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## The Grizzly, April 4, 2019

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# Holocaust survivor shares story with Ursinus

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“As survivors are getting older, it will be harder and harder to hear a first-hand account of their stories in person,” the UC website said, in an effort to encourage students to take advantage of Holocaust survivor Ernie Gross’ talk on March 27. Gross shared his story of going to Auschwitz as a kid and the traumatic experience of losing his family. The event was organized by Dr. Alexandria Frisch, Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies / Coordinator of Jewish Life.

Gross grew up in Romania and was taken to Auschwitz when he was just a teenager. One of Gross’s many memories was about how he had to change his way of thinking in order to sur-

vive. Instead of sharing the little bread he got, he had to develop a selfish mindset so he could survive. Gross also made a point to include humor in his story, believing it was necessary to help both him and the audience get through his tragic tale.

The talk was especially important for Jewish students, like senior Mikaela Bordonaro. She said, “I feel like it is part of my duty as a Jewish person to listen to the stories of Holocaust survivors so when they are no longer around their legacy can keep going.”

Sophomore Ally Henriksen attended the event because she thought it was important to remember it the way it happened. “I went because of the personal experiences behind the Holocaust,” Henriksen said, “in order to get a better understanding of

the event.”

Bordonaro also wanted to emphasize the importance of Holocaust education, believing that going further than the classroom is an important step. “Push yourself out of your comfort zone, attend talks and lectures that aren’t mandatory for a class you’re taking, educate yourself outside of the classroom,” said Bordonaro.

Gross himself left a final message after the talk. “Well I’d like the students to take away from my story that, if somebody asks you for help... try to forgive. Anybody you can help you should help,” said Gross, “Also we have to like each other because we all come from the same source. It shouldn’t matter how you look like, everybody counts.”



Photo courtesy of Sam Rosenthal

# New interdisciplinary course brings biology and African American history together

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Ursinus is offering a new course entitled “Biology and the African Diaspora in America.” The course, taught by Dr. Simara Price, brings together the study of biology, and the study of African American history. It will be offered to students with majors outside of the sciences, providing an opportunity for students to experience a scientific course while learning medical social history.

Biology and the African Diaspora offers non-majors an opportunity study biology in a way they can use in their fields. “This has been a personal project for me,” says Price. “The historical context of how science has affected the experience of black people in America has been something I have been passionate about since undergrad.”

Price has always wanted to teach a course that pulls students from fields outside of her direct department, and Ursinus has provided this opportunity. The class will cover evolution, natural selection, and genetics, focusing on concepts such as skin pigmentation. The course will not go as in-depth, however, as standard biology courses would. Instead, Price designed the work to give students information that is pertinent to them.

When designing the course, she asked the following questions: “Do students really need to know all the enzymes in this pathway? Or do they just have to understand how external influences affect this pathway?” Some of the social science and historical aspects will include scientific racism, social race, slavery and its lasting effects on African Americans in the United States. Two of the more specific

cases that will be covered are the Tuskegee Experiment, a government-sponsored clinical study that gave 600 African American sharecroppers syphilis, and Henrietta Lacks, a woman whose cervical cancer cells had an immortal cell line and were surgically removed without her consent. The roots of racism in the United States run deep, and Price hopes to teach students the role of scientists in that history.

Many students hope that classes like these will be offered more frequently for non-majors. The intimidation factor of entry-level biology or chemistry courses is very real, and that impacts decisions of non-major students when choosing their classes. Senior Matt Hartigan, a Media and Communications major, had always been nervous to take science courses at Ursinus over his 4 years. “I waited until my last semester to fulfill my lab



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

science credit because I was so intimidated. This left me with fewer options than I would have liked,” he said.

One other useful feature about the course is that it fulfills the coveted and feared Ursinus lab science credit. For many social studies and humanities majors, popular lab science requirement courses include astronomy and geology, courses taken by second

semester seniors for a graduation requirement. This course aims to bring valuable skills as well as a new topic to the lab science requirement, expanding the offering to the Ursinus community. For example, Matt is currently taking a course in the Physics department, Introduction to Astronomy, but said that he wished

See Course on pg. 2

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there were other offerings that he could better integrate with his own studies and experience. He believes that many students on campus have an interest in the sciences but are fearful of trying out the coursework. Offerings like Biology and the African Diaspora offer a crossover between the social sciences and the hard sciences.

Price hopes students learn a number of things from taking her class. "Of course the social aspects of how biology and science has played a role in the social structures of America, but another thing I want students to take from my course is the ability to identify reputable sources and

utilize web sites for research," she said. "I want students to be able to pull from their experience in this class years down the line, and to have an understanding of their own experiences."

Students outside of the science departments should definitely take a look at what Biology and the African Diaspora can offer. If you have interest in biology, history, African American studies, or anything related, this course may be for you.

Course registration this year is from, April 8-21. Check the UC website for more information.



