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Four seniors are finalists for the prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, all nominated by Ursinus faculty. The four finalists are Min Son, Tom Armstrong, Codi Yhap, and Garrett Bullock.

The distinguished award enables graduates to travel and take on a year-long independent study after graduation. Each fellow designs and executes a project outside of the United States. Fellows propose where they want to go and whom they want to meet.

Each graduating senior is nominated by one of the 40 partner colleges affiliated with the Watson Foundation, which sponsors the fellowship. Once nominated, nominees enter the national selection process in which they are interviewed on campus by a foundation representative.

The grant consists of a one-year stipend of $36,000.

Biology and Applied ethics double major Min Son hopes to study different social factors and family structures that influence parenting styles and how children are raised.

“The end goal would be to answer the fol-

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UC’s four Watson Fellowship finalists

#Fight4Her activists visit campus

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In March 2019, junior Sophie Auerbach and sophomore Abigail Peabody attended a conference and received an award for their research paper on the Global Gag Rule.

With their award money, Auerbach and Peabody brought in two speakers from the campaign #Fight4Her to bring awareness to the issue and take action on campus. Lindsay Apperson and Haylee Beck from Population Connection Action Fund spoke on the behalf of the #Fight4Her campaign.

The fund fights for universal access to voluntary family planning, affordable contraceptives, and sex education. Apperson is stationed at the main headquarters in Washington D.C. and Beck at the Pennsylvania headquarters in Allen-town.

The presentation was held in Musser Auditorium. The campaign is funded by the lobbyist group, Population Action Fund.

The Global Gag Rule is a United States policy that blocks funding to international non-governmental organizations that provide services, information, and advocacy in regard to abortion. The Global Gag Rule greatly limits not only abortion services, but also women’s healthcare and the fight for gender equality. If fully enforced, up to 26 million people can lose access to their healthcare under the Global Gag Rule.

On his first day in office, President Donald Trump signed the Global Gag Rule into law. Every Republican President since Ronald Reagan has supported the legislation, and every Democrat has chosen to revoke the policy. It is likely that the policy will not be overturned until a Democrat is in control of the Presidency.

The Global Gag Rule affects people from the most marginalized communities and disproportionately affects people of color, especially communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Exxon Mobil’s role in climate research

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On Oct. 6, The Parlee Center for Science and the Common Good welcomed Dr. Geoffrey Supran, a Research Associate in the Department of History of Science at Harvard University, to campus. Supran presented a talk called, “Climate Cover-up: How Big Oil Dupered America,” about the politics of global warming. Supran specifically focused on a project he took on with Harvard colleague Naomi Oreskes, studying climate denial.

In the introduction, the Parlee Center noted that Supran’s work and activism has been featured in many major news outlets. “[Supran] is also a frequent contributor to international media, such as PBS News Hour, the New York Times, the LA Times, the Financial Times, and the Guardian,” the Parlee Center said.

In his discussion of change, Supran honed in on how big oil companies, such as Exxon Mobil, have contributed to climate change doubt. “I basically would like to talk to you today about a story which I call climate cover-up,” Supran stated in his opening remarks. “And it’s basically a story of how Big Oil has duped America on climate change and in fact continues to do so. And this is a story essentially based on thousands of pages of documents and evidence compiled by investigative journalists and academic researchers.”

In Supran’s academic project, which was to read all of Exxon Mobil’s documents and produce a peer-reviewed content analysis, Supran and colleague Oresk- es were able to put the documents into four categories: internal documents, peer-reviewed, non-peer-reviewed, and advertorials. From these documents, Supran and Oreskes were able to find out a lot of information regarding Exxon Mobil’s strategy with regard to climate change. "Exxon Mobil misled non-scientific audiences about climate change and its implications,” Supran said. “What we found was that roughly 80% of that peer-reviewed science acknowledged basic climate science, and yet, at the same time . . . advertorials promoted doubt on exactly the same matter. So essentially, in other words, [Exxon Mobil] contributed quietly to the science, but loudly to promoting doubt about that same science.”

As Supran worked in the lab each day, he said that he came to a startling realization that “we already have the technologies we need to start taking on the climate crisis. What we lack is the political will.” Supran said that as a way to spread the word about climate change, action has begun to pop up everywhere. He also emphasized that over the past year, it has really been young people who have taken action, citing 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

In the closing Q&A, Supran explained that people can fight climate denial by using communication tactics surrounding the issue of climate change and find a way to break down climate arguments; Supran suggests speaking in value terms, and offers as an example talking to people about how climate change is the largest national security threat. Supran says that it is also important to “reframe the whole thing and talk about what actions we can take.”
lowing questions: What does it mean to be a good parent in different cultures and societies? What role do parents play in their children’s lives in different countries? What social and personal factors influence parenting the most?” she said.

