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The Grizzly, April 27, 2017

Brian Thomas
Ursinus College

Kevin Leon
Ursinus College


Erin McKinney
Ursinus College

Chris Karmilowicz
Ursinus College

Courtney A. DuChene
Ursinus College, coduchene@ursinus.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Brian Thomas, Kevin Leon, Erin McKinney, Chris Karmilowicz, Courtney A. DuChene, Jordan Ostrum, Fran Liberatoscioli, and Hunter Gellman



Ursinus makes changes to graduation

Kevin Leon
keleon@ursinus.edu

The graduation celebration for the class of 2017 has been transformed from past years. In addition to moving commencement from Friday to Sunday, Ursinus has also added a senior week of celebration leading up to the commencement on May 14, 2017. In the fall of 2016, a committee, consisting of students from various segments of the senior class along with some Ursinus staff, formed in order to plan commencement activities (Full disclosure: Grizzly staff members Brian Thomas and Jordan Scharaga served as student representatives on the committee).

The planned activities are a movie night at Trappe Tavern on Wednesday, a Phoenixville night out on Thursday, an Outdoor Celebration & Bonfire on Friday, and a Philadelphia trip on Saturday.

The events are for all seniors and their permitted one guest. Ursinus will be charging a \$95 fee for all guests to help offset the costs of the week.

“The 95-dollar fee is well below the cost of the meals, the transportation, the activities, and the events, so it is quite a bargain,” said associate dean Todd McKinney at a town hall meeting for students to learn more and voice their concerns. McKinney chaired the committee.

The fee came as a surprise to numerous seniors, along with changes to the way celebrations on campus would be handled, and many students attended the town hall to express their concerns.

At the town hall, McKinney presented further detail about what senior week entails and the decision-making process behind it. He also addressed changes

beginning with this year’s senior class. McKinney said in his presentation that more than 10 committee meetings were held over the year.

The committee looked at what other schools do regarding their senior weeks. They surveyed 30 schools, though not all responded. The presentation itself featured six of the responding schools’ answers. Of the six schools shown, four did not allow any guests, while only two permitted them. They found that no other school offers an extensive a list of events, especially for this price. Another thing discovered was that many schools actually had more expensive fees.

In the first semester, there was a survey emailed by the committee regarding interests in senior week. The committee designed a schedule of events using this student feedback. The rough cost estimation of the festivities totals up to about \$68,000. To help offset the cost, the committee suggested allowing seniors to bring a guest, albeit for a fee. The \$95 is well below the total cost of the celebrations. The committee also felt that a \$95 fee was a good middle ground for Ursinus to take, considering other schools’ guest policies, according to McKinney.

Assistant Dean Melissa Sanders Giess presented the second item discussed in the town hall. She addressed the influx of people coming into Reimert courtyard at early times in the evening for celebrations in the few days leading up to commencement.

“I think one of the reasons might be because we started letting people drink in the courtyard during the year,” said Sanders Giess. “Historically we didn’t allow anyone to have drinks in the

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Photo Courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

The procession from last year’s commencement. This year, changes have been made to the ceremony.



Photo courtesy of Sydney Cope

Students share poster presentations during the Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA) on April 19 in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.

Mellon Foundation awards college grant for new core curriculum

Erin McKinney

ermckinney@ursinus.edu

Ursinus's new core curriculum has attracted attention—and money.

Recently, Ursinus College received a grant of \$500,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This grant is being directed to the creation and development of a new core curriculum to be implemented over the next few years.

The mission statement of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation states that the organization provides “support [to] exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work.”

Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs Nathan Rein helped to

provide insight on the goals Ursinus wishes to achieve with this grant, and exactly what this will mean for current and incoming students.

“Basically, we’re taking what we do well with CIE and trying to infuse it into other parts of the student experience,” said Rein.”

According to Rein, much of this large grant will be designated to different training and incentive programs for professors and will greatly change the way the school handles first-year advising.

“The grant will give faculty funding to take a summer to design a new course, or towards training for new strategies and techniques,” he said.

The impact of the grant and the mission of the Mellon Foundation will be reflected in their assistance to the goals of

the newly created Institute for Academic Success.

“One of the things the Institute has been set up to do is work on some of the equity issues that exist in higher education institutions everywhere,” said Rein. “Making sure that everybody gets served as best as possible, including those with disabilities or those coming from a background where they might not have quite the same high school preparation [as other students].”

Members of the faculty will be able to, with assistance from the grant, provide better academic assistance, and to understand the need for such assistance, for students from various backgrounds.

