grizzly.

A strong aspect of Ursinus is the special way that international students receive help to adapt. International students are not left alone to their luck; in fact they are placed in a special class called IDS-120 (Introduction to American Culture for International

Students). This class provides international students with the necessary tools to adapt to this new life; in fact this class should not be considered good only for international students. IDS class is a learning process which is not unidirectional, but reciprocal. Each international student brings his or her own unique culture and experiences and learns how to share it with the Ursinus community in the IDS class. In fact, they create a stream of new blood to diversify the culture of Ursinus and encourage American students to know more about other cultures.

The same professor who published my poem continuation provided me a great opportunity later - to join the Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI). The aim for TLI is to make classes more efficient by reflecting on a record of the professor's behavior and students' responses during a class period. As a freshman international student, I took the IDS 120 class. Last semester, I had the chance to join an IDS class again, as a TLI student consultant. I not only learned how to learn in a different aspect, but I also worked hard with the professor to eliminate misunderstanding and cultural stereotypes.

Being an international student is much more than just learning about our majors. It is learning about new cultures. It is learning how to adapt while being and doing your best. To gain new abilities is not an easy path, but there is no greater happiness after the achievement. This has not been the easiest experience, but it has been the most gratifying one.

Author Bio

Lilith (Zhehui) Zhu is an international student from Beijing, China. She is a junior with a double major in Studio Art and History. Lilith is a TLI student consultant, member of the China club and is active in the Annual Student Art Exhibition. This semester, she is studying abroad in Florence, Italy.

Fongs continued from pg: 1

address the students who aren't necessarily "bright shining stars" and tell them about what it was like for Bobby and her to be "20 and scared" and unable to imagine where life would take them.

In light of Dr. Fong's passing and in looking for ways to include the Fong family in com-

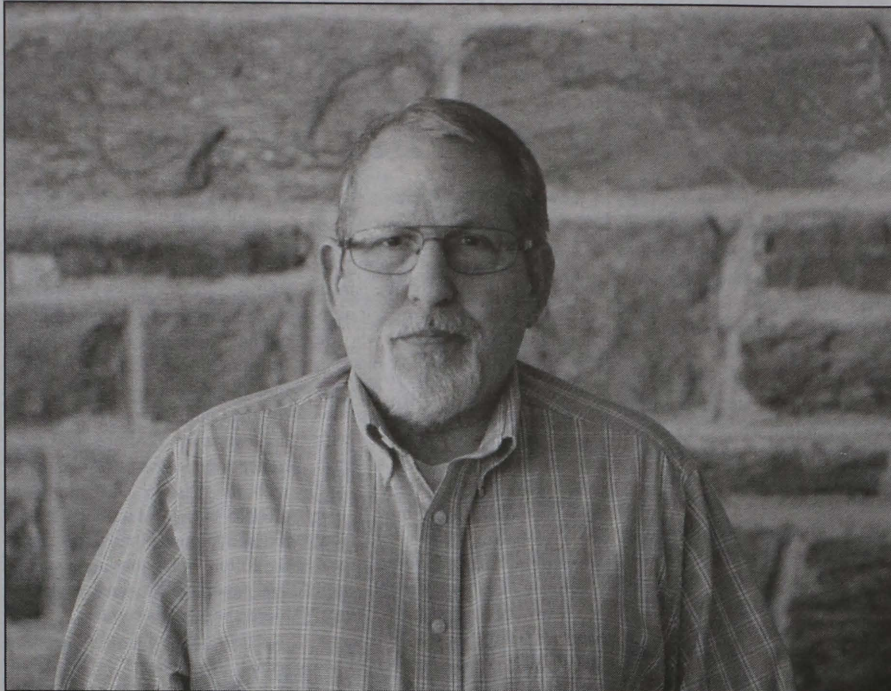


Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran.

Rick Lenker, the assistant dining room services director, has been a member of the Ursinus community since 2006. Lenker is known for his genial demeanor and his tendency to sing "Happy Birthday" to students.

Getting to know Mr. Wismer

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There you are, sitting in the middle of Wismer dining center with your cup of tomato soup, grilled cheese, and a handful of your friends. It's around noon and Wismer is jam packed with students and professors trying to grab a quick bite to eat.