## Word on the Street

*Did you know about the Nuclear Power Plant in Limerick? How do you feel about living so close to it?*

"I did know about the Nuclear Power Plant. To be honest, I'm more afraid of Ursinus' tuition than the plant causing harm."

-Jadidsa Perez, 2021

"I did know about the Nuclear Power Plant — apparently you can get free medicine to take if you live within a certian radius of the plant."

-Sam Harvey, 2020

"I think I heard about the Plant sometime during freshman year, but I haven't heard anything since. I don't really have any formed opinion because I don't have enough knowledge about it."

-Sara Meredith, 2020

"One Word: Superpowers."

-Johnny Myers, 2019

# Talk on free speech vs. censorship

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On March 26, Ursinus held an event titled "Is Hate Speech Free Speech?" that probed the question: What is the line that defines hate speech and free speech? The speakers discussed and debated the controversies that arise, on campus and off, over what hate speech is and what can be done about it.

The panel consisted of Nadine Strossen and Jeremy Waldron, two intellectual experts in the field of free speech. Nadine Strossen was the first female chair of the American Civil Liberties Union, holding the position from 1991 to 2008. She is the author of "Hate: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship," and is a professor of constitutional law at New York Law School. Jeremy Waldron, professor at NYU school of law, is the author of "The Harm in Hate Speech." He was formerly the Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory at All Souls College at Oxford University.

In "Hate: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship," Nadine Strossen argues that government may not punish some hate speech solely because its message is disfavored, disturbing, or vaguely feared. She claims that "hate speech" laws are ineffective and counterproductive, and hate speech must be counteracted with productive conversations, not regulations.

"The Harm in Hate Speech," on the other hand, claims that hate speech must be regulated as part of our obligations to human decency, as well as to the inclusion and respect of minorities

and other marginalized groups.

The event was organized by the politics, media and communications studies, and economics departments. Additionally, the pre-law program and the Institute for Inclusion and Equity were also co-sponsors.

Dr. Jonathan Marks from the politics department connected the subject of the panel with the core curriculum, claiming that "we've been discussing these issues as a community for some time, most recently but not only with respect to the draft values statement. That's not surprising because 'how should we live together' is not only one of our core questions but a fundamental question for any community. How we should deal with capacity of speech to generate strong passions and to cause harm, among other things, is one important part of that question."

The discussion around free speech and hate speech is a difficult conversation to have in today's polarized political environment. Marks said, "the terrorist attacks on mosques in New Zealand remind us that in the U.S., too, people who loathe and fear members of certain groups, are meeting each other on line, affirming each other's prejudices, and glorifying mass killers. More broadly, our politics is uncommonly polarized right now, and that cuts two ways, We are very eager to shut each other up. But we are not so eager to trust our political enemies with the power to shut people up." The importance of having an open dialogue about what can and cannot be said should not be ignored.

One claim that Strossen put forward is that "in the United States, we do allow hate speech to be punished in certain circumstances. One of the ways in

which these debates are often misleading is that they tend to hear polarized statements, each of which is not true. One of them is that 'Hate speech is not free speech'- that is not correct insofar that we do not in this country have a categorical exception to free speech with a hateful message. But it's also inaccurate to say that 'hate speech is constitutionally protected,' because there are many circumstances. I realized there are many more circumstances that I can count of where the law does appropriately empower the punishment of speech with a hateful message. The basic line that our law draws says that 'we many not punish speech solely because of disagreement or even loathing of the message.'"

Dr. Marks also wants to push the boundaries of what students were willing to discuss and how arguments should be held. He said that "we usually don't get beyond sloganeering when we discuss free speech and hate speech. I think Professors Waldron and Strossen deepened the debate for us. They also showed that it's possible to care a great deal about free speech, as Waldron does, and still favor carefully drafted hate speech regulations, and to care a great deal about combating hate, as Strossen does, and reject even carefully drafted hate speech regulations."

Most significantly, the event cited the controversies over free speech and connected these problems to the broad core questions. The questions "How should we live together?" and "What should I do?" were in play during the event, connecting to the curriculum at large.

## The GRIZZLY

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The Grizzly is a weekly student-run publication that serves the Ursinus community. Views expressed in The Grizzly do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff or college.

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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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# Ursinus students travel to attend 63rd annual UN women's conference

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On March 9th, Reverend Teri Ofori organized a trip to the 63rd annual UN Women's Conference. The theme of this year's conference, according to the organization's website, was bolstering social protection systems, as well as improving access to public services and building sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and female empowerment. Ofori's group included students from two groups – Sisters in Spirit, who work with Rev. Ofori in the chapel, and students majoring in International Relations. The group went to the Pre-Commission on the Status of Women Youth Dialogue where they interacted with young advocates from all over the world and proposed ideas for increased social protection, particularly for young women in school.