The grant will directly change first-year advising the most. There are plans to “make the first-year advising practices a

little more systematic and more structured ... so the students have a more consistent experience across the board,” said Rein.

This will most likely come to fruition in the grouping of first-year students together to meet with their advisors once a week, as well as setting up one-on-one meetings when needed.

“We’re really hoping that creating groups like this will put you in a situation as an incoming student with some other students who are going through the exact same thing,” said Rein.

According to Rein, this encourages groups of students to get through their first year together and make lasting connections with their peers. The changes to first-year advising are intended to provide a no-stress check-in point for all freshmen,

and a shared community experience on par with CIE. Additionally, upperclassmen will see changes in how the core operates.

Though Rein stressed this is still a pilot program and is subject to change, there are going to be shifts in current courses and new courses will be created to make the core curriculum less of a checklist and more of an intersectional opportunity for learning and personal growth.

The changes, though still under review, will be implemented over the next three years through funding by the generous grant from the Mellon Foundation.



Photo Courtesy of Tommy Armstrong

A still from The Grizzly's interview with President Brock Blomberg.

Grizzly Interview with President Brock Blomberg

Grizzly Staff

grizzly@ursinus.edu

This issue is the final print issue of The Grizzly for this academic year. To wrap up our coverage for this year, last week, Grizzly staff members Brian Thomas and Sarah Hojsak sat down with President Brock Blomberg for a conversation about where Ursinus is at and where it is heading. To prepare, the staff generated questions of interest to us, and we also solicited questions from the student body. The entire conversation lasted for over an hour, and a transcription and video of it will be released in the coming days

on our website, ursinusgrizzly.com. Please check daily for updates.

The full conversation covered topics as disparate as recent actions regarding the cleaning staff, mental health on campus, enrollment, Blomberg's strategic plan, and what CIE may look like in a thousand years.



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Ursinus Grizzly
601 E. Main Street
Collegeville, PA 19426

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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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Recent volunteer efforts are revitalizing the Organic Farm

Chris Karmilowicz
chkarmilowicz@ursinus.edu

The Organic Farm on campus has undergone a renaissance in the last several weeks. The number of volunteers has soared and a student-led project has made the once-overgrown 2.5-acre patch of land next to Hunsberger Woods look like a community farm again.

Kate Keppen, director of sustainability, is eager to say that student awareness about the Organic Farm has been steady over the past several years. However, a staff transition in the Office of Sustainability resulted in a lack of mentorship for the Sustainability Fellows. With no professional oversight, the farm was quickly overrun by unwanted vegetation.

When Keppen first accepted the job, she met with students and faculty who would often mention the Organic Farm. She is proud of this fact because having an organic farm is unique for a college of our size. Keppen believes that the Organic Farm is able to inspire a lot of passion because in today's world we are really removed from where our food comes from. Having the awareness that local food is being grown on campus for Wismer is exciting. The Organic Farm has become a part of Ursinus' ecosystem.

Leading the revitalization is the Greek organization Sigma Pi. Keppen was pleasantly surprised when junior John Thomas from

Sigma Pi reached out to her to help out at the farm.

"He said, 'Let's get something going up there. We are really interested in it. We have the volunteers that can make that happen,'" said Keppen. "From there on, the rest is history."

Keppen was ecstatic about the passion that Sigma Pi displayed. Another Sigma Pi member, Andrew Voyack, explained his motivations for becoming involved in the project by saying, "The Organic Farm wasn't really doing anything, so we just decided to help."

Sigma Pi's work on the Organic Farm is part of an effort to expand their involvement on the campus.

"We have this thing called an ACE Project, Altruistic Campus Experience, basically that means that every chapter of Sigma Pi has to do some sort of community service event that helps out the campus itself," Thomas explained. "This year, in particular, we really want to revamp [the Organic Farm] because it is a really good project and because it helps out the community as well as the campus."

Thomas continued by saying that Sigma Pi is "just a group of 32 great guys just going in there and fixing things up," and they are "really making a difference."

Their goal is to get the farm ready to plant and grow produce during the spring and summer. They are weeding, clipping, mending fences and rebuilding birdhouses

Their project has been divided

between two weekends, from nine to 12 on Saturday and Sunday. Their biggest obstacle has been weeds. However, they say that a lot of people doing a little bit makes a difference. They want the campus to know that working on the Organic Farm is easy, fun and that you can actually do a lot to make a difference.

Interested, I asked if it would be possible to spend a day working on the farm, to write about what it is like. That Saturday, on the chilly walk over, I was hoping it would get warmer and I wished I'd worn something other than my UC sweatshirt. I arrived at the Organic Farm several minutes after nine, and I was struck by how many people were already there. As I got closer, someone handed me gloves.