You have trouble trying to hear your friend's story about Spanish class when all of a sudden a loud piercing screech of a microphone silences the cafeteria. Voices still mumble as you strain your ear towards the middle of the room to what sounds like an older male singing. Your eyes shift to the table where the sound is originating from.

There he is—the culprit of the "Happy Birthday" song, with his striped polo shirt, khaki pants, round glasses, and a smile, that you see is brightening everyone's day.

You have no idea what is going on, but you are simply a freshman, and it only takes a few more lunches and dinners at Wismer to realize that this is a normal thing,

and this man is known all over campus.

Rick Lenker, who many on campus like to call "Mr. Wismer", is assistant dining room services director of Wismer Marketplace. According to Ron Wood, general manager of Ursinus College Dining Services, Lenker oversees and manages both the dining room and the dish room personnel. Additionally, all of the special events that take place in Wismer are developed and executed with a great deal of help by Mr. Lenker.

Lenker first joined the dining service staff back in August of 2006. Since then, his friendliness, enthusiasm, and overall good spirit with everything associated with Wismer meal times have been just some of the contributing factors that have placed Lenker in the students' hearts.

Although the origins of his campus nickname seem to be a mystery, Lenker certainly does not mind being referred to as "Mr. Wismer."

"I feel it comes from a good place and that's great," said Lenker.

Our school is not the first college campus Lenker has worked

on, but he places the Ursinus community as the friendliest.

"It really does feel like a family here," said Lenker. "Everyone seems to accept and embrace each other's similarities and differences equally and that makes it a special place."

If you have not yet had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Wismer himself, he can oftentimes be found patrolling Wismer dining hall during the weekdays and at the heart of every holiday feast.

In fact, his own favorite meal at Ursinus is a tie between the Thanksgiving and winter fares. According to Lenker, the combination of the staff putting a lot of time into the preparation of the meals along with the positive feedback received makes them both very special for him.

Lenker is responsible for many of the fun events that take place at dinner time. Specifically, the pie-eating contest that happened this past November always holds a special place in his heart. A few years back, Lenker had the idea for the contest and since then, it

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Aux./Vox. prints

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Ursinus has a long literary tradition when it comes to student-published work. The Lantern has been around for over 80 years; this year's edition will come out in April. A few months ago, a new literary magazine came into being, this one entirely student-run. Brian Thomas said he and Max Bicking, Dominick Knowles, and Annie Rus all separately had interest in starting a magazine.

Thomas said, "We're all into writing and getting published, and we wanted to see the opposite side of it, and see how it worked in that sense." They came together this past November to create Aux./Vox.

The title comes from a recording term, "auxiliary vocals." Knowles was already considering it as a title before they even decided to create the magazine, according to Thomas.

The first issue of Aux./Vox. came out early this past December. That issue was entirely made up of Ursinus student work, but since then Aux./Vox. became open to submissions worldwide through the creative writing web-

sites Duotrope and Submission Grinder.

Aux./Vox. is in no way supposed to compete with The Lantern, it's just a new outlet for people, students and otherwise, to get their work out in the world, according to Thomas. "I really appreciated the chance to express myself, and specifically express some queer issues in a format where I knew it would be accepted and valued," said Jordan Ostrum, a sophomore at Ursinus, whose poem was published in the first issue of Aux./Vox.

Jon Volkmer, director of Ursinus' creative writing program and advisor to The Lantern, said he wishes there were more magazines like Aux./Vox. As The Lantern is such a large endeavor, he's glad to have a more frequent publication; that way there's always new writing circulating, and another place for students to publish their work.

Volkmer cited Aux./Vox. as part of the "spontaneous creative energy" found at Ursinus. "I'm proud to have Aux./Vox. represent

See Aux./Vox. on pg. 5

Word on the Street

What do you think about freshmen living in non-freshmen only halls?

