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The Grizzly, February 6, 2020

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Ursinus presents first Inclusion and Equity Awards

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In honor of MLK Week, Ursinus College presented the first Inclusion and Equity Awards to three outstanding community members who go above and beyond to promote an inclusive and diverse atmosphere.

These awards were first announced in 2019 as part of the college’s commitment to growing an inclusive community. The MLK Week committee selected the winners from a pool of candidates nominated by faculty, staff and students. Carlita Favero, an associate professor of biology; Ashley Henderson, assistant director of the Institute for Inclusion and Equity; and Codi Yhap ’20, double majoring in Music and Biology, were awarded for their achievements.

Professor Favero said, “I’m extremely honored to be recognized with this award. I also feel so grateful to share in this... with other members of the Ursinus community whose friendship I cherish, Codi Yhap and Ashley Henderson. I was honestly quite shocked to be nominated and awarded. There are so many members of the community that I’ve worked with to advance...”

Abele Scholarship receives 11 million dollar donation

Gillian Mccomeskey
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On Friday, January 17th an impressive donation of 11 million dollars was made to the Abele Scholarship program by Joan and Will Abele, Class of 1961. According to the Ursinus website, “The Abele Scholars Program increases access and affordability of an undergraduate education for students from low- and middle-income families in Pennsylvania and adjacent states (DE/MD/NJ) who demonstrate academic potential, financial need and a desire for the individualized educational experience offered at Ursinus College.”

Director of the program Laura Cunningham said, “This commitment to the Abele Program will allow it to fund 10 cohorts of Scholars. There are currently 24 Scholars in the Program and we anticipate welcoming a cohort of 15-20 Scholars each year. The funding allows us to increase the types of programs and events we can offer and the gift also allows us to add another professional staff member in the future to provide even more support for the Scholars.”

Scholars at the college expressed their appreciation for this program. First-year student and Abele Scholar, Andrea Condo ’23 said, “The donations benefit the program in numerous ways. One is that it offers students the opportunity to explore what it means to have a liberal arts education all while partaking in experiences like networking, externships/internships, and so many more... I love everything about the program, but if I had to choose one thing I would choose our advisor: Laura Cunningham. She does so much for the program and makes sure all of us are well taken care of, well-guided, and most of all motivated to keep being the best versions of ourselves.”

Another scholar, Grace Harris ’23 said, “Mr. Will Abele and his wife Joan donated the money to the program. ...”
As sibling for programming, advising student groups Henderson stated, for creating the book and forging collaboration a strong and growing to diversity and inclusiveness, this cannot simply be an effort.

... aged and inspired by solutions to thrive. community to continue practice. Henderson also ideal stated within our doesn't feel like a solo... to do this work. Thank serve on the Student values, but something... does not offer the space to... that we all experience every day."

Yhap reflected, "I was given the award for creating the book club Time Alone with Baldwin (T.A.B.) which seeks to bring students, faculty and staff for open dialogue around topics of spirituality, social justice and vocation. The club started in the spring of my sophomore year (2018). After the passing of Rev. Rice I was concerned that there would no longer be a space to have open conversation around these topics. Although they may exist in pockets across campus, T.A.B. allows people to come and discuss these things openly. We do read James Baldwin but we also read other authors too! Rev. was a Baldwin scholar so I thought it would only be right to pay homage to my mentor.”

He continued, “I was very honored to receive the award on behalf of T.A.B. Since I was asked to do this interview I think the award means more people will learn about T.A.B. for the first time. But, on a serious note, this award means that T.A.B. is doing well. As I prepare to graduate, I know T.A.B. can continue to grow which makes me happy.”

Scholars cont. from pg. 1

If it was not for their generosity, I and so many other students would not have security in our ability to attend college. Being a part of the program brings you closer to your fellow scholars.”

The college is grateful for the donation as it will positively affect many students. Being able to support students in their college careers is something that Ursinus College takes great pride in.

Letters to the Editor

All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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Abele Scholars, Photo Courtesy of Ursinus Communications

The GRIZZLY

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Ursinus Grizzly
601 East Main Street
Collegeville, PA 19426
Remembering campus safety officer Tony Salvo

Anthony (Tony) Salvo, age 69, a former Ursinus campus safety officer, passed away on Thursday, December 12th, 2019. According to his obituary on Legacy.com, Salvo was born in Norristown, PA, to the late Thomas Salvo and the late Margaret Salvo. He held several jobs, including at Genuardi's in Norristown and as a nurse's aid at Norristown State Hospital, served in the Army during the Vietnam War, and attended San Jose Bible College, before coming to Ursinus to work in campus safety.