I started by plucking dead plants off posts. Then I moved on to clearing brush away from the overgrown plots. Everyone had divided themselves into small groups, and the mood was friendly and relaxed.

After working on the plots, I was assigned to the compost pile. Another volunteer and I filled wheel barrows with compost, which were then dumped in one of the dozens of plots that looked like sandboxes.

By the time the group was done at noon, the farm looked completely different.

The Office of Sustainability has been developing more volunteer opportunities at the Organic Farm as part of Earth Week from April 18-23, as stated in an email sent to campus. Another vol-



Photo Courtesy of Jon Volkmer

Sophomore Courtney DuChene was the recipient of the Creator Prize during the Lantern Launch on April 14, awarded by alumna Tracey Ferdinand.

unteer session was held during Saturday morning on April 22 to allow all campus community members to help revitalize the Organic Farm. UCARE encourages more volunteers to help at the farm and then enjoy poetry

and the spring weather in Hunsberger Woods on Friday, April 28.

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courtyard."

The celebrations at Reimert have become very disruptive, according to Sanders Giess. She said that the past year proved to be the most destructive in her eleven-year tenure at Ursinus.

"There was a lot of what I would call risky and unsafe behavior. There was a lot of behavior that doesn't align with the image that I think all of you want for yourselves or the college," said Sanders Giess.

Sanders Giess explained that noise levels had to be addressed when they interfered with prepa-

rations for the commencement. According to Sanders Giess, The intrusive noise levels were due mostly to underclassmen and guests, since the disruptions occurred while the seniors were at rehearsal or other senior activities.

New hours have been set for when people can gather in the courtyard. People are allowed at Reimert courtyard, Thursday and Friday from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. and on Saturday from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. On Saturday, though the music will be turned down at 2 a.m., people will still be allowed to gather in the courtyard later.

The floor opened to questions and concerns soon after the

presentation concluded. Many students voiced concerns.

"I've noticed this trend at Ursinus to put barriers in front of lower-income students and I think this fee is basically another barrier," said senior Emmett Goodman-Boyd.

He cited the removal of the laptop program and rising tuition as other instances of his claim. He suggested opt-out forms for people who only want to spend time with the graduates.

"This is not something that's meant to be detrimental," McKinney said. "It's meant to help us in a process that we think is productive. We're trying to manage a process that allows for the

maximum benefit for everybody involved. It is in no way meant to single out anyone."

He found that there was a lot of backlash to having their time on campus limited due to scheduled events. McKinney responded by stating that you don't have to go to the trips and that they want people to be productive instead of hanging out all day long, possibly drinking.

McKinney said that, though the committee's responses at the meeting may have seemed a bit dismissive, the committee would meet once more sometime after to discuss issues that were brought up to see if there was a way to compromise. Dean

McKinney was pleased with the discussion at the town hall.

"I think it went very well," he said. He declined to comment on whether or not any changes would happen, since the committee was yet to meet as of press time.

Students should look for updates from the committee via email within the next few days.

First-person perspective: student finds comfort and solidarity at D.C. March for Science

Courtney DuChene
coduchene@ursinus.edu

On Saturday, April 22, several Ursinus students and professors made the journey to Washington, D.C. to attend the March for Science. The march was part of a series of similar rallies held across the world this Earth Day to celebrate the value of science in public policy and our everyday lives. The trip was organized by Dr. Rebecca Lyczak of the biology department and was sponsored by the Center for Science and the Common Good. Courtney DuChene '19 shared her experience at the march.

As we exited the bus in D.C., the bus driver, a short blond woman, told us to “have fun at the rally.” It was a phrase that stuck with me throughout the day as we waited in the blowing rain to get into the rally and as we marched through the brown, clay-like mud. I wasn’t sure marches were

supposed to be fun. I considered them a duty and certainly important, but I wasn’t sure fun was the right word.

I attended the March for Science for a couple reasons. The first was because of my Summer Fellows project. This summer, I will be making a docudrama film about the 2016 election and resistance to Donald Trump. The \$10 bus ride offered by Ursinus seemed too good to pass up, especially because I needed protest footage.

“The passion was quieter; it hummed through the crowd in conversations and it radiated in the decorative signs.”

— Courtney DuChene
Ursinus sophomore

The second reason, and arguably the more important one, is that since the election I have felt rather helpless. I have called and

emailed representatives in both Pennsylvania and my home state of Minnesota, I voted in both the general election and the primaries, and I remain engaged with current events, even when they dishearten me. All of these actions should make me feel like a proactive citizen, but as I see Trump bombing Syria and National Geographic reporting his decision to roll back Obama-era policies intended to curb climate change, I feel disheartened. I wonder what kind of world we’re moving toward. I was hoping the march would be a release for the anxious, afraid energy that so frequently plagues my mind. I needed an opportunity to scream.