"I think that they should live in a less nice place. Also why is that not a normal place for upperclassmen to live?" - Brittany George, 2015

"Under the circumstances, when someone needs help, we help them. It is the Ursinus way to help each other out. Not everyone involved in this incident was responsible for the cause of it." - Sydney Rotman, 2015

"I think it is kind of sad since BPS and BWC have a great sense of community. I'm not sure if the other houses have that same sense of cohesiveness." - Sam Straughn, 2017

"I'm indifferent. As freshmen, I don't think that they necessarily need the best accommodations (like New and North). However, I am glad that they found housing." - Daniel Pineda, 2017

Novelist shares her story

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Alena Graedon, author of the dystopian sci-fi novel "The Word Exchange," gave a reading last Thursday night in the Blackbox Theater. A special guest of creative writing professor Anna Maria Hong, Graedon, a native of North Carolina now based in New York, chatted with students in class and over a small dinner before heading to the Kaleidoscope.

Her novel, which is required reading in several of Hong's creative writing classes, describes a time in the near future when humanity's reliance on technology begins to degrade our very language, with disastrous psychological and philosophical consequences. In the novel, a shady company is buying up rights to definitions, a "word flu" that scrambles syntax is spreading like the plague, and the heroine Anana and her friend Bart are up to their ears in intrigue and linguistic apocalypse.

The spark behind the novel was, in fact, a literal one. In her senior year of college she lost all her books, including her dictionaries, in a house fire. "My neighbors," she recounts, "set fire to their couch." Her thesis, however, was saved only because she had been emailing it to herself as she

went along. Her parents gifted her an Oxford English Dictionary for her graduation.

"I thought, what if one of those entries disappeared?" Graedon said. "That's how the book begins, with an entry getting erased."

This was before the existence of e-readers, and the notion of deleting text in this fashion, let alone people and identities, did not yet exist. She put the idea for the novel on the creative backburner, but when she returned to it years later, "the idea of text disappearing from the page was not so fantastical."

She remembered a literary scandal in which Amazon sold people an electronic book, "1984, of all things," without actually having the rights to do so. Instead of notifying the public of the mistake, the company simply deleted the book from everyone's Kindle simultaneously and without notice, leaving a book-sized gap and a full refund on their digital bookshelf. "It freaked people out," she said.

Graedon remembered when email was not the ubiquitous note-passing it is today. Even the book as electronic text was an idea just beginning to crystallize only a decade ago. "We are part of that hinge generation, I think," Graedon said.

Many students were impressed by the technologies in the book

that, thought up years ago, bear strikingly eerie similarities to actual devices today. But for all the fulfilled prophecies in "The Word Exchange," Graedon is uncomfortable as a societal fortuneteller. It was the novel itself, she asserts, like all good science fiction, that made the predictions.

From the beginning of the writing process she included self-driving cars, a pipe-dream of scientists and traffic reporters, to indicate the futuristic setting. Now the self-driving car is a solid, albeit prototypical, reality. "Lo and behold," she said, "Google has invented every single thing I mention in the introduction."

When asked by a student how much research went into the book, Graedon laughed and said: "Too much." To lay a solid conceptual base for the novel, she consulted various experts: lexicographers, neuroscientists, even a Canadian author of a book on Hegel and language who, thanks to a long email correspondence, she was able to meet in person while on tour. Laughing, she looked back on the circuitous research process somewhat critically, insisting "You don't have to do all that."

The next visiting writer being brought to campus by Professor Hong is the poet Ida Stewart, who will be doing a reading and book-signing on Wednesday, February 25.

"I am very proud of my role in that event's success because it's so beloved here," said Lenker.

"Working around the students is the highlight of my job," said

Lenker. "There is a definite sense of community that includes the students. Plus, I love the fact that everyone puts up with my quirky sense of humor."

Aux./Vox. continued from pg. 4

sent Ursinus," he said. "I would recommend it to all prospective students. I'd give them The Lantern in one hand and Aux./Vox. in the other."

In the future, the editors of Aux./Vox. hope to expand, continue to build their web presence, and get the physical magazines distributed outside of Ursinus and more widely around campus. "We want to keep improving the quality," said Thomas, "and increase readership to get a core group of people who regularly want to read what we're doing." He said they're not sure what will happen in the long run, but he'd like to continue working on the publication after he graduates.

Aux./Vox. has a rolling submission, meaning it's always open to accept new pieces.

"We're looking for 'experimental things,'" said Thomas, "but that's ambiguous. We're looking for things a little out of the ordinary, but mostly we're looking to publish high quality writing and art."

