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A Look Ahead:

At *The Grizzly*, we strongly believe there is always something to look forward to.

'A Look Ahead' is a section where our team showcases upcoming articles. The purpose is to generate excitement within our readership and the extended Ursinus community.

- » A Note from the Editor
- » Meet Laura Cunningham

From Our Editors:

The Grizzly staff is saddened to hear about the passing of a fellow Bear, Adam Walton '25.

In our fourth issue, we plan to celebrate Adam's life. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Walton family for their tragic and unfathomable loss. We remain deeply committed to publicizing and pushing for mental health resources on and around the Ursinus campus.

Meet the New Editors of The Lantern

Amelia Kunko: amkunko@ursinus.edu



Photo Courtesy of Julia Paiano

Each year's publication of *The Lantern* brings us moving poems, intriguing prose, and captivating art pieces from talented Ursinus students. Compiling all of these writing and art pieces takes considerable effort, especially on the part of the Editor and Associate Editor. This year, Senior Kate Foley will be leading the Lantern team with the help of Jenna Lozzi, *The Lantern's* associate editor.

As editor, Foley will be involved in the entire Lantern production journey. "As editor of *The Lantern*, it's my job to coordinate with Jon Volkmer (faculty advisor) and my associate editor, Jenna Lozzi, to organize every stage of production," she says. "From selecting Section Editors to collecting submissions to choosing which pieces will make it into the final copy, I oversee every step of the process." As associate editor, Lozzi is second-in-command and will help the production process run smoothly. "I am the Associate Editor, so I will be taking care of secondary duties for the Chief Editor,"

says Lozzi. "I will be supporting Kate Foley in the decision-making process as well in terms of staffing, formatting, and submission selection."

The Lantern not only offers creative Ursinus students the opportunity to share their work, but is also a rewarding and educational process for those helping to produce the literary magazine. "I am most excited to peruse submissions!" Foley says. "In the past, I've worked on *The Lantern* in a few different roles, but this will be the first time that I get to see every single piece writers and artists submit." Lozzi also looks forward to being so involved in the creation of the literary magazine. "What I am most excited about this year's Lantern publication is that I will be able to have such a personal role in its production," she says. "I will be able to participate in all aspects and help bring to life this artistic reflection of the Ursinus learning community."

Like any project, *The Lantern* comes with challenges to navigate. Foley, who is





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involved in several other student organizations, is no stranger to the challenges of scheduling. “I’m also the President of Breakaway Student Productions and the Vice President of the Alpha Delta Phi Society, so I’m no stranger to organizing and collaborating with others, but that also means I know how difficult it is to get students’ schedules to line up.” Foley says. “Scheduling meetings can take three times as long as the length of the meeting itself, and there are weeks I feel like I’ve spent more time sending emails than doing homework.” Lozzi anticipates some

challenges in terms of all the moving parts that come along with *The Lantern*. “I think what will be most challenging will be staying on top of all the things that need to get done,” she says. “Putting together a literary journal is not a straightforward process, there’s submissions, selecting which of those submissions will appear in the publication, and then formatting all of those submissions which change year to year so that they are within our printing company’s guidelines, among several other things I have not mentioned.”

Both Foley and Lozzi have been active

with *The Lantern* during their time at Ursinus, so their leading positions on the lit mag are very meaningful to them. “I’ve worked on *The Lantern* in some capacity every year since I was a freshman and have always worked toward applying to be editor,” she says. “Landing this job as a senior is a dream come true.” Thanks to Kate Foley, Jenna Lozzi, and the entire Lantern team. We can’t wait to see the finished product!

First-year Enrollment Down 12% from Last Year

Chase Portaro: chportaro@ursinus.edu

The college’s annual census reported a 12% year-over-year decrease in freshman enrollment, from 433 first-year students in the fall of 2021 to only 381 this fall. After three straight years of at least 430 freshmen or more, Dean of Students, Missy Bryant said, “The plan was to get 440 first year students.” This year’s shortfall will be a major consideration for the college when finalizing this year’s budget, which will happen at October 13th’s Board of Trustees meeting.

One possible explanation for the decline is lack of exposure to potential applicants. Bryant explained, “Our inquiries this past year were down close to 11%. It makes sense that we landed at a smaller number of deposits.” Naturally, that lack of inquiry also affected the amount of applications from the Class of ‘26. Diane Greenwood, Director of Admissions said, “For fall ‘22, total apps [applications] were 3,408, and that was down from 3,800 the prior year.”