She discussed the assumption that once people have kids, it is automatically assumed they know how to raise the children based on how their parents were raised.

Son wants to shine light on the different ways to raise a child and gain a better understanding and perspective.

The places she’s chosen to pursue these questions are China, Taiwan, Malaysia, and India.

Fellow nominee and English major Tom Armstrong hopes to study comedy around the world and how it intersects with hardships and social contexts.

He plans to shadow improv troupes, interview them while also discussing comedy with them. He also plans to collect oral histories from them by asking questions surrounding their childhood, their values, their families and how those generated their interest in comedy.

“I’m really interested in how comedy can be used to deal with personal hardship like depression. I want to see what it’s like around the world because comedy is everywhere. Every human knows how to laugh but it looks different everywhere,” he said.

Armstrong plans to pursue the study in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Vienna, Tokyo, Melbourne, and Cape Town.

History, Politics, and International Relations triple major Garrett Bullock centered his research proposal on answering the question, “What do we really teach, when we teach drumming?”

Growing up, Bullock had a vast knowledge of American cultural values from his experience.

His interest was sparked when he taught percussion at a high school and asked himself if he should even be teaching these sorts of things.

“Yes, part of it is because this journey around the world, to discover this cool topic but it’s also about self-discovery,” he said.

Lastly, Codi Yhap, plans to conduct his research by looking at storytelling practices and how we use stories to deconstruct social norms and beliefs.

“When I was younger I had a hard time finding anyone who shared my experiences until I read Aquaman. I found parallels between our stories and found that fiction was as good teacher as any to teach me about the world,” he said.

The places he plans to visit are Japan, Israel, Liberia, and Peru.

Watson fellows will be announced in March, until then, the four nominees will await their destiny.

Activists from the #Fight4Her campaign discussed with students their work on the Global HER Act. The Global HER Act seeks to directly fight against the harmful policies set by the Global Gag Rule, New Hampshire Senator, Jeanne Shaheen and New York Representative, Nita Lowey, along with several co-sponsors, introduced the Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act, a bill that would permanently end Trump’s global gag rule.

The Global HER Act also seeks to remove dangerous eligibility restrictions on international recipients of U.S. foreign assistance and would ensure that U.S. foreign assistance prioritizes women’s health. The act would encourage reproductive health care, would uphold a patient’s right to informed choice, and would demonstrate respect for the doctor/patient relationship on a federal level.

The event was concluded with several direct actions that encouraged change in policy. The #Fight4Her activists encouraged students to call their elected officials, including Pennsylvania’s U.S Senator Pat Toomey who has advocated against the Global HER Act.

Collegeville’s U.S. Representative Madeleine Dean has already shown support for the Global HER Act. Students were also encouraged to write postcards to elected officials who have shown support for the Global HER Act.
‘19 UC grad named Bear Tracks Fellow

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After graduating in May 2019 with a B.A. in English and Educational Studies, alum Sophie Gioffre has returned to campus as a member of the faculty. As a Bear Tracks Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, Gioffre works with incoming and current students through Bear Tracks. Bear Tracks is a “digital platform where students can engage in deep self-reflection based on their learning experiences in and out of the classroom,” as described by the Ursinus website.

The digital platform, which requires the user to sign up on Canvas, allows students from all classes to organize their work and track academic progress. “Students can think of Bear Tracks as an online journal for documenting, collecting, and organizing the meaningful experiences that they have throughout their years at Ursinus,” the Ursinus Website says, “as well as a space for tracing the development of their personal and academic growth and their evolving answers to the Quest Open Questions.”

Gioffre’s work with Bear Tracks centers around helping students get the most out of their academic experiences. “As the Bear Tracks Post-Bac Fellow, my work is centered around helping to develop and promote a culture of reflection on campus, and this means helping to create spaces—whether physical or digital—and opportunities for students to document and make meaning out of their diverse experiences,” Gioffre explained. “To accomplish this, I’ve been visiting first-year advising cohorts to introduce students to the ins-and-outs of Bear Tracks and to help them get started with using the platform.”

While creating many new resources for students, faculty, and staff on the Bear Tracks website, Gioffre is also active in different collaborative projects across campus. “Some of the other opportunities that I have as the Bear Tracks Fellow include collaborating with Angela Upright ’17 as a co-program leader for the 2020 Alternative Spring Break Trip, collaborating with CPD and on-campus student employers to promote meaning-making and reflection during the application/interview process for on-campus student jobs, and collaborating with Reverend Terri Ofori to organize a student Hibernation Retreat,” Gioffre said. Gioffre also advised students to stay tuned for more information about the Hibernation Retreat that is to come soon.