Submissions can be sent to aux.vox.submissions@gmail.com. Both poetry and prose are welcome, though prose over two pages is generally not printed. All visual art submissions will be considered for the cover. Authors typically only have two pieces included in each issue, but there is no limit on the amount that can be submitted.

The second issue of Aux./Vox. comes out Thursday, Feb 12. The magazine is online at www.auxvoxmag.wordpress.com, and around campus in opportune locations.

Bear Prints

An Ursinus comic series by Blaise Laramee



"New library renovations. Pretty sweet, huh?"

Mr. Wismer continued from pg. 4

has dramatically gotten more and more popular.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Baden Lecture - Andrew Economopoulos, Pfahler Auditorium, 4:15 p.m.	Stuff-a-Bear, Lower Wismer, 11:00 a.m.	Bears Give Back-Southern New Jersey, Camden, 9:00 a.m.	Selling Your Value Proposition Workshop with Tom Rivers, Pfahler Auditorium, 4:00	Art Presentation and Discussion on Microaggressions, Unconscious Bias, Communication and Power, Unity House, 6:00 p.m.	Faculty Retirement Celebration, Blackbox Theater, 4:00 p.m.	Diversity Monologues
Black History Month Film and Discussion, Unity House, 6:00 p.m.	Schellhase Ethics Prize Writing Workshop, Olin 104, 12:00 p.m.		Organ Recital with Tom Morrison, Bomberger Auditorium, 4:00 p.m.		Corporate Career Chat: Pharma and Beyond, Bear's Den, 6:30 p.m.	"Dream Girl" (Dinner and a Show), Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

Main street is a growing concern for students

By Christine Palazzolo
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Situated within the small, suburban setting of our liberal arts school is a road that has remained a large, demanding issue for many years. Recently, this road has gotten even more attention, unfortunately due to the accidents that have occurred on it—startling the student body, our faculty, and the local Collegeville community.

Last semester, two students were struck by vehicles while crossing Main Street on two separate occasions, according to an email sent to the student body. The second accident occurred around the end of November and led Campus Safety to issue a campus-wide “safety alert” to “exercise caution when crossing this street.”

The discussions of safety concerns regarding Main Street date back to at least four years ago when Ursinus College and the Collegeville Borough Council joined forces in securing crosswalks along the road. Even more measures were taken by the

school and community in 2012, with the petition for Main Street’s speed limit to be reduced from 35 to 30 miles per hour and with the installation of brighter LED lights along the street. The most recent incidences from this past fall have further heightened actions taken by Ursinus College to secure student safety.

According to Kim Taylor, associate dean of students and director of Campus Safety, Ursinus is currently applying for a grant which will be used to “explore as many avenues as we [the school] can, in continuing to make Main Street a safer place to cross for pedestrians.”

Realistically however, changing anything about Main Street is a hard task to undertake, as proven by the petition that had to be signed just to get the speed limit lowered in the past. Main Street is a state road which means that Ursinus College has to constantly be keeping in touch with PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and seeking their approval for any changes want-

ing to be made concerning Main Street, according to Taylor.

The fact of the matter is that Main Street is and continues to be a problem, Ursinus administrative staff members like Kim Taylor, the Collegeville Borough Council, and Collegeville Police are regularly meeting about in order to solve. Why is it then that many students, including senior Audrey Whitebloom, who has lived on Main Street for three straight years, “[haven’t] seen any noticeable changes” regarding the street’s overall safety over her four years here?

The fact of the matter is that Main Street’s security can only improve with the combination of both legal action and with the accountability of those crossing it to be law-abiding pedestrians—for their safety and for the safety of others.

Since being informed that action has been and is still being taken by Ursinus and the Collegeville community to install all necessary options to make Main Street safer, it is our job as stu-

dents to have a heightened awareness of what the law is and what it is not. Ursinus students make up the majority of those daily pedestrians crossing the road and we must do our part to make Ursinus a safe place.

The law does not simply state that cars must yield to you, the pedestrian, just because you are standing on the sidewalk. Rather, the law states that cars must stop for pedestrians that are actively in the crosswalk as they proceed to reach the other side of Main Street.