By the end of the session, Ofori's group had devised a proposal on what they thought the

minimum standards for women and girls everywhere should be. For example, they thought there should be investment in "inclusive, free, accessible, youth-friendly, high quality healthcare systems, including mental health services, nutrition services, and ensure young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights." Furthermore, there should be investment in "public awareness campaigns that address unequal power relations and harmful stereotypes of masculinity and femininity." There should also be "stricter regulation of media that features stereotypical gender roles" as well as the ability to hold the "media accountable for the negative impacts that they have on the body image of women and girls." This proposal was then presented to UN Women and the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth and Youth Partner Organizations.

Anika Backelin-Harrison '19, one of the students who attended, said that over the next few days of the conference, students were free to explore on their own: "[We] could go to any number

of events held all over midtown, mostly around the UN block. I attended several, one by Woman-kind Worldwide (an organization I interned with in London), one by a South African trust, and one held in the UN itself," said Backelin-Harrison.

Overall, Backelin-Harrison enjoyed the trip. "The trip was amazing, especially because it offered so many opportunities for networking and meeting people who you'd never meet otherwise. For example, I met a young lawyer from Ghana who works with victims of domestic abuse. I also met an anthropologist from South Africa working to enhance young women's representation in the field," she said.

Chelsey Thomas '19 also enjoyed the conference. "I was able to meet female leaders from my home country of Trinidad and Tobago and talk to them about after-school programs that could be created for Trinidadian youth," she said. Examples of after-school programs discussed were increased networking opportunities for students who are under 18: "[the] current main



Photo courtesy of Paul Cottam

focus is a federally funded after school program in partnership with the Trinidadian police force that allows kids up to 18 years old the chance to meet and network with lawyers and doctors as well as have a place to do homework after school, play sports, and just overall have a community."

The closing event of the conference was the final Youth Dialogue, where all who attended were given a podium mic and

translator headpiece as they took their seats. The group listened to leaders from around the world speak about their accomplishments and hopes for UN Women, particularly as youth delegates. Backelin-Harrison said, "the dialogue was quick but impactful – the entire session lasted only an hour. That was the last day we were in NYC, the next morning, Thursday, we all came back to campus."

## Period product drive raises awareness

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Conversation about menstruation is typically something kept on the margins of American society, but organizations at Ursinus are looking to change that. The sisters of Kappa Delta Kappa, Tau Sigma Gamma, Omega Chi, Tri Sigma, Phi Alpha Psi, along with the Peer Advocates, FIA, and the Whitiens Society teamed up for a Period Product Drive after spring break. The Period Product Drive raised awareness about a lack of accessibility to feminine hygiene products for lower income women, and had collection bins around campus for products such as tampons and pads.

This is the first year Ursinus students have done a feminine products drive. Philanthropy Chair of KDK and President of the Whitiens Lauren Feldman said, "As a group of people who experience menstruation, we wanted to help others who

go through the same. There are many people, about 1 in 4, who are unable to afford period products."

Sydney Cope, president of Kappa Delta Kappa, added, "We as an organization had mentioned doing a period product drive... but hadn't nailed down an exact organization, but two of my sisters are participating in internships at this organization and let us know that they do accept feminine hygiene products...the donations are going to the Mitzvah Circle Foundation, which is a non-profit organization based in Harleysville, PA."

According to the Mitzvah Circle Foundation website their Period Supply Program aims to "to increase access to period supplies for women and girls who do not have resources to obtain these essentials. Without them, women and girls miss work and school."

Cope explained a bit more about the foundation and its mission and why the groups on campus choose to focus on col-

lecting period supplies.

"Those in need request assistance and supplies from the foundation, they take a range of donations from diapers to clothes and shoes, school supplies, and a ton more," Cope said. "However, the product in need much of the time in poverty situations are menstruation products for women. Many times those experiencing poverty cannot afford basic products to get them through and we wanted to help support a local organization in helping those in need."

These Ursinus organizations also accepted donations via Venmo for this cause as well as taking physical donations which could be left in boxes on campus.

The drive has been getting a lot of attention since it started. "So far we've received a lot of donations, we've had to empty the boxes out a few times so that they weren't overflowing with products!" says Cope. "Given that this is our first year, we are really excited to see the turnout and support that we've received

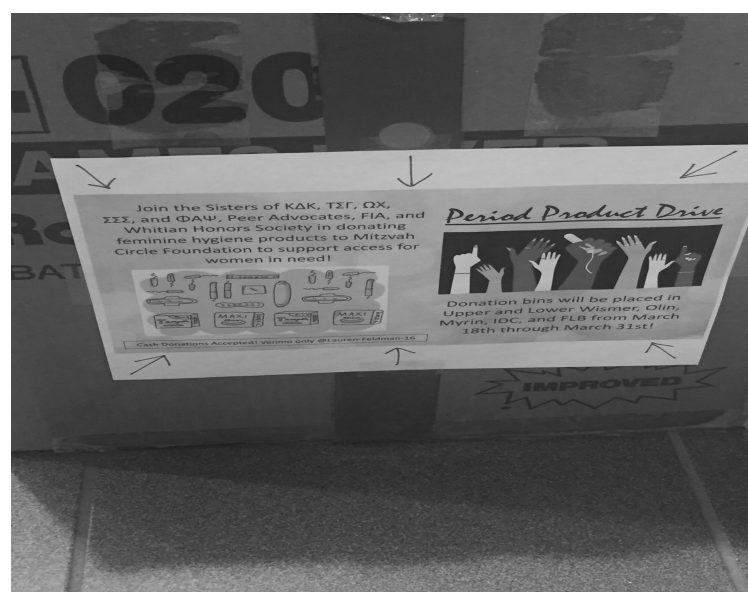


Photo courtesy of William Wehrs

from all over campus and hope to continue doing this drive regularly."