In that light, the march could be described as a bit of a letdown. Chants of “This is what democracy looks like,” “Ho ho, hey hey, the EPA is here to stay,” and “Science makes America great” did not roll through the crowd as easily or with the same urgency

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Photo courtesy of Courtney DuChene

Ursinus students braved the rain and crowds in Washington, D.C. last Saturday to participate in the March for Science, which celebrated the importance of science in the context of today’s politics.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Edward Onaci

Dr. Edward Onaci, shown here DJing with vinyl records.

History professor shares love for music with the campus

Outside of the history department, Dr. Onaci is an avid music lover. We talked to him about his DJ career, music production, and creating a place on campus for student vinyl hobbyists.

Kevin Leon
keleon@ursinus.edu

Ed Onaci, a history professor here on campus, also happens to be an avid music lover and a part-time DJ.

Onaci’s appreciation for music as an artistic medium dates back as far as he can remember.

“I have been, ever since I can remember, obsessed with music,” Onaci said. “I think that those two things, general love for music and fascination with that scratching sound and how people weave together these sonic tapestries, are probably the reasons why.”

Onaci became interested in scratching as early as the age of eight, but turntables and the other necessary gear finally came into his possession in 1997. Since then, DJing has become his favorite way to spend his spare time.

Of course, he has had moments of discouragement.

“You know, I actually quit a lot,” Onaci said. “My friends made fun of me at one point and said I retired more times than Michael Jordan.”

Onaci has always had a soft

spot for hip hop and dance music. He loves house music and electronic dance music, especially South African House music.

The artist Onaci loves to talk about the most is Oddisee, a prolific and consistent rapper and producer from Washington, D.C. He tries to weave Oddisee tracks into his DJ sets whenever possible.

“When I listen to vinyl ... sometimes I just watch it spin and I get kind of lost in it.”

— Dr. Edward Onaci
History professor

Onaci also cites Soul-Ection as one of his favorite influencing forces in music today. They have a sound that, as Onaci has noticed, many other artists try to emulate. Their sound, originating on the west coast and Canada, can be heard in the output of artists such as Rae Sremmurd, Rhianna, Anderson .Paak, Ravyn Lenae,

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and Kaytranada.

Onaci describes Soul-Ection's sound as "really synth driven [and] bass heavy."

"It's a perfect blend of analog-meets-digital," Onaci said.

Despite being a passionate music lover, Onaci frowns upon the current direction undertaken by the music industry, noting the focus on streaming as the de-facto medium for consuming music these days.

He admits that his view can seem "ancient," but he believes that the convenience of streaming is hurting the future of music because it eliminates the physical aspect.

There's a sense of ownership that streaming removes, according to Onaci. His first memory of music involves a Michael Jackson record on vinyl, and to this day Onaci has a much stronger connection with music he plays on his turntable.

"When I listen to vinyl, I sit there, grab the cover, look at the liner notes, the lyrics sheet, if there is one [because] I buy a lot of used records, and sometimes I just watch it spin and I get kind of lost in it," he said.

Onaci, along with sophomore

Yusef Ahmed, have been working on starting a Vinyl Club at Ursinus. Vinyl Club is a group that has periodic meetings in the common room of New. It provides a time for people who own vinyl to come and share their music with other students.

He has enjoyed getting together with people who enjoy vinyl and being able to share his collection and knowledge of music with others.

The club held a themed-meeting this semester focusing on the history of hip hop. Onaci showcased some of his scratching skills to multiple students, and even gave some introductory advice on DJing.

Onaci is unsure where his DJing passion will go in the future. The turntables turned into a hobby, but he has started to supplement DJing with music production.

"That's one of the reasons I don't practice DJing as much ... I'm trying to make a song," Onaci said.

While he's not sure where the future will take him, music remains the biggest constant in Onaci's life - he knows that it will always be with him in one way or another.



Photo courtesy of Sydney Cope

Student artists unveiled their work to the Ursinus community last week with an opening reception for the Annual Student Exhibition, on display in the Berman Museum of Art through June 4.

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as they had at other marches like the larger-scale Women's March in January.

The March for Science, however, showed its passion in a different way. Thousands of people turned out in the rain to march. They stayed, even as the ink on their "There is no Plant B" signs ran and their clothes got soaked. The passion was quieter; it hummed through the crowd in conversations and it radiated in the decorative signs.