Salvo came to Ursinus in 2000 and worked here until 2014. As a campus safety officer, it was his duty to protect the campus and its students. He was well liked by his co-workers. He was regarded by his fellow officer, Anthony Bruno, as, “one of the kindest and most sincerely caring [people] that [Anthony] has met,” who “always put others first.” Said Bruno, “I can’t remember a time when he had a bad word to say about anyone. Tony was always offering a cup of coffee as he did when he picked me up in the golf cart to escort me to my job interview back in 2008.” Officer Chris Wilcox said, “He would always have a kind word and enjoyed talking to students about anything. Tony loved riding the bicycle on campus, you could always find him out and about with students.”

The Ursinus college website has dedicated a page to Tony Salvo for anyone interested. On it, outgoing Associate of Students and Title IX Coordinator Kimberly Taylor is quoted saying; “Tony was infectiously optimistic and made everyone he met feel immediately welcome with his enthusiastic smile and often an offer of coffee. I hope you will all raise your mug to him.”

Anthony Salvo was a valued member of our community. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Joy Salvo and two children, Tommy and Laurel, both of whom are graduates of Ursinus. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Valley View Community Church, 778 Sunnyside Avenue, Audubon, PA 19403.

Title IX Coordinator departs from Ursinus

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After serving the Ursinus community for 20 years, Associate Dean of Students and Title IX Coordinator, Kim Taylor, departed from the college on February 3rd, 2020.

When Taylor first arrived on campus she served as the Director of Campus Safety. At the time, her goal was to help the department grow and create a positive relationship between the campus community and the officers. Soon after, Taylor helped the community with her dedication and service through programs such as the Peer Advocates Program, which she launched as Title IX Coordinator. The program enlists students to educate the campus on the issue of sexual misconduct. Most importantly, it provides support and guidance for any person campus who may be dealing with a personal issue of sexual misconduct.

Taylor also established the Sexual Misconduct and Advocacy Resource Team (SMART), a group comprised of faculty and staff who support students affected by sexual violence.

She reflected back on her time at Ursinus, grateful for the colleagues who’ve challenged and supported her. “I leave as a stronger and more confident professional. Working as the Title IX Coordinator has ignited a passion in me regarding gender-based discrimination and I am grateful for Ursinus giving me this opportunity,” she said.

Taylor will start a new chapter of her career as the Title IX Coordinator for both Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges. She hopes to build new initiatives and solid programs, similar to what she’s done at Ursinus. “I am happy that I will not be far away and excited about the possibilities to continue collaborating with Ursinus colleagues. I leave behind an outstanding Student Affairs team an I’ll be admiring them from afar,” she said.

Effective immediately, Anna Marks will serve as Interim Title IX Coordinator through June 2020. In previous years, Marks served as one of the first member of the SMART program. As the Spring semester continues, the school will search for a permanent Title IX Coordinator.
FEATURES

FIA President reflects on club’s history

Lillian Vila Licht
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Feminists in Action (FIA) is an organization that addresses and advocates for feminist causes, and in the past it enjoyed considerable interest. However, this spring semester, Feminists in Action is on an indefinite hiatus.

The organization previously met in Olin with snacks. Everyone was welcome to join the conversation. Senior Bri Voyton, the president, explained, “We usually have a topic set, so we just talk about whatever the topic is that night and especially if it’s a problem or a feminist issue local to campus then we brainstorm ways to solve that issue or what we could possibly do to address it.” Some hot topics in the past were porn and Reimert’s party culture at Ursinus. When asked about FIA’s future plans, Voyton explained that, “Over winter break we had a lot of discussion about this and we decided that FIA is going on a hiatus this semester.” Previously FIA had a large following of consistent members, but last semester they faced lower attendance. Voyton says that in their freshman year there was a larger interest and dedication from students. Some notable student members are Vice President Abby Peabody and Claude Wolfer, the Treasurer and Secretary.

“My hope is that for next year that some underclassmen decide to take it up and form their own club.”

- Bri Voyton, FIA President

Voyton explains that, back in 2016, “tensions were high because of the 2016 election. And so all these hot button issues were being debated very publicly, and ever since Trump is in office interest in debating these things publicly, fighting for these things decreased because everything that he’s done is now normalized so people aren’t as fired up as they were.” On top of that, Voyton is graduating this year. “My hope is that for next year that some underclassmen decide to take it up and form their own club with their own take on it,” Voyton explained.