By the time the drive ended on Sunday, Feldman said they had collected, "a couple of large boxes filled with pads and tampons! We also received over \$100 through Venmo."

The groups plan to organize a drive again in the future.

Feldman said, "This was the first time we decided to do this collection drive and I think we got a great amount of donations! We definitely want to continue to support individuals who experience menstruation and to support the work that the Mitzvah Circle Foundation is doing."

*Additional reporting by Courtney Duchene.*

## Piñata Party: Students celebrate heritage

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Even if two people are from “two different backgrounds, they can both share in the significance” of the cultural meaning and joy of the piñata, said Christopher Moreno '22 about the Piñata Party that L.A.X., ALMA and Latin American Studies came together to host on Saturday, March 23rd. With the help of a grant, the Latin American Studies department was able to create the event in hopes of providing a fun activity as well as educating people about the Latinx community. The event allowed people across campus to learn more about the history of piñatas while getting to make their own.

President of ALMA, Zonia Rueda '19, said that she wanted to help to share “the Hispanic culture within the Ursinus community, even through piñatas, which are typical in the Mexican culture at kids’ birthday parties.” To make a piñata, take a balloon, cover it in newspaper that has been dipped in a bucket of glue and water, and

after every layer completely dries, fill it with candy. Later, break it open in celebration!

Many people at the event got creative with their piñatas. For example, Christopher Moreno '22 made his piñata into a Christmas ornament, complete with a bendy straw on each side.

In addition to decorating their own piñatas, students listened to music, danced, sang, and did a raffle for the graphic novel *La Borinqueña* by Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez. Stephanie Guzman, President of L.A.X., said, “I had a great time planning this event and was happy with the turnout.”

Moreno praised the event as “an opportunity to listen to Latin music, dance together, use stuff from back home.” He hopes for more events based in Latinx culture and said, “I definitely think we should have events like that on campus. It reminds me of home, brings back memories.” Events like this bring together the whole Latinx community.

Be sure to look out for upcoming events from L.A.X. and ALMA. L.A.X. will have their second group meeting on April 11 at 6:00 p.m. Additionally,

ALMA will be hosting Latin Night on April 6 from 7-11 p.m. and hopes to bring the community together again with music, dancing, and food.

### WRITERS WANTED

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voice to The  
Grizzly

Join us for our  
weekly news  
meeting

Thursdays,  
5:30 p.m.  
Ritter 141

## Fridge of the week

With all this juice, Samantha Knepper '22 and Mariah Jones '22 sure are staying hydrated this April.



**Calling all interesting fridges!** If you have a refrigerator you would like featured in the Grizzly, please email [sicoleman@ursinus.edu](mailto:sicoleman@ursinus.edu)



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Students enjoying their piñatas.

# New summer programs at UC

*Learn more about The Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality Program and the Harold C. Smith Vocational Discernment Program*

**Shelsea Deravil**  
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Ursinus College is initiating two new summer programs: the Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality Program, which will prepare incoming freshmen for what they will do for their next four years here, and the Harold C. Smith Vocational Discernment Program, which will provide summer internship funding for current students.

The Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality Program is funded by the Teagle Foundation and is led by Dr. Paul Stern from the politics department. This program is an extensive two-week experience that will serve prospective first-generation Ursinus students from rural areas. Stern explained that “the ultimate goal is to enable students to understand themselves better ... by opening up questions like where they are in this world

and what they must strive for ... students who wouldn’t think about college, or know hardly anything about college, this is to provide them the experience.” The program will be structured similarly to a CIE class setting, where discussions will focus on documents by authors like Frederick Douglass.