I shielded my camera under a blue rain poncho as I marched. In the brief period when the rain subsided, I filmed the crowd standing en masse in front of the Washington monument and the muddy footprints on the sidewalk as we walked.

Our group waited almost an hour to get into the actual event. Students craned their necks as we heard Bill Nye's voice float over the speakers. Once we got inside the rally, we listened to speakers for about a half hour before the march. We walked slowly as we exited the main area. The crowd was so thick for a while that we were just standing still.

Once we started marching, I was impressed by the quiet force of the marchers. Children ran through the crowd waving signs that proclaimed their love for science. They chanted to themselves as their parents held their hands. As we moved through the street, we passed libraries and museums. All of the buildings are old, marked with Doric columns and holding the history of the country inside them. We walked towards the Capitol Building and I won-

dered if Trump was even there, if he was even listening to the cries of his country.

After the march, we headed to Union Station to meet the bus. The bus driver asked us if we'd had a good time. We were sopping wet. My hair was tangled from the wind and I once again meditated on her question. The rain, the mud, and the wind should have made the day miserable, but somehow I felt a little warmer. Although the future still feels uncertain, I felt like for a moment I had at least found some footing.

Have a feedback on anything we covered?

We welcome your letters to the editor!

Send us your thoughts to:
grizzly@ursinus.edu

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Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<i>Take Back the Night walk</i> 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Olin Plaza	<i>JazzFest</i> All Day to April 29 Campuswide	<i>"Unrequerted: A Musical Memoir"</i> 8 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium			<i>History Help Room</i> 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Olin 317	<i>Last day of classes</i>



Neutrality is not enough to stop world-wide fascism

Jordan Ostrum
joostrum@ursinus.edu

After the presidential election, my friend and colleague Josh Hoffman wrote an op ed for the Grizzly about using our “minds, bodies, and souls” to resist oppression. Many people support the more ephemeral use of minds and souls, but balk when it comes to using their bodies. For example, while scrolling through Facebook the other day, I was appalled to see a few Ursinus students sympathizing with Nazis. I don’t mean the students were professing Nazi ideology. In fact, they disagreed wholeheartedly with it. I mean these students were feeling sympathy for Richard Spencer after he got punched in the face by an anonymous anti-fascist in January. I believe that such sympathy is unfounded because Richard Spencer has been accused of being a Nazi by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and sympathy is simply not the proper response to an accused Nazi getting punched.

First, a proper introduction to the victim of punching is warranted. Richard Spencer serves as President of the National Policy Insti-

tute, which describes itself as being “dedicated to the heritage, identity, and future of people of European descent in the United States.”

In 2013 Spencer publicly called for “peaceful ethnic cleansing,” and in 2016, at an “alt-right” conference, he proclaimed “Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!” to a chorus of Nazi salutes. He has been a guest on the podcast *The Daily Shoah*, a name which literally means “the daily Holocaust.” His words with their insidious ambiguity can be understood as an advocacy for the forced sterilization of black people.

Hence, while Richard Spencer is not a goose-stepping member of the Nazi party, I believe he is a violently racist danger to society. His ultimate goal of a white ethno-state is achievable only through his immediate goal: the normalization of talking about a white ethno-state as a valid political stance.

As the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum said in response to Spencer’s aforementioned 2016 speech, “The Holocaust did not begin with killing; it began with words.”

The role of discourse in the ascent of fascism is critical in under-

standing why people like Spencer need to be stopped, even if it means punching them.

Adolf Hitler—who, despite remarks by White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer to the contrary, did indeed use chemical weapons against his own people—said this of the ascent of Nazism: “Only one thing could have broken our movement—if the adversary had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed, with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our new movement.”

Fascism, racism, and neo-Nazism are not valid political viewpoints. They cannot be given platforms. And before someone burps up a misunderstanding of free speech, remember that it is within the purview of democracy to preserve democracy. To quote sociologist Katherine Cross, “fascism is a cancer that turns democracy against itself unto death.”

You cannot give someone the mic when you know full well that they will only use it to bludgeon their opponents and install their own, autocratic sound system. Just as you can’t lie and yell “fire!” in a crowded theatre, you can’t advocate for ethnic cleansing—which is

inherently the opposite of peaceful.

This is why I believe Nazi-punchers should be lauded, not lambasted. Because insistence on pacifism and peace is simply a more palatable type of violence. Those who shake their head at the use of strategic counter-violence, those who profess more pity for the advocate of genocide than its potential victims: They are the White Moderates whom Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. decried.