Gioffre’s degree has given her helpful skills to utilize in her new role. Gioffre said, “My experience as an English major helped strengthen my verbal and written communication skills, which I use in literally every aspect of this job. I need to be able to recognize my audience (e.g. students from different backgrounds, professors in different disciplines, and staff members from different departments) and then alter the information that I want to present based on the context of my audience in order to be as clear and effective as possible.” Also a Writing Fellow at the Center for Writing and Speaking as a student, Gioffre credits her work in the Center as a beneficial experience in her new position.

“My experience as an English major helped strengthen my verbal and written communication skills, which I use in literally every aspect of this job.”
- Sophie Gioffre

“Working in the Center for Writing and Speaking as a student also helped me to transition into a staff position where I’m working closely with both students and faculty members on the daily,” Gioffre said. “While my English degree and experience as a Writing Fellow helped me with the technical and interpersonal communicative skills needed for this fellowship, my experience as an Educational Studies major has helped prepare me for some of the theoretical and conceptual stuff that I do on the job, such as brainstorming ways to incorporate more contemplative pedagogy on campus and drafting prompts that promote reflection that is both open-ended and focused enough to draw out authentic and deep responses,” Gioffre explained.
Meet student-run group Escape Velocity

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The Escape Velocity Dance Troupe recently had a performance, “Evermore,” on Nov. 7, in which the members, spanning all majors and experience levels, showcased their talents. The dance showcase consisted of different forms of dance, but a lot of work besides dancing goes into the production.

Sophomore Kat Saddler is a member of Escape Velocity Dance Troupe; Saddler helps with promoting the troupe’s shows. “The fall show is a 14-piece show that showcases all different levels of dancers in a variety of styles including tap, hiphop, contemporary and ballet,” Saddler said when explaining the “Evermore” showcase. “I am the Public Relations Manager for the company ... My job is to make and print the tickets and programs as well as make the ads, send emails to the company and campus. I make the spreadsheets and fill in attendance sheets as well,” Saddler said.

The President of Escape Velocity, senior Environmental Studies major Madison Moses said in an interview, “I oversee all the choreographers and dancers and make sure that everything is on track to create a great show! I answer any of the choreographers’ or dancers’ questions as they arise, I edit choreographers’ music, and I delegate tasks to the rest of the EV board members and help them when needed. “I also work closely with the dance department, CASE office, and event technology to make sure that we have all of the spaces and resources we need to rehearse and perform,” Moses continued.

Because this is a student-run team, the entire process is done entirely by students. Moses also went on to describe the team as a family. “The team is like a family in a lot of ways. We fool around and have fun but we also spend a lot of time together in close quarters, so we have to learn to communicate well,” Moses explained. “I think that one thing that always pleasantly surprises me about the dynamic of this company is each member’s ability to lift others up and empower them.” Dynamics like this make such production possible, which is why it’s all the more important to go out and support them and all of their hard work. Dancers ranging from freshmen to seniors to beginners to advanced dancers will be showing all different forms of dance.

“I oversee all the choreographers and dancers and make sure that everything is on track to create a great show!”
- Madison Moses

Happening on Campus

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A coup by any other name: on Bolivia

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On Sunday, November 10, Evo Morales abruptly stepped down as President of Bolivia after protests against the recent election that declared him President again intensified. This came after his presidential campaign's recent win over Carlos Mesa.

Opponents of Morales claimed that the election had been tampered with, and that a runoff election between Morales and Mesa should have been held. As votes were being totaled, the count froze for twenty-four hours before resuming, with Morales having gained a decisive lead.

Hours before his resignation, Morales had declared that a new election would take place, a promise he said he would fulfill if the Organization of American States had found irregularities in the election. The OAS published a report saying they had.

Many articles have been posted on news sites since the event. What stands out about the majority of U.S. news coverage is the reluctance to use the word “coup” to describe what has happened in Bolivia.

The New York Times has published several pieces chronicling the timeline of events that led to Morales’ resignation. None, however, directly refer to the resignation as a coup. Instead, they feature phrases such as “Military calls on president to step down” and “Bolivia’s President Resigns Amid Election-Fraud allegations.” The framing in these headlines diverts attention from the violence that took place and instead makes it seem as though the demonstrations were honorably calling for democracy.

Morales resigned shortly after the Bolivian military called for his resignation. Many leaders have called this power grab a coup, ranging from Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro to the UK Labour Party’s Jeremy Corbyn.