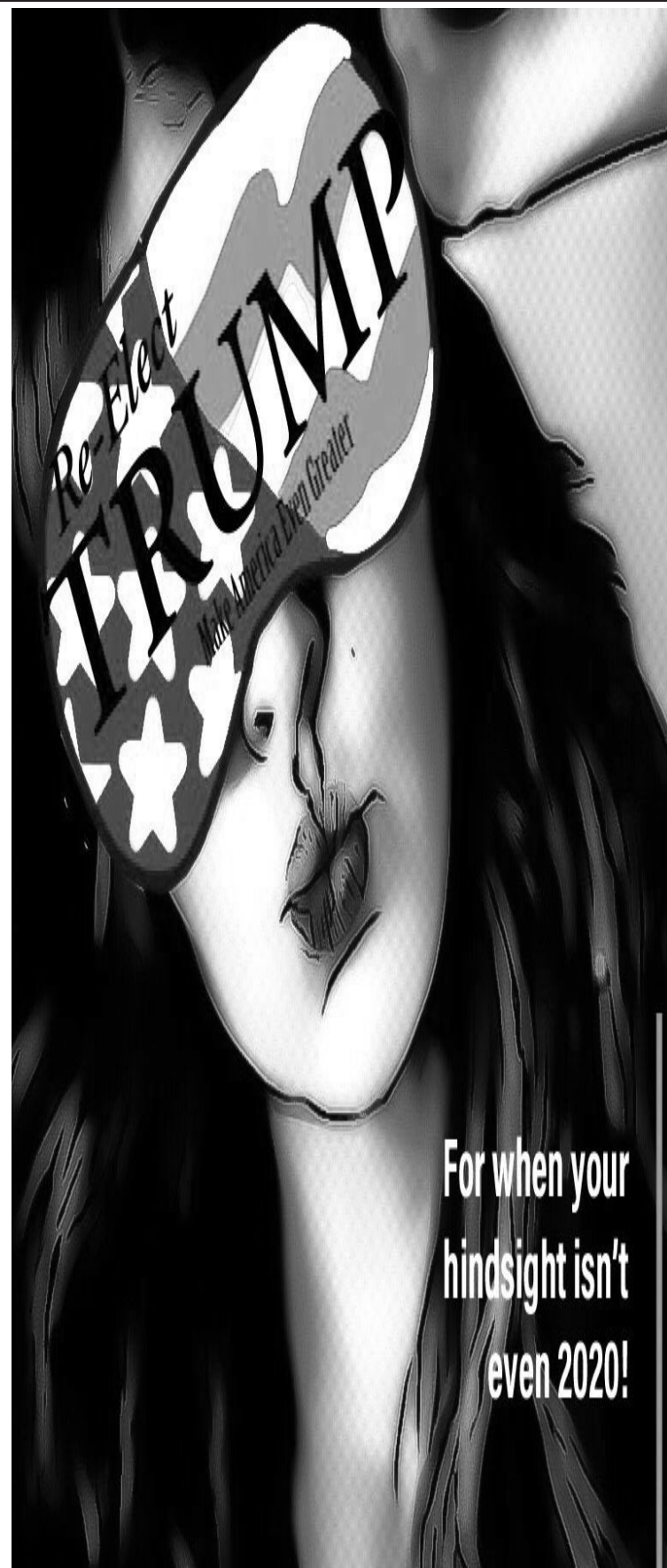
The first cohort of students for the Freedom Program will come from Upper Perkiomen High School in Pennsburg, PA. During the program, Ursinus students will serve as their writing mentors to teach them how to lead discussions. This experience will help the students prepare for when they begin their first semester the following fall. “They must think of themselves as citizens more seriously and what that entails,” Stern said.

The Harold C. Smith Vocational Discernment Program, which is funded by the Harold C. Smith Foundation, “gives

students on-campus housing and funds their unpaid summer internships with local nonprofits” explains Angela Upright ‘17. The program is led by Upright and Reverend Terri Ofori. This year, five students will each receive a \$2,500 stipend in addition to course credit for their internship. Katie Turek, assistant director of UCARE, will serve as their on-campus mentor and will help the cohort reflect every couple of weeks. “The goal of the program is for students to have a vocational discernment exploration where they will determine what they may like or dislike for their next four years at Ursinus,” said Upright. Upright encourages rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors of all majors to apply. Hopefully our campus community will become more thoughtful and driven as Ursinus welcomes these new students and new programs to campus.



The Harold C. Smith Vocational Discernment Program is funded by the Harold C. Smith Foundation. Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications



For when your  
hindsight isn't  
even 2020!

Image courtesy of Danielle Freedman-Hill

## Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<i>Jewish Comedy, A Serious History: An Evening with Jeremy Dauber</i> 6:30 p.m. Musser Auditorium	<i>Edible Books Festival</i> 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	<i>The Medusa Play</i> 7:30 p.m. <i>Blackbox Theater; Kaleidoscope</i>	<i>Chapel Service</i> 12 p.m. <i>Bomberger Meditation Chapel</i>	<i>Fall 2019 Registration Begins</i>	<i>Sisters in Spirit</i> 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. <i>Bomberger Meditation Chapel</i>	<i>Walking in Wisdom</i> 7:00 a.m. <i>Meet in Front of Bomberger Hall</i>

# Negative consequences of automation must be addressed

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In anticipation of the 2020 election, many of today's most pressing issues - such as health care, education and climate change - are being vigorously debated publicly. However, one particularly pressing issue is barely being discussed at all: automation.

Automation has a remarkably high probability of completely remaking the U.S. economy. Specifically, new advanced forms of artificial intelligence and automation could put a large number of Americans out of work, thus creating a permanent class of unemployed workers. Despite the critical nature of this issue, there is not a large policy discussion occurring.