“Nice people made the best Nazis,” warns WBUR (Boston’s NPR station) contributor, Naomi Shulman, whose mother lived through the Third Reich. This mentality, of not wanting to rock the boat, is also soundly rebuked as violent by the late Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel, who knew that “the opposite of love is not hate, its indifference.”

Such is my call to Ursinus in this, the last op ed I will write as a current student. I am done with philosophizing over what it means to be human; What, I ask instead, does it mean to be a *good* human?

Sometimes it means being mean in your niceness. Sometimes it means hating out of love. Sometimes it means punching a Nazi. Because to sit back and do nothing,

or worse, to shame the people who actively resist genocide in the name of an ill-founded understanding of free speech is the worst way of living. It is complying with a rise in global evil.

Because genocide and violent oppression are not simply isolated incidents of the far-flung past. They are an ever-present reality. As you read this, gay men in Chechnya are facing routinized kidnapping, starvation, and torture by their own government. Last week, French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen, campaigning to ban both immigrants and the wearing of public headscarves, moved forward into the second round of voting and may well become President. In the U.S., anti-Muslim hate crimes spiked 67 percent in 2015, and hate crimes of all kinds again spiked after the election of Donald Trump, according to the FBI and SPLC, respectively.

The lives of human beings are in danger, and they cannot afford such catastrophically ignorant pacifism in the face of evil. So get off that high horse of mythical neutrality and, to quote Josh Hoffman, let’s use our “mind, body, and soul” to fight fascism.

The future of Ursinus requires us to accept change

Francesca Liberatoscioli
frliberatoscioli@ursinus.edu

A lot can happen in 150 years. As Ursinus approaches its 150th anniversary of the college’s founding, our community has discussed how we plan to move forward.

With the construction on Main Street and the building of the Innovation and Discovery Center, some students have been critical of these changes and are concerned with the direction that Ursinus is heading.

However, I believe that not all change is bad change and we need to entertain the possibilities of what it could be in the future. If you are a student, you accept that one day you’re going to graduate and leave this place. And if you are nostalgic or engaged with Ursinus after you graduate you will probably look back ten years from now and miss it.

Over the past weekend, I had the privilege of bumping into some alumni at breakfast. The expressions on their faces were all the same,

they couldn’t believe how different and “up-to-date” Wismer was. With new flat screen TV’s to display the menu at each serving station and as a new addition just this week: an LCD monitor to display all of the menu options greeting you when you enter the doors.

Sophomore Emily Blaszkow also welcomed these updates by saying, “It’s a nice addition, it spices things up.”

To me, this means Ursinus is heading in the right direction. By advancing the technology throughout the school, including the massive Innovation and Discovery Center that’s being built near Thomas and Pfahler, Ursinus is already moving forward. In ten years Ursinus is going to look very different than how I remember it now.

I hope that Ursinus will change a few things, if I ever do happen to wander back to this place at some point in time. As a media and communication studies major, I would like to see a new, beautiful building in place of Ritter. Right now, Rit-

ter is a dull building with its brown bricks and maze-like interior, which weighs down my positive learning vibes.

For a building that houses media and communications, art, and art history departments, I would like to walk into a building like the Kaleidoscope, which has turquoise colored floors and a red spiral staircase. The Kaleidoscope’s bright colors and natural light creates a great learning atmosphere. Walking into a fun environment like that makes the hour long class I’m about to go to more bearable.

In addition to changes to academic buildings, I sat down with junior Alycia Hildebrand to talk about changes athletes would like to see. For starters, Hildebrand says she would like to see “an athlete’s only fitness center.” She stressed that it’s important for this to happen, “[When] athletes have to share the space and it gets really crowded” said Hildebrand.

Currently professors, students, and staff who regularly use the fit-

ness center have to share an already small place and a number of people in there at 3 p.m. can be overwhelming.

As we continued our conversation, Hildebrand added that she would like to see improvements to the locker rooms.

“Our lockers are outdated and old. When visiting other schools in the centennial conference, their locker rooms are big, beautiful and new. They have decorated walls, leather seats, and ample amounts of space” said Hildebrand.

As a student athlete, I agree that when it comes to Ursinus’ athletic facilities, we need to play catch up. Student athletes make up a big part of the Ursinus student body, bring a lot of money and interest to the school, and need better facilities.

However, there are some things that I would like to stay the same. I personally love the Main Street houses to stay the same because they build campus culture. The SPINT houses: Writing and Arts House, Gaming Tech House, Africana and

American Studies House, International House, and Queer House provide vital spaces for students. All of the Main Street houses have been around for years, and I think they have certain quirks to them, which make them visually and socially interesting.