Bryant attributes the decline of first-year numbers to nationwide trends. “The overall demographics of students who are graduating from college has changed significantly. The number is really declining.” According to a January article from NPR, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center has been reporting declining undergraduate numbers since 2012, but the two years since the pandemic have witnessed the sharpest drop-off in half a decade.

These are tricky times for higher education. Larger schools with enormous applicant pools and lower costs of attendance are not as affected, but small liberal arts colleges like Ursinus cannot say the same. Playing catch-up from the start, small institutions with limited endowments were also hit the hardest during the pandemic.

As a result, there has been an increased focus on the viability of liberal arts schools. Dean Bryant said, “Liberal arts colleges nationally have been in the media and people have been critical of liberal arts. Obviously, Ursinus is very committed to the liberal arts and we are constantly trying to promote the value, especially

how Ursinus is different.”

This upcoming year will be crucial for Ursinus to prove that it can hurdle the obstacles set up by the pandemic and distinguish itself in the liberal arts market. The Strategic Plan that launched in the summer of 2021 and the capital campaign launching later this year are programs that Dean Bryant believes have the ability to prove that Ursinus is different - that Ursinus’s liberal arts education is a viable option for students’ futures. Also, according to Greenwood, the college will conduct a branding study, which will evaluate how Ursinus is marketed to prospective students.

Despite a hopeful future, Ursinus still has a budget to finalize for this current school year. Money is already tight from pandemic-related costs, but this year’s drop in first-year enrollment will make the board’s allocation decisions even tougher. As to how the budget will specifically be affected this year by the drop, Bryant said, “It will be approved in October, so at this point I think it’s hard to say. Obviously at the senior level we are always concerned about the student experience and making sure that’s being funded appropriately.”

After everything is finalized, Bryant said that President Hanigan will join her at a Senate meeting in either late October or early November to review the budget with the student body. Bryant was optimistic, but she also left me with a cautionary note, padding any potential reaction to cutbacks. “Hopefully that it’s not going to have that much of an impact on the actual student experience, but something’s got to give right?”

The Grizzly will keep readers updated on how much the budget is actually affected by the freshman shortage, but until then, if you would like to attend the next Senate meeting where budgetary and other campus-related issues are discussed, be on the lookout for an email from UCSG.



Courtesy of Ursinus College








Move In Day



Courtesy of Ursinus College

Class of 2026

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 	6	7	8	9	10
11  Grandparents Day	12	13  Positive Thinking Day	14	15	16  Collect Rocks Day	17
18	19	20	21  World Peace Day	22  First Day of Fall	23	24
25  Rosh Hashanah	26	27	28	29	30	



Welcome Dr. Jay Shelat!

Gianna McCarthy: gimccarthy@ursinus.edu

Assistant Professor Jay Shelat joined the Ursinus College staff just this Fall semester and is the latest addition to the school's English Department. Shelat shares that he "loved how warm and welcoming everyone has been at Ursinus. The support tells me that one of the College's foundational tenets is community."

Professor Shelat is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, received his B.A. and M.A. from Georgia State University, and is specifically trained in 20th and 21st century literature. Shelat then went on to attend the University of North Carolina, Greensboro in order to obtain his PhD in English. While working toward his PhD, Shelat was also teaching various types of English classes at UNCG and received the university's English Department's 2021 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award for his dissertation: "Ordering the Chaos: Family, Nation, and Terrorism in Post-9/11 Anglophone Fiction."

Shelat's research interests include the millennial novel/contemporary literature, which cater to a specific audience (especially BIPOC and queer) rather than a universal one, the processes of racialization and racialized violence, and Bollywood. His current research is on literature concerning 9/11 as well as the Global War on Terrorism. His latest book project "examines the ways in which 9/11 and the War on Terror influence familial and domestic

dynamics."

This semester, Shelat is teaching two English classes. The first is ENGL-104 with the topic War on Terror Literature, which covers "how Western imperialism continues to shape the Greater Middle East. Through postcolonial and feminist approaches to the conflict and the literature, [students] will also scrutinize the notion of periodization and the very phrase 'War on Terror' by considering the region's larger history." The other class he is teaching this semester is ENGL-310: Topics in the Novel, currently covering The 9/11 Novel. This class looks into the aftermath of 9/11 and how the time after "the attacks disproportionately affect[ed] people of color." Shelat mentioned that his classes "emphasize classroom engagement and lots of writing," as they "are the most fun ways to analyze literature."