Occasionally, those who are concerned by automation are written off as cranks who are uncomfortable with the trappings of the modern world. But in fact, automation - and resistance to it - has existed since the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution.

In 18th century England, the Luddites rioted and destroyed machines that they feared would eliminate their jobs in the textile industries. What makes concerns about automation in the 19th century different from today is the scale of the issue. The degree to which automation could change the U.S. economy later in the 21st century is dizzying. For example, a 2017 McKinsey Global Institute study found that the U.S. could lose 73 million jobs to automation and the world could lose 800 million jobs by 2030.

To be fair, McKinsey thinks that all of these job losses will, with economic reforms, be replaced by new, better-paying jobs. However, I am skeptical about this claim for several reasons. First, we have not seen this in recent decades. For example, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many workers in the horse carriage industry lost their jobs when the automobile became popular. All those workers were able to find better jobs in the automobile industry and re-

lated industries such as oil, steel, rubber, sales, marketing, radios, mechanic shops, and many others. However, blue-collar workers have been unable to restart their careers in recent decades. For example, in rust belt states, such as Pennsylvania, jobs lost in industries such as manufacturing have not been replaced by an abundance of new attainable jobs, but by the creation of a small set of high-skilled technology-oriented jobs that could not make up for the losses in the old blue-collar work. All the workers who used to work in steel and coal did not start working for Tesla because the economy of the 21st century is so productive that only a small amount of technology-savvy, well-educated workers is necessary.

Because the existing issues of automation have yet to be addressed in any significant way, deindustrialized communities have found themselves in dire circumstances. For example: the despair of poverty and joblessness, which first began to manifest itself in blue-collar

African-American communities in the early 1990s, soon migrated to the rust belt and created a fertile ground for drug addiction. The opioid crisis has ripped through America, to the point that 2.1 million Americans have an opioid use disorder and 886,000 Americans have used heroin according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Next, joblessness and poverty has resulted in a decline in American life expectancy. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, American life expectancy has collapsed by 1/10 - from 78.9 to 78.8 - between 2014 and 2016. According to this study, Americans are sicker than other developed countries, progress on treating major diseases has stalled, and issues such as alcoholism, drug-abuse, obesity, social isolation, and poverty are a primary cause of the decline in life expectancy.

Reformers have proposed a wide variety of solutions to the challenges of automation. Universal basic income is a solution based upon the idea of

the government providing each citizen with an income in order to allow them to live a decent life despite being unemployed due to automation. Another idea is an automation tax. This idea proposes that we make automated machines pay payroll taxes in order to support essential programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, in order to ensure the continued success of these programs as tax-paying workers leave the labor market. Those on the more progressive side of the political spectrum advocate for programs such as universal healthcare and public housing to help workers in America. Another common solution is creating more job training programs to help workers enter new technological and information-based fields. I don't know what the best solution might be, but this country needs to have a conversation about what we are going to do about automation.



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# Mueller was never going to save you

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After spending a little over two years waiting with bated breath for Special Counsel Robert Mueller to drop the highly anticipated results of his investigation into Donald Trump's presidential campaign, liberals, journalists, and figureheads of the #Resistance were dismayed to hear that Mueller's final report found no evidence of collusion between the Russian government and the Trump campaign.

While Mueller also noted that his report did not fully exonerate Trump for potential charges of obstruction of justice, there was still a sense of "that's it?" among the same people who, for the better part of the past two years, had been Robert Mueller's biggest supporters. In the wake of the Mueller Report's relative anti-climax, liberal Democrats and their supporters should look inward and ask why they appointed a middle-aged white man

and career Republican as the nation's de facto savior against the evils of Donald Trump.

Ever since he was initially appointed in May 2017, Muellermania has been the mobilizing force behind some of the loudest voices in opposition to Trump. Mueller's no-nonsense attitude and his reputation among Washington policy wonks as an exemplar of competence and legal prowess turned him from an anonymous figure in the American political landscape to a living meme over the course of Trump's first half-term.

Mueller is to the anti-Trump liberal what someone like Chuck Norris or Dirty Harry might be to an aging boomer grandpa. Some particularly canny merchandisers even took to manufacturing and selling Mueller-themed prayer candles. Admittedly, the Democrats' canonization of St. Mueller is a little more tongue-in-cheek than the honest-to-goodness evangelical fervor on

display at any given Trump rally. But as someone with a healthy skepticism of the American intelligence apparatus, the overwhelming support that Mueller - former director of the FBI, an organization that has played no small part in dismantling radical activist groups and obstructing efforts to maintain a greater level of government transparency - has received over the past few years does not sit entirely well with me.

In early 2003, in the months leading up to the Iraq War, Mueller testified before the Senate Select Committee that Iraq was in possession of weapons of mass destruction. Infamously, these "WMDs" turned out to be nonexistent, and the Bush administration was promptly blamed for sending millions of Americans off to die in an unjust war based on sketchy intelligence. Some might argue that the sins of the past shouldn't influence how we view Mueller's reputation

today, but in a nation where the aftershocks of the Bush administration's inept handling of quote-unquote global peacekeeping are still felt today, it's worth holding those who played some part in it to some degree of accountability.