“We have to take some personal responsibility for our safety, whether it is fair or not,” said Taylor. As a student here, I have felt the frustration myself of waiting for what it seems like years, to cross Main Street: The drivers don’t see me. Hey—now they see me, but they don’t care to stop. All they care about is going fast.

I get it. However, when it’s the issue of waiting an extra minute versus potentially, in the worst case scenario, not having another minute, take your time and wait.

Wait for the pause in cars and actually use the crosswalks, rather than trying to just run across between 6th and 9th avenue. Wait for the car to stop for you and for the car behind that one to stop for you, too.

“Are there things that we would change about drivers and about the road in an ideal world? Yes, but we can’t control those things. We should fix the things that we can control, which is how we cross the street,” said campus safety senior associate Brian Kennedy.

Take responsibility for your own safety and don’t allow a nonsensical complex over your “rights as a pedestrian” put you or anyone else in a life-threatening situation. We, as part of the Ursinus community, are fortunate enough to live in such a small setting that allows for an irreplaceable sense of unity towards each other and where we live. Let us fix then, what we can fix and in turn, uphold safety precautions to preserve the fine intimacies of this wonderful place.

Are Ursinus’ policies against weed practical?

By Jaime Bocanumenth
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The twenty-first century has brought many changes into the social sphere. While some learning institutions have been fast to adapt to these changes, others have been delayed in recognizing the changing culture of the student body. More specifically, they have had to deal with the shifts in the mindset of students regarding drug and alcohol use. Ursinus acknowledges the fact that students under the age of 21 consume alcohol through regulations such as the open container policy. Their acceptance of substances such as marijuana has remained largely traditional, however, despite its growing influence in the area.

This paradoxical stance taken by administration has caused much conjecture among Ursinus students.

Under the “Alcohol Policy” section of the student handbook,

it is made clear that the use of alcohol for students under the age of 21 is prohibited under law. It does clarify, though, by stating “the college recognizes that the use of alcohol by those under 21 is a pervasive feature of current United States society. Through a combination of counseling, discipline, and educational programming, the college endeavors to provide students with meaningful and responsible assertions about the use of alcohol.”

Here it becomes clear that although the school is aware of the law, they are open to the responsible use of the substance through “counseling, and educational programming.” Ursinus’ recognition of U.S. teenage culture is clearly appreciated by many under-21 students who wander the courtyard of Reimert yielding cans of Natural Lite.

We are fortunate enough to be part of a culture that takes changing societal norms into account.

This relaxed stance does not translate to marijuana use, however. Under the “Illegal Drugs” section of the student handbook it states: “Federal and state laws prohibit the possession, use, manufacturing, trafficking, or distribution of illegal drugs and unauthorized use of controlled substances.” The handbook does not concede and reference marijuana use as “a pervasive feature of current United States society” as it did with alcohol, however. Many would argue that marijuana use is as common as underage drinking, so for administration to avoid paralleling the two seems problematic.

Marijuana use in Pennsylvania has become even more common after Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter recently signed a bill that would decriminalize marijuana use in the city. In the bill, “Those possessing 30 grams or less of marijuana will be cited and fined \$25. Those smoking in public will

be cited and fined \$100, or made to perform nine hours of community service. Cops will also confiscate any weed they find.”

The act of smoking has essentially been normalized to the point where getting caught with weed has been paralleled to obtaining a parking ticket. The city hopes to gain revenue on the bill, while saving thousands on the long and drawn out war on marijuana. This policy was enacted on the Oct. 20, 2014.

As an institution in the greater Philadelphia area, it is surprising that Ursinus has yet to cut down on sanctions regarding marijuana. Knowing its widespread use, it would make sense to treat it on the same level as alcohol right? In order to better understand from a student perspective I sat down with junior, Erich O’Donnell. When asked about why he thought the school had such disproportionate punishments he

responded, “I think that fact that alcohol is a legal substance in the US and marijuana is not plays a huge role in that. The school is reluctant to give into something that isn’t legal yet.” He continued saying, “At the same time it’s impossible to overdose on marijuana. It’s a safe substance. Considering the recent bill passed by Mayor Nutter, administration should look towards becoming more modernized on the subject.”