As the semester comes to an end, the feeling of change is upon us. For seniors, it’s the impending commencement, for others its taking Summer Burst classes or the new plans for the Student Commons. Coming to terms with change is a lot to handle, and Ursinus, like other colleges, is no stranger to turnover as a four-year institution. However, this does not make accepting change any easier.

During a conversation with an older couple at Alumni Weekend they said that some things at Ursinus stayed just the way they left them. It was comforting to hear that, because it reminds us that change can be good and it doesn’t mean everything will change on this small campus just yet.



Photo Courtesy of Ursinus Athletic Communications

Kelly during the Johns Hopkins game on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016. Kelly finished his career with 1676 yards and 19 touchdowns.

when speaking about him.

“He is an exceptionally mentally strong person,” Glanville said. “He refuses to let things get to him . . . He knows that he is up for the challenge. For the people around him it is an exceptionally uplifting character trait. I have faith he will attack this head on . . . I do not know one person that could say something pessimistic about Corey.”

Recently, Kelly shared his story at Ursinus’ Relay for Life. This was a huge accomplishment for him, but it took some coaxing from both friends and family to get him to speak.

“That was a big step for me,” he said. I have never spoken in front of that many people before

and never about something that means so much to me. It was a life changing experience . . . People saw me for who I am. I am not just a football and lacrosse jock; I have feelings, too. I was able to express that and I am glad I did.”

At the present time, due to the rarity of the condition, most insurance companies do not cover the treatment for VHL. Kelly has been paying out of pocket for most of his treatments. At the end of 2017, his insurance company will re-evaluate if they will cover his treatment.

Friend and UC student Tisha Ma had approached Kelly about creating a GoFundMe page to raise money to cover his medical expenses. Kelly agreed, and so

far the support has been astounding. Within a week of its inception, the page had raised over fifteen thousand dollars.

Kelly’s story also aired on 6 ABC. Donations went from fifteen thousand to thirty thousand

“I saw all the tremendous love and support from my immediate family, from the lacrosse and football families, and the whole Ursinus community.”

—Corey Kelly
UC football and lacrosse athlete

within 24 hours of the segment, with over 290 donors giving money to the cause. Kelly was dumbfounded by the generous support. Not only did Kelly receive support from students at UC but also from childhood friends, players from former teams, and people who he barely speaks to.

“I saw the love and support people had for me,” Kelly said. “It was tremendous to see someone put up a GoFundMe page and raise fifteen thousand dollars in just seven days. It was amazing; I never thought we’d reach

our goal, but we did. I saw all the tremendous love and support from my immediate family, from the lacrosse and football families, and the whole Ursinus community. It’s nice to see that people you aren’t talking to every day or don’t see every day [have you in their hearts].”

In about two weeks, Kelly and the rest of the class of 2017 will walk across the stage and officially become graduates of Ursinus College. In the immediate future, Kelly plans to student-teach at the Spring-Ford school district as a physical education teacher with hopes of gaining a full-time position.

Kelly has one final message for people following his story.

“I think the biggest thing is don’t take waking up every morning for granted because you aren’t the one who wakes yourself up in the morning,” he said. “Also, don’t judge a book by its cover. Everyone has their own problems; never try to compare your problems to somebody else’s because you don’t know what other people are going through. Life’s problems can get you down, but

you got to keep fighting . . . We have a chance to get better every day, so get better.”

Students interested in donating to his GoFundMe campaign can find it at www.gofundme.com/coreykelly27



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Photo Courtesy of Ursinus Athletic Communications

Kelly defending during Ursinus’ recent game against Haverford. The Bears are currently fourth in the conference rankings. As of now, Kelly has 40 recovered ground balls and 16 caused turnovers for his career.

Scores as of Monday, April 24, 2017

M. Lax (8-4)	W. Lax (7-7)	M. & W. Track (0-0)	Baseball (21-11)	Softball (13-19)	M. & W. Tennis (12-7)	M. & W. Golf (0-0)
April 22; Haverford 9 - Ursinus 8	April 19; Ursinus 14 - Bryn Mawr 1 April 22; Haverford 10 - Ursinus 9	April 22; Widener Invitational @ Chester Pa.* *For full results see ursinusathletics.com	April 19; Immaculata 12 - Ursinus 8 April 23; Johns Hopkins 4 - Ursinus 2	April 18; Ursinus 13 - Haverford 9 April 22; Ursinus 5 - Franklin & Marshall 4	April 22; Men Ursinus 7 - Johns Hopkins 2 April 22; Women Johns Hopkins 6 - Ursinus 0	April 17; Men vs. Arcadia Knight Invitational 7th place April 22-23; Women vs. CC Championship 5th place



Photo Courtesy of Corey Kelly

Corey Kelly stretching before a game. Kelly is a two-sport athlete playing both football and lacrosse at Ursinus. Kelly has also been a contributor to both sports since he was a first-year student.