A common argument to hear is that it isn’t being called a coup because it’s not one. It’s people who want democracy reestablished in their country protesting and fighting for their human rights. And while there are definitely people who are unhappy with Morales, if it weren’t a coup, why is he fleeing the country? If the protesters were marching for a new, fair election, then shouldn’t Morales be a part of that election?

The democratic route would see him lose in a follow-up vote, not by being forced to leave the country.

As President Trump celebrates Morales’ resignation, the memory of the United States’ twentieth-century interventionism in Latin America resurfaces. It’s not extreme to label what has happened in Bolivia as a coup. It’s more extreme to brush it off as just democracy in action, given what other South American countries have gone through due to military coups.

Fit Check

Should students wear their Greek letters on campus?

“It’s essential to a college atmosphere. It bridges this idea that we’re not just a liberal arts college but I also could care less too.”
- Dee Barlee, 2020

“It’s great if people worked hard enough to earn them. It’s fine.”
- Jacob Kang, 2021

“They’re repping where they belong to, I’m not annoyed about it.”
- Kalina Witkowska, 2023

“Honestly, it’s not all that.”
- Diamond Wint, 2020
Benner says "the biggest key to our success as we head into post season play is to be aggressive and set the tone of each game by controlling the first touch." If the Bears stick to their keys to success, they are looking to make a run to the Centennial Conference championship and beyond, to the NCAA tournament.

Benner was looking to carry the momentum from this victory onto the post season, saying "Winning on a last second goal … definitely left us feeling like there is more to give. This team is motivated and ready to play hard this weekend to bring the Centennial Conference trophy back home." The win over Bryn Mawr secured the third seed in the Centennial Conference playoffs for the Bears as they faced the second seed, #7 Franklin & Marshall, in the conference semifinals at Johns Hopkins on Friday, November 8th.

Sadly, the season came to a close against #7 Franklin & Marshall with a 2-0 loss. The Bears fought extremely hard this season and earned a ranking as high as #9. The senior leadership has left the program in good hands and the field hockey squad has a lot to build off for years to come.

Psenicska is not letting such a successful game get to his head: "I’m gonna put the game in the past and just focus on the next one because we still have some work to do."

The Bears look to wrap up conference play at Dickinson Saturday, Nov. 16.

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First-year QB shines against McDaniel

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Despite key players being out due to injuries, the Ursinus College football team did not miss a beat as freshman Jack Psenicska lead the Bears to victory in the role of quarterback vs. Centennial Conference opponent McDaniel on Saturday, Nov. 2, downing the Green Terror 37-16. With senior captain quarterback Tommy Garlick and back-up Aidan Klassen sidelined, Psenicska showed up and executed for the Bears.

The rookie threw for 335 yards and three touchdowns in his first career start. Two of the touchdowns were 70+ yards, and the freshman averaged 14 yards per attempt and 23.9 yards per completion in the McDaniel game.

Because Psenicska began the week of practice leading up to McDaniel knowing that he would be the starting QB for the Bears, he was able to focus on strengthening connections and building trust with teammates: “During the week of practice before the game, I was just doing my best to build a connection with the receivers so they knew they could trust me. I was studying film as much as I could. Not much was going through my head, I was just excited to be able to play.”

The freshman says that Garlick played a major role in his preparation for the game: “Tommy has helped me more than I could have asked for. I know it wasn’t easy for him to sit out and watch because of how much he loves the game, but he made sure I knew what I had to do.”

Psenicska admits, “All my teammates had my back; that’s why I felt so confident. I knew no matter what that they

Field Hockey concludes postseason run

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The Ursinus College field hockey team has concluded its regular season with an overall record of eleven wins and six losses and a Centennial Conference record of seven wins and three losses. The successful regular season for the Bears included an average of 3.2 goals per game and 1.49 goals against per game.

The team concluded their regular season with a thrilling 1-0 victory over Bryn Mawr. The lone goal of the game was scored at the buzzer by junior Devon Carroll. The goal was Carroll’s 14th of the season, a team high. The Bears trailed 10-12 on shots, but led the Owls 6-3 on shots on goal, and earned 9 penalty corners to the Owls’ 8. Goalkeeper Addie Frey recorded saves on all three shots she faced.

The successful regular season included a seven-game winning streak over the month of September, seven shut-outs, and a .647 winning percentage. Head coach Janelle Benner says of the team, “This team has worked really hard to stay connected on the field all season and grow in our passing game. They have continued to sharpen up their skills as well.” This connectivity as well as these sharpened skills will aid the Bears as they take on tough opponents in the playoffs. As they make their postseason run,