I’m sure many students, including myself, agree with O’Donnell. We cannot work towards creating a safe drinking environment without creating a safe smoking environment as well. The U.S. is slowly moving towards legalization and the use of the substance is unlikely to diminish. We can only hope that administrators see this paradox and work towards more contemporary policy regarding punishment.

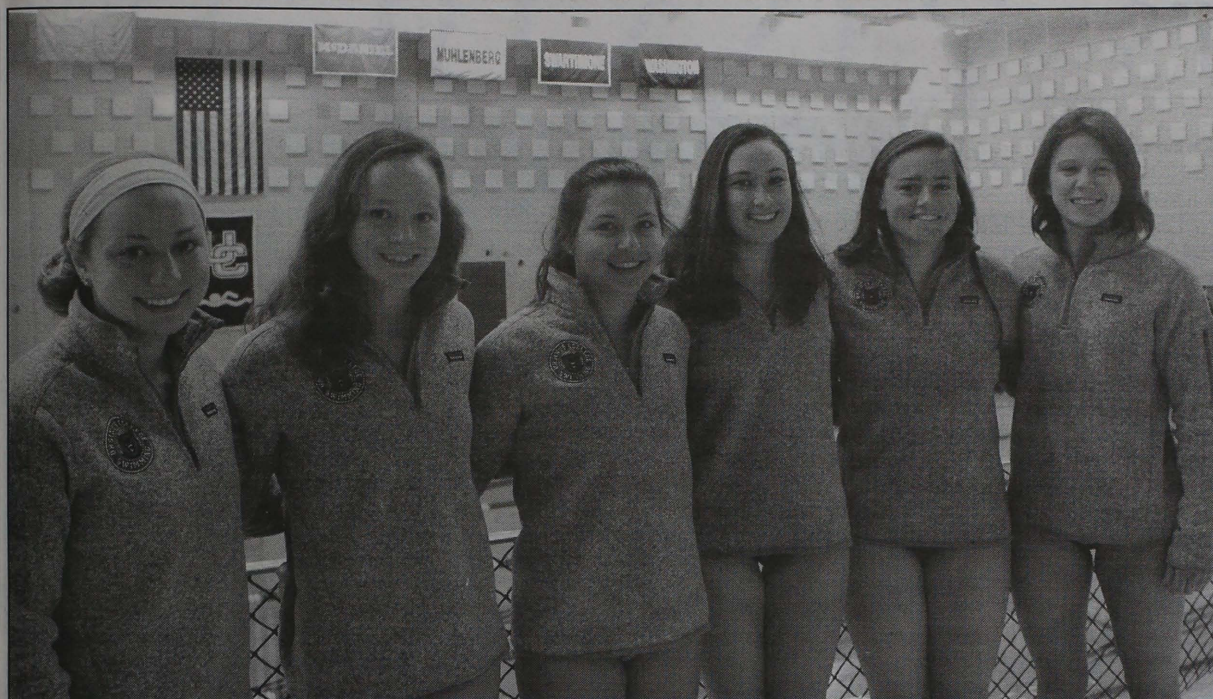


Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Left to right: Katie Pielmeier, Katherine Porter, Olivia Tierney, Rachel Weil, Margaret Leitz, and Sydney Gunderson are seen above before their meet against Bryn Mawr on Saturday, Feb. 7. The Bears won 112-70. Four events were won with at least one freshman woman involved.

Junior swimmer stepping up for the men

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Keith Larkin is a junior swimmer who has stepped up this season, both as an athlete and a leader. He swims the 400 individual medley, 200 individual medley, and 100 yard breast stroke.

When asked about what makes Larkin's—a business and economics major by day—story great, swim coach Mark Feinberg said, "The story of how he stepped up this year is kind of unique. He came to our team as a depth swimmer—someone who didn't play a huge role in our dual meets."

"(He) always did well at our championship meets and scored points for us, but played more of a depth role," Feinberg continued. "Now he has stepped up to be our number-one breaststroker this year. He will probably be our breaststroker at our championship meet in a few weeks."

Larkin revealed what his secrets were for improving athletically: he has been hitting it hard in the gym since the offseason, and also realizes his swimming career is coming to a close—which has inspired him to give it all he's got. However, he mostly credits his success to a change in

See Freshmen on pg. 8

See Larkin on pg. 8

Freshman swimmin' women playing key role in championship defense

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The freshman women of the UC swim team have faced the challenge of replacing a championship-winning senior class with enthusiasm, talent, and the thirst for another conference title.