In addition, Mueller publicly defended the NSA surveillance programs brought to light by Edward Snowden in 2013. Those who fervently lavished Mueller with praise for trying to bring Trump's backdoor dealings to public attention might want to reflect on how this anti-transparency position conflicts with the public image of Mueller as an unbiased servant of justice.

Putting the onus to stop Trump on one individual or one movement is a dicey enough proposition as it is. But in putting said onus on a figure within the American justice system, Mueller's supporters are almost asking to be let down. Hear me out - what if foreign powers, namely Russia, aren't entirely

to blame for the rise of Trump? What if, like in those old slasher movies, the killer is calling from inside the house? What if our institutions, the FBI and the Department of Justice among them, exist solely to serve the needs of the wealthy and privileged, and that's how someone like Trump get to where he's gotten today?

Yes, it's fun to make memes and don your well-worn "It's Mueller Time" enamel pin, but at the end of the day, there's only one person who can not only halt the rise of Trumpism but also create a vision for what the world might look like after the reign of Prez #45 has ended. That person, dear reader, is YOU - you, your friends and allies, and anyone else who believes that the future of humanity is something worth fighting for. I mean, guys, Robert Mueller isn't even that hot. If you want a charismatic and professional-minded middle-aged man to drool over, Kyle MacLachlan is *right there*.



# The "Loves Giving Length" Award: Nick DeFeo



Photo courtesy of UC Athletics

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Sophomore righty Nick DeFeo has been on a tear in his first season of action for the Ursinus College baseball team.

Overall, DeFeo has logged 23.0 innings for the Bears across 6 appearances (3 starts) with a 3.13 ERA.

He started off by coming in out of the bullpen during the team's spring break trip in Florida, proving himself worthy of a start against Rhode Island College on Mar. 16. DeFeo spun a 7-inning complete-game shutout against the 2018 regional team.

Two starts later, DeFeo did it again, throwing a 9-inning complete game, one-run appearance in his Centennial Conference debut against Dickinson College on Saturday, Mar. 30.

Between the number of innings he's provided, his 6-5 frame, and his hair, it's clear to me as a fan, statistician, journalist, and, most importantly, a friend of the program, that this is a kid who simply loves to give length in any way he can.

Murt continued from pg. 8

letes and the Ursinus Football team.

Murt's roommate Matt Hartigan said, "When I found out about Nolan receiving Valedictorian, I was surprised of course because he is one of my roommates, but I know he deserved it. He is one of the hardest working individuals I have ever met, both in the classroom and on the football field."

A graduate from Archbishop Wood High School, and a transfer in his Sophomore year from Amherst College, Murt came to Ursinus to continue his career as a student-athlete.

Over three years at Ursinus, Murt achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.98, earning the status of Valedictorian for the finance department of the class of 2019.

Murt's time as an athlete at Ursinus has been no easy journey. During spring practice his sophomore year, Murt tore his ACL. He would unfortunately miss his entire junior season, but that did not stop him from remaining an integral part of the team.

After undergoing ACL reconstruction surgery, Murt took on a

totally different role for his Junior season and became a team manager. Murt's daily tasks as team manager included filming practices, preparing the practice field and team with anything they needed, along with being in charge of the music on game days.

*"I definitely had my struggles throughout my career here at Ursinus, but I have football, my teammates, and coaches to thank for keeping me focused."*

— Nolan Murt  
Class of 2019

"It was scary. I thought I could never play again, but I wanted to contribute to the team in any way possible. Plus, I enjoyed the team manager role that I took on my junior year as well. It was a learning experience for me," Murt said.

Before Murt's injury, he was asked by the coaching staff to switch positions from fullback to defensive line. Murt, being the team guy he is, accepted the position and made the most of his opportunities. With working tire-

B-Ball continued from pg. 8

on Senior Day. Ursinus trailed by seven at halftime, but fought back to earn a valuable victory over the Mules on a pair of Maya Kornfeld free throws. The Bears were led by big performances from Konstanzer and

*"This season we faced a lot of challenges including injuries, transfers, and a small roster. Every person on the team chose to use those things as motivation rather than setbacks."*

—Lydia Konstanzer  
Class of 2020

freshman Gabby Downs.

Downs said, "[I think the team] gathered so much momentum from that game that spurred us into postseason play."

Clarke added, "[that] was a good example of how resilient we were as a team."

As exciting as that victory was, Ursinus had to get prepared to face that same Muhlenberg team less than a week later in the first round of the Centennial Conference playoffs. Ursinus made sure this one wasn't as close as the regular season edition, controlling the game from the opening tip and carrying a 13 point lead into the half-time break before handing the Mules a 57-38 defeat. Konstan-



Photo courtesy of @ursinus\_football on Instagram

Nolan Murt played in 7 games for the Bears and tallied two tackles along with three assisted tackles

lessly in the gym, rehabbing his torn ACL and learning a totally new position, his plate was extremely full.