Two sport athlete raises money for next off-the-field hurdle

Hunter Gellman
hugellman@ursinus.edu

Senior Corey Kelly is more than meets the eye. The standout football and lacrosse star has had great success over his past four years. Recently, however, he was diagnosed with a rare, life-threatening hereditary condition known as von Hippel-Lindau syndrome (VHL), which is characterized by tumors and cysts that can become cancerous. These tumors and cysts can grow all over the body—specifically in the eyes, brain, and spinal cord.

A product of Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, where he wrestled in addition to playing football and lacrosse, Kelly has been a standout and a contributor to both the UC football and lacrosse teams all four years.

Competing for so long in more than one sport is very taxing on the body and most athletes typically drop a sport during their tenure, but not Kelly. According to senior teammate and captain of the lacrosse team Matt Cioeta, Kelly is the type of kid that would do anything for his “brothers” on the field.

Coming into the 2016-2017

year, Kelly was named team captain of the lacrosse team by his peers. Just that previous season, he had suffered a season-ending injury when a ball careened off the turf and landed right underneath his helmet, forcing him to have his jaw wired shut. During the summer coming into this school year, Steele visited Kelly at his residence and informed him of his nomination. Kelly was elated by the news and vowed to lead by example for the younger players on the roster.

In 2006, he was genetically tested for the syndrome and was found to carry the genes that

harbor the mutation. Both of his older siblings are afflicted by the syndrome and have had surgeries to correct the issue.

VHL really hit home for Kelly on Dec. 28, 2015 when his father’s life was tragically cut short from a tumor associated with VHL.

“It was a sudden death; nobody saw it coming,” Kelly said. “I had asked him to go to the movies that morning and he kind of brush it off saying we’d go another day. Ever since then [VHL] became super apparent in my life; it was something I needed to take care of.”

During a routine eye exam this past August, the doctors noticed something on the back of his retinas. From there he was referred to another physician, and then to another. Finally, he got the news that he was hoping he would never get: He had VHL.

Kelly notes that his condition is in the earliest stages where it can be managed by treatment.

“I have had a combination of procedures already,” he said. “They are microscopic laser procedures to reduce the tumors. The problem is the treatment has not yet been accepted by insurance companies. They have seen very small progression of the tumors shrinking. I am just going to keep on with my appointments and treatments. This will be a lifelong battle.”

Recently, reporter Jamie Apody from 6ABC covered Kelly’s story. Kelly told 6ABC, “I don’t see this ending in death. I just think it will be a fight.”

Throughout all the heartache, Kelly never ceased to move forward. He kept training for the upcoming lacrosse season. As his motivation, he cites having the opportunity to compete on the

field; he does not want to let his teammates down, so he pushes forward.

“He will do anything on the field to help his team win, that is his trademark,” said Coach Steele. “Corey doesn’t like to let other people be affected by his problem . . . he actually apologized to me for missing practice because he had to do all these [treatments].”

As long as Kelly has been on campus, the mantra of the lacrosse team has been #FAMILY. The team is one big family, Cioeta said, and they would do anything for Kelly in his time of need.

“Everyone rallies around him,” said Cioeta. “We’ve had a few circumstances in the past four years where it calls for the players and parents to rally around a certain individual. That is kind of what our team have done. We take the family thing really seriously . . . there are always people willing to help out.”

In addition to the lacrosse family, Kelly is fortunate to have his football family. Kelly played a significant number of snaps in four years. When he was on the field, he was plowing through defenders; when he was on the sideline, he was a vocal leader to the other players.

“I am just trying to set an example on and off the field for the younger guys,” Kelly said. “I wanted to be the guy who is in their ears and giving them the advice that they need . . . someone the younger guys can look up to,” Kelly noted.

Kelly is known by players for giving passionate speeches and wearing his heart on his sleeve. Senior football player Robby Glanville has nothing but praise

See Kelly on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday
M. & W. Track and Field vs. Penn Relays	M. Golf vs. CC Championship 12:30 p.m.	M. Golf vs. CC Championship 11 a.m.	Baseball @ Washington College 12:30 & 3:30 p.m.	M. Lax vs. Dickinson 3 p.m.	M. Golf vs. CC Championship 11 a.m.	
Softball @ Delaware Valley 3 & 5 p.m.	Baseball vs. Muhlenberg 3:30 p.m.	W. Lacrosse vs. Dickinson 12 p.m.	Softball @ Dickinson 1 & 3 p.m.			