When asked about the interview process at Ursinus, Shelat said it "was not daunting at all," and attributed it to the welcoming community at the college. Additionally, he admitted, "unlike the other interviews I had, Ursinus's interview was collegial and exciting. Everyone was so kind and fun." As part of his interview process last spring Shelat taught a lesson to Dr. Jaroff's ENGL-290 W class that involved analyzing poetry dedicated to some of his research interests.

On a more personal note, Shelat shared that some of his "not-so-exciting" hobbies include "running, cooking, reading, watch-



Courtesy of Julia Paiano

ing movies, etc. I also really love singing, even though I sound worse than a spoon stuck in the garbage disposal." He also noted that he watches "a lot" of television, particularly reality tv, saying he loves "The Real Housewives, which I think is the most political thing on tv right now. There is no better gender, race, and class critique."

Moreover, when asked about his favorite literature, Shelat replied, "Asking an English professor their favorite books/writers is a tricky question," adding, "I love all fields and eras of literature from all around the world. It sounds cliché, but enjoying all the kinds of books from everywhere really allows me to see the possibilities of literature. So, lately, I've been taking in authors who do really weird stuff--those who really push the limits of fiction in particular: Helen Oyeyemi, Sayaka Murata, Percival Everett, Kazuo Ishiguro. Toni Morrison, Colson Whitehead, and Shakespeare are the literary stars who shine brightest for me."

If that wasn't enough to convince someone of Shelat's devotion to the English subject, he also writes every day. He mentioned that this part of his daily routine is "Something I'm very protective of: the few hours in the early morning that I devote to research. I fundamentally believe that writing and teaching are mutually beneficial acts and processes."

We are very glad to have you at Ursinus College, Professor Shelat, and cannot wait to see what else you will contribute to our community.



Courtesy of Julia Paiano

Meet Ursinus Rapper, D-BONE

Tatiana Kent: takent@ursinus.edu

Sophomore and rapper Derek Spangler '25, better known as D-BONE, is an Ursinus campus celebrity. Even if you've never met him, you've probably heard his song "Reimert" blasting through the speakers at a late night party. So who is the man behind the music? I sat down with him outside the Commons this week to talk about his process, life, and message.

Spangler started making music in high school. Back then, he released his music on SoundCloud "before I started to take things seriously. If you listen to my SoundCloud stuff, you can tell it's at a lower quality, because I was just taking beats from RapChat."

His first single released on Spotify, "Bounce," was Spangler's first endeavor at more professional rap production. Paul Pellegrini, an instructor at George's Music, helped the young talent "enhance" a beat from the RapChat app for the track. "He taught me things about production software, but I'm not really interested in the production aspect. I'm kind of just interested in the lyrics."

Next up was "Reimert," a celebration of parties at Reimert Hall. For myself and many other students, this song was the first D-BONE track we'd ever heard. "Every weekend I try to go," says Spangler. "It's different from high school. In high school there are no parties going on on the weekends." The lyrics were originally penned for the course Topics in Music. Instrumentally, he was inspired by Young Dolph's track "Nothing to Me." He says, "I was like, 'I like the pace of this beat', and so I wanted Reimert to emulate that." D-BONE recently filmed a music video for the track at the residence hall, with many fellow students present.

D-BONE's third single "Haters Beware" currently stands as his most popular song on Spotify at over 6,000 plays. Spangler (along with fellow artist 88gZ) strikes back at his naysayers, rapping that he doesn't care about the hate he receives. I was curious about the inspiration for this song and told Spangler I perceived him as incredibly well liked around campus. He agreed, but

pointed out "I feel like there's always someone who doesn't agree with what you're doing. I've gotten some [disparaging] messages on Instagram from accounts that I don't know. This was in the works prior to me even getting to Ursinus. I don't think I had a catalyst. I just thought ['haters beware'] was a fun phrase."

D-BONE's latest release was "I Like" in May. Described on Spotify as "a song that focuses on the good things in life," "I Like" may be his most lighthearted song yet. Rather than focusing on standard rap topics such as partying or detractors, the verses list everything that D-BONE enjoys, from the beach to "being nice to everyone I meet by saying hello."

In March, D-BONE excited fans by posting a list of ten tracks on his Instagram, captioning the post "Album mode lock in." "The four songs that are out right now will be on it, and then I'll have two more new ones, so those six will already be out, and then on the album there will be those six plus four new ones." But the wait isn't over just yet. "I don't have a specific date, and it could even go into the next year depending on how busy I am. I'm trying not to rush things. It's not my best work if I have a deadline."