Eleven months and change ago, the womens' swim team set foot in previously uncharted territory for Ursinus by capturing the Centennial Conference championship. The Bears fought hard that night, coming back from a 10-5 point deficit, and beat out the defending champion Gettysburg in the final 400 free relays.

With both an undefeated record and championship title, the

team was comprised of many outstanding athletes and competitors, especially seniors. Among them was senior Malena Lair Ferrari, named Outstanding Performer of the championship meet with three wins and other seniors Bryn O'Neill, Katie Kirker, Molly Serfass, Kim Bullock, and Eva Russell.

"All of them were big-time point contributors," said swimming coach Mark Feinberg, and "those six girls were definitely going to be a hard class to replace."

The class's graduation left many coaches in the conference—Feinberg included—wondering where exactly they would

stand this season.

However, with the loss of six hardworking and extremely dedicated veteran swimmers came in six new women—just as motivated and talented to help the Bears transition in their quest to defend their conference title.

Among the six are Olivia Tierney and Sydney Gunderson, who according to Feinberg, "have led the charge" in "exceeding our expectations."

The pair's performances in the water so far this season speak for themselves. Tierney's times in the 100 and 200 breaststroke events have become new team records and have placed her in the top 3 for those events in the conference. Likewise, Gunderson is

also ranked in the top three conference-wide for all three of the events she swims in.

The freshmen have contributed immensely this season by performing with the attitude of a championship-winning team. Their efforts in and out of the water have helped secure a second consecutive undefeated regular season record the squad.

Katherine Porter and Margaret Leitz are two that Feinberg also noted as having "come up big, even in tough double events." Out of the top ten butterfly competitors in the conference, four are Ursinus freshmen, of which Por-

Last Week's Scores as of Monday, Feb. 9:

W Swimming (11-0)	W/M Track	Gymnastics	Wrestling (6-2 in CC)	M Basketball (9-12)	W Basketball (7-14)
Feb. 7 @ Bryn Mawr	Feb. 7 Colden Invite @ UC	Feb. 1 @ West Chester	Feb. 7 @ Gettysburg	Feb. 7 vs. #4 Dickinson	Feb. 7 vs. Dickinson
UC: 112, Bryn Mawr: 70	M: Seventh of 11 teams. Joseph Tuliucci won the 5000 meter run with a time of 16:38.87.	UC: 190.325, Bridgeport: 194.125, West Chester: 191.825, Rhode Island College: 175.400.	UC: 27, Johns Hopkins: 9	UC: 53, Dickinson: 50	UC: 62, Dickinson: 63
The Bears won eight events at the meet, took five second places, and finished third in four events.	W: Fifth of 13 teams. Emily Lamb finished second in the 800, with a time of 2:21.64.	As a team, the Bears broke the school record on beam with a score of 48.075. Tina Steffenhagen broke the school record for vault with a score of 9.800.	UC: 49, Gettysburg: 0	Remi Janicot: 5pts, 15reb Malik Draper: 14 pts, 6reb	Jessica Porada: 27pts, 12reb Alyssa Polimeni: 19pts, 5ast
They finished their second consecutive perfect regular season with the win.					

THE GRIZZLY SPORTS

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Freshmen continued from pg. 7

ter and Leitz are two.

"I would say there is a pressure to swim fast and win for the team," Tierney. "It's a healthy pressure and it makes me push myself to be better."

The freshmen are certainly a very talented, but more importantly a versatile group of swimmers. Irene Hess, another one of the top butterfly swimmers in the conference, and Rachel Weil, an important part of the mid-distance team, exemplify the depth of the freshmen talent. Both are learning to swim new events and, according to Coach Feinberg, are predicted to score well at the championship meet.

As the Bears prepare for the said meet at Gettysburg on the weekend of Feb. 20-22, it will be an exciting time to see how the freshmen will rise to the challenge of defending the team's title.

"I have to put all I have in the championship meet, and win for them," said Gunderson.

Winning the meet will be far from an easy task, as tough contenders such as Gettysburg, Franklin and Marshall, Dickinson, and Swarthmore will all be battling hard.