Balancing football and his academics was no small task for Murt.

"Football is a full time job in

my opinion, no matter what division or level you play at. I definitely had my struggles throughout my career here at Ursinus, but I have football, my teammates, and coaches to thank for keeping me focused," Murt said.

Downs was her usual self, dropping in 19 points and corraling 16 rebounds while Downs poured in 13 on a 5-12 shooting performance.

*"I felt like all of our hard work paid off that game and I couldn't have been more excited."*

— Gabby Downs  
Class of 2022

"Getting the first playoff victory in 12 years was exhilarating. It was so great to see our hard work pay off," Konstanzer said.

Downs echoed Konstanzer's statement.

"I felt like all of our hard work paid off that game and I couldn't have been more excited," Downs said

Ursinus' season ended in the Centennial Conference semifinals, when they fell to number one seed Gettysburg by a final of 74-51. However, the future is bright in Collegeville. The Bears bring back their top eight leading scorers from the 2019 campaign. With another year of experience under their belts, the Bears could be in for a historic season in 2020.

## Scores as of Monday, April 1

M. Lacrosse (8-1)	W. Lacrosse (1-8)	Track and Field	Baseball (10-7)	Softball (9-9)	M. Tennis (3-6)	W. Tennis (6-7)
March 27: Ursinus: 10 Washington Coll: 7	March 30: Swarthmore: 15 Ursinus: 11	March 29-30: Danny Curran Invitational (@ Widener U):  Men: 7th of 29 Women: 13th of 29	March 26: PS Harrisburg: 7 Ursinus: 5  March 27: Ursinus: 14 Immaculata: 7  March 30: Ursinus: 5 Dickinson: 1	March 26: Eastern: 2 Ursinus: 10  March 28: Ursinus: 8 Elizabethrown: 3  March 30: Ursinus: 1 Dickinson: 1	March 30: Ursinus: 0 #21 J. Hopkins: 9	March 27: Washington Coll: 5 Ursinus: 4  March 28: Ursinus: 9 Cabrini: 0  March 30: Ursinus: 0 #26 J. Hopkins: 9



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Athletics

## Nolan Murt named Finance valedictorian

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Nolan Murt, a football player in the Class of 2019, was named valedictorian of the Finance department for his class. He is the first Ursinus Football player to earn valedictorian honors. He plans on pursuing a career in player personnel for a professional football organization.

Murt, studying within the Finance track of the Applied Economics major, was also a part of the Association of Christian Ath-

See Murt on pg. 7

## Women's Hoops reflects on historic season

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The 2018-2019 season was a record-breaking season for the women's basketball team. They were able to host a Centennial Conference playoff game and picked up their first playoff victory since 2007.

Beyond the team success, a pair of Bears garnered All-CC recognition. Junior do-it-all forward Lydia Konstanzer earned

first team accolades while sophomore guard Aliyah Stephens was named to the second team. Konstanzer was also named second team All-Mid-Atlantic Region by D3Hoops.com, only the second player in program history to earn such an honor.

Despite the successes, this past season wasn't smooth sailing for the Bears. Ursinus had to fight through injuries for the entire season.

The first blow was losing se-

nior guards Kaci McNeave and Brielle Clarke to season-ending knee injuries early on in the 2018-2019 campaign. Then, starting forward Toni Suler suffered a season-ending knee injury during their Feb. 5 contest against Gettysburg as well.

Konstanzer was proud of the team's ability to come together through these challenges.

"This season we faced a lot of challenges including injuries, transfers, and a small roster. Ev-

ery person on the team chose to use those things as motivation, rather than setbacks," Konstanzer said.

Senior guard Brielle Clarke cited the team's "resilience and ability to overcome adversity" as something she was impressed with from her team.

One game that seemingly defined this team was their one point victory over Muhlenberg

See B-Ball on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images

The Ursinus College women's basketball team went 17-10 overall this season. They won their first playoff game against Muhlenberg before getting bounced in the semifinal by Gettysburg.

### Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Monday	Tuesday
Women's Tennis: 4 p.m.: @#15 Swarthmore		Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: @#4 Swarthmore	Track and Field: Bill Butler Invitational @West Chester U	Softball: 1 p.m.: Double Header vs. Gettysburg	Baseball: 4 p.m.: @TCNJ	Softball: 3 p.m.: Double Header vs. Haverford
Baseball: 5:30 p.m.: @DeSales		Men's Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: vs. McDaniel	Tennis: 1 p.m.: @McDaniel	Baseball: 12 p.m.: Double Header vs. #11 Johns Hopkins	Women's Lacrosse: 3 p.m.: vs. McDaniel	Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: vs. F&M
Women's Lacrosse: 7 p.m.: @Washington Coll.		Baseball: 12 p.m.: Double Header vs. #11 Johns Hopkins	Women's Tennis: 4 p.m.: vs. Bryn Mawr			