Spangler cites fellow rapper NF as one of his main artistic influences. "Just the idea of not cursing, trying to make the genre less vulgar and more open to younger kids, that's why I respect him." Actor Will Smith, who has won four grammy awards for his rap performances, is another inspiration. "I'd probably say I'm more along with his topics in that I'm not rapping about intense things like depression, I'm more just rapping about fun things like dancing and parties." Spangler stressed that he likes to separate himself from his influences. "I like to say I'm similar to Will Smith minus his anger issues, similar to NF minus his depression and daddy issues."

D-BONE's Spotify bio states that he "wants to change the rap industry in a positive way." Spangler clarified to me that he aims to do this through his words and actions. "I'm always gonna be respectful in

interviews. I'm never gonna be pompous." He recounts an incident in which rapper Toosii threatened an interviewer with a gun for mocking his music. "I'm the exact opposite of that. I don't want to be intimidating to people. I want to be approachable." Spangler's faith is another important part of his life and worldview. "I wouldn't view myself as a Christian rapper, in that not all of my content is Christian based. I like to refer to myself as a rapper who is a Christian. I just want to give the impression that I'm a Christian without throwing it in people's faces and turning them off. You have to be modest about it."

When he's not making or listening to music, Spangler enjoys skateboarding, walking dogs, and playing on Ursinus's intramural soccer team. Another passion is going to concerts. He recently attended rapper Kendrick Lamar's Big Steppers tour. "That's what inspires me the most. When you're in the crowd, there's so much energy. I think about what it would be like if I were in the artist's shoes looking out at the people. That would be magical. That's the goal."



Courtesy of Francis Runquist



College Culture Shock: Could Be More Shocking

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College needs to have a greater impact on students. I do not mean the course load or athletic experience, or living with new people. These are all experiences every student may have when they attend a college or university. Location, location, location – this is what matters most for a culture shock to occur, in my opinion.

Prospective students should try to hop at least two states over from where they live. “College is the best four years of your life” is how the saying goes, so why not make it the most illuminating decision of your life too? Post-graduation, a job may not take you any further than your hometown if you decide to go to a school that is twenty minutes away. You may end up sitting in a bar in ten years with the same people you have been with since kindergarten. Job offers do not always have flexibility with location: it is often either where the job is, or no

job. There are big colleges, small liberal arts colleges like Ursinus, or a happy medium, everywhere in the country. Why do people choose to stay close? I wish Ursinus’ campus could be picked up and brought to a new state. The element of culture shock outside of a college campus is just as important as the already impending culture shock of college itself.

In my opinion, with no factual evidence to support this claim, I feel that a good portion of college students pick their school because it has a feeling of ‘familiarity.’ Maybe the party scene is familiar to them. Maybe picking a school with a small student population is key because they’ve always felt comfortable in their small hometown.

Our country, and potential college opportunities overseas, have a diversity of cultures. If I could pick up Ursinus’ campus and move it anywhere, I definitely would not keep it

in Pennsylvania. Luckily, there are still three months out of the year to explore and broaden your experiences. Also, there are opportunities during your college experience to have culture shocks! Ursinus has a hands-on Center for International Programs, like study abroad. Ursinus students have been almost everywhere on the map for decades, allowing students to pop out of the Ursinus’ bubble for a semester or summer. Additionally, Ursinus offers the Philadelphia Experience, PhillyX, where students can spend an entire semester living and taking classes in the heart of Philadelphia.

While Ursinus offers something unique residing in the small town of Collegeville, Pennsylvania, opportunities are available to go beyond the Ursinus culture!



NARP Review of Fitness Center

Sean McGinley
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The recently renovated Fitness Center is a place on campus open and available to all students. The Center's open gym hours allow any member of the campus community to utilize the equipment and space that it has to offer. Not only that, but the Fitness Center is also known as the location where Ursinus's many sports teams participate in their workouts and lifting sessions. So, given its dual use by both the athletic and non-athletic student population at Ursinus, what does the average, non-athletic student think about the Fitness Center?