"They could accomplish something no other freshmen class has done," said Feinberg of his stellar group.

The returning upperclassmen have already started guiding the young swimmers on what to expect for the meet. The Bears have been swimming with a lot of confidence, but it will take every ounce of confidence as well as performance to secure their championship title once again.

"Swim fast," they tell us," said Gunderson, "always swim fast."

Larkin continued from pg. 7

mindset.

"I used to be a super hardcore nerd about other people's times, but this year I've kind of focused less on everyone else in the conference and really focused more on what I can do," Larkin said. "I think that's the main reason that I've done better."

Feinberg confirmed Larkin's improvements, explaining that while Larkin may be "skinny to look at," he's gotten much stronger this season due to his work ethic in the weight room. He's achieved new personal best swim times, as well as an improved vertical jump. Feinberg repeatedly praised Larkin as a hard worker, and clearly his hard work is paying off.

Talking with Larkin, it is clear that he is a leader both in and out of the pool. On campus he can often be seen giving tours to potential students, and is the secre-



Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran

Larkin is seen here and in the photo below practicing on Thursday, Feb. 5. Mens' swim had the weekend off from meets, but Larkin was a part of the second-place 400 medley relay team against Washington College the week prior.

tary of Enactus—a club affiliated with the business and economics department that does community service.

In the pool, Larkin's leadership really shines. Feinberg revealed a

big reason that makes him a great leader for their team: attitude.

"You can count on him for a positive attitude. We practice at 6:30 a.m., and it's not easy to be positive at 6:30 in the morning," Feinberg said. "Not only does he have a positive attitude, but he gets other people smiling too... because of him, we're a much better team."

Unknowningly, Larkin seconded Feinberg's notion. When asked to give advice for younger swimmers on the team, he offered an anecdote from their annual training trip to Florida. Part of the trip involves picking a quote that defines what they're going through.

One quote Larkin thought describes a good mindset to have is from Viktor Frankl: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Larkin said, "If you can pick a really good attitude, even when

you're not performing, that is what makes the difference, that's what makes you a competitor."

While Larkin is not currently a captain on the team, Feinberg says he would be shocked if he did not receive significant support from his teammates if he wants to be one. And in reality, being a captain gives you a title—but leaders don't need that.

"I see him as a leader whether he's a captain or not," Feinberg said. "A lot of times with juniors, I wonder if they're going to be a good leader when they become a senior."

Feinberg went on, "With Keith, I know he's going to be a leader whether he becomes a captain or not."

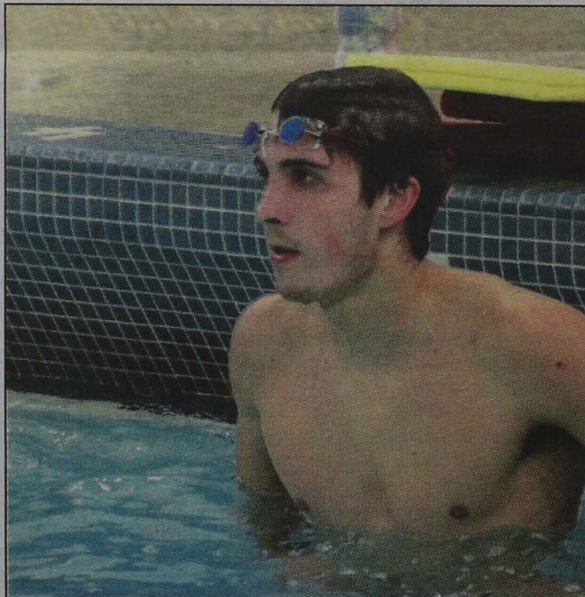


Photo courtesy Andrew Tran

Have feedback on this story? Visit The Grizzly on Facebook!

Upcoming Schedule:

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
M&W Track: Valentine Invite @ Boston University	M Basketball: @ Washington College, 4:00 p.m. W Basketball: @ Washington College, 2:00 p.m. Wrestling: @ Centennial champs @ Gettysburg, 9:00 a.m. Gymnastics: @ Rutgers, 1:00 p.m.				W Basketball: vs. Haverford, 6:00 p.m. M Basketball: vs. Haverford, 8:00 p.m.