For Liam Reilly, class of 2024, the Ursinus Fitness Center is a great resource on campus. He points to the "wide availability of equipment" and the "ease of access" as two areas in particular that the Fitness Center excels at. The added benefit of "slamming a smoothie down at Natural" doesn't hurt, either. His only gripe? Reilly wishes there were more introductory-level classes on equipment usage and the building of a workout schedule at the Fitness Center. While he managed to learn a lot of this on his own, Reilly thinks that a selection of introductory classes could help other students get used to things along with being "a good way to bring more non-athletes into the gym."

Jake Harris shares a similar sentiment. "If you manage to get there at a good time, you can get to do what you want without



Courtesy of Ursinus College

getting in the way of anyone else," says Harris. Still, Harris thinks that the experience could be improved, especially for the non-athlete population. "The Fitness Center could have better hours that are available for all students, especially later at night and on the weekend," says Harris.

The Fitness Center's hours on Monday through Friday are from 6:30 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., while on weekends they are from 12:00pm to 5:00 P.M. Open gym hours are usually designated as any time after 4 P.M. on weekdays. These set hours, particularly on the weekends, were consistently brought up as a potential area of improvement for the Fitness Center amongst the non-athlete student body. Shannon Henes emphasized increased weekend hours as a must for the gym going forward. Still, Henes recognized that, given the Center's use by both athletes and non-athletes alike, this might be hard to pull off.

"Ideally, it would be easier to go without being in the way of sports' teams, although I don't know how they'd fix that problem," says Hennes.

Overall, it would seem as though public sentiment surrounding the Fitness Center has improved amongst the non-athletic community, particularly after some of the struggles faced during the pandemic. Ease of access, equipment availability, and available space to do what you want were all continually cited amongst the Fitness Center's strengths. Still, many saw the Fitness Center's stringent hours, particularly at night and on weekends, as an area of much needed improvement. Hopefully, going forward the Fitness Center can take these criticisms into consideration to make the space a great one for athletes and non-athletes alike.

Upcoming Games

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Tuesday

Men's Tennis
ITAs @ Mary
Washington

Men's Tennis 1:30pm:
ITAs @ Mary Football @
Washington Susquehanna

12pm: FHockey vs. WAC 7pm: Women's Soccer @
WAC

12pm: Volleyball vs. WAC & Cabrini 1pm: Men's Soccer vs.



Women's Volleyball Kill Streak

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Courtesy of Ursinus Athletics

While some Ursinus students still have yet to take their first exam, Women's Volleyball has been busy on a kill streak, pun intended. As of September 21st, the team has racked up an impressive 10-0 match win record, already surpassing last year's entire season record of 8-15 in just a couple weeks. Whew!

Not only does this accomplishment deserve huge recognition, but it also begs the question: what is it about this year that is bringing so much success? Is it luck, skill, or something else entirely different? Setting out to discover the driving force behind this momentum, senior co-captain Katie Cressman gives insight on how the team has come together for these back-to-back wins.

Her answer? It is all about maintaining a culture of a consistent work ethic, unity as a team, and humility during matches and with personal relationships between players off the clock. "Over the past four years I have seen UCVB grow as a program more than I can even begin to explain. My team loves and supports each other so much—we really are a family," says Cressman. "That's the glue [that holds the team together] and

the key to success on the court right now. We don't play for individual stats, we play for each other." Cressman made sure to note too that the coaches have been great mentors with these changes, by looking out for the team's health and happiness, and making sure the team is always exercising their full potential on and off the court.

Volleyball is oftentimes a sport that can get very personal very quickly. If someone makes a faulty pass, set, or hit, the blame can easily be put onto a single player, which creates uneven pressure on the team. Or conversely, if players think of themselves as the stars of the show this creates a culture of distrust and ego, leading to tension between players. For UCVB, these situations have not become a reality because of their common goals for the season. These goals include not being solely centered around physical skill and winning by the numbers. "Every year the culture has been continuously improving, but this year it really just clicked. Every single person on the team shows up excited to be in the gym and just spend time together. And no matter what anyone's role is on the team, we all have the same mission. Win of

course, but more so just push to be better each and every day and to be the most supportive group we can be," says Cressman.

As Volleyball scored their tenth consecutive win of the season, on Tuesday September 20th at home, the team had been focusing on, quote, "unity in adversity." Meaning that no matter the challenge—physical or mental—they would get through it together. With this mindset, along with a high level of competitive athleticism, the young women of UCVB have been able to persevere game after game.

With an enormous amount of success already under their belts this early into the season, we can expect many more great things to come from the team this year. These young women are fiercely hard working, driven, and hungry for more. Wishing them all the growth and success they deserve this year! #SKOBEARS!