After becoming a FIA member their freshman year, Voyton joined the executive board as Secretary in their sophomore year, and finished up their college career as President. Voyton recalls the “Slut Walk” as being very impactful event in her freshman year. Voyton explained, “The slut walk is reclaiming the word ‘slut’. You march around. Anyone can come and join.” Voyton continued, “You can wear as much or as little clothing as you like and the idea is that it’s not the victim’s fault if they’re raped no matter how much clothing, how little clothing, whether they were drinking or not drinking. It’s never the victim’s fault and that women’s bodies are their own and other people shouldn’t put their judgements on other people.” As President, Voyton has gotten FIA to support “Take Back the Night” in Spring 2019, an international night where women reclaim the night and for survivors to talk about their experiences and support them. Voyton had also gotten FIA to support Ursinus’ first pride in Spring 2019. FIA’s fate is in the hands of Ursinus students. “[FIA] is there to be made into something new,” Voyton said. “Whoever may decide to join the executive board would be able to make it entirely their own—to add events, to put a new spin on events or conversations that they want to have. I hope that someone will be willing to take up that mantle.”
The CPD guide to externship success

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Every Fall and Spring semester at Ursinus, the Career and Post-Graduate Development Office offers externship opportunities to students who are looking to explore possible career paths that they are interested in. Michele Poruban, Associate Director of the Career and Post-Graduate Development office, explains that an externship is a 2-5 day shadowing experience that gives the chance for students to immerse themselves into a field they might have interest in going in to.

Poruban further explains that, over spring break, Ursinus will send students all over the Tri-State area to participate in externships, ranging from shadowing orthodontists, to marketers, to dermatologists. This opportunity allows for a "test drive of a career," says Poruban. Through this experience, students will not only gain insight into a future job, but networking skills as well. Students are required to supply their own transportation and housing if accepted into an externship program.

So as for the question: Who can apply for an externship? Good news! All students at Ursinus can apply. While externships are competitive and preference goes to upperclassmen, Poruban explains that there is an opportunity for everyone, regardless of class year or major, to participate.

In order to apply, Poruban says your first step would be to visit the Career and Post-Graduate Development page on Ursinus.edu. From there, you can read more about the externship program and see if it's the right fit for you. Poruban explains that on Handshake, you will find descriptions of the externships being offered this Spring. Make sure there are at least three you would be seriously interested in doing, as you will be asked to give multiple options on your application to better increase your chances of a match! You will also be required to submit a resume along with essay questions. From there, a committee will review your application and if you match with a program, you will be notified!

"Students can apply with anywhere between 1 to 3 externship choices. The benefit of submitting three choices is that more options increases your chance of a match. However, we emphasize students need to accept any match they are given, so they should only list organizations they are interested in and can access with their own transportation," Poruban states.

Some important externship dates to keep in mind include "Extern Program Made Easy," an event which is Wednesday, Feb. 5 at noon in the Bear's Den. The deadline for applications is on Thursday, February 13th, 11:59 PM. The externship match notifications will be on February 20th.

If you have any questions about externships, you can visit the Career and Post-Graduate Development Page on the Ursinus website, or contact Michele Poruban (mporuban@ursinus.edu) or Olivia Correll (ocorrell@ursinus.edu).

Happening on Campus

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OPINION

A dream deferred? On MLK’s legacy

Jen Joseph
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A few weeks ago, on MLK day, I sat down with a group of invest-ed teachers, deans, and other staff to discuss the importance of Martin Luther King in the modern era. In particular, we discussed whether Martin Luther King Jr’s principle of nonviolent social activism is still relevant today.

It was important for members of the community to clarify a few of MLK’s less well-understood, disregarded points while developing an answer to this bigger question. For example, while nearly everyone is taught the “I Have A Dream” speech as a kid, most schools focus on the lesson of valuing equality and dreaming of a better world. What is often forgotten, however, is how King thought that world should be achieved: through an end to police brutality.

To quote King: “We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim to the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.” Even to this day, this message is seen as controversial. For example, many signs in our neighborhood of Collegeville read “We Support Our Police”-something that sends the message to black students of Ursinus that, even in an expensive private college, they are still not safe.

In addition, King was also a proponent of demilitarization. In a less well-recognized speech of his, the Riverside Church Speech, King calls for “the end to all bombing in North and South Vietnam... [to] declare a unilateral ceasefire... [and for America to] set a date that we will remove all foreign troops from Vietnam in accordance with the 1954 Geneva Agreement.” King’s Vietnam stance was unpopular among many of his peers as well as those in positions of power, most notably President Lyndon Johnson (LBJ), with whom he had once been on friendly terms.

Despite Johnson’s promise to provide funds to poor blacks in America, those funds were (and arguably still are) being diverted for the war effort. By calling out LBJ on his support of an unjust war, King sacrificed his own safety, and was assassinated a year later. Now, even as the FBI gives statements in support of a fallen hero, they neglect to remind the American people of their own involvement in his fall.

MLK’s face, his brand, and his words are used thoughtlessly, and few actually consider the things King stood for. Nonviolence is far more radical a stance than many consider it to be. How can the US today praise a man who, if most would take more than a cursory look at his views, they might find too progressive?

We have not achieved King’s Beloved Community. Indeed, we are not even close, as it seems more and more that Americans promote their own interests over those of the world. But this month, I think we at Ursinus should take a good long look at our words, and see if our actions measure up to them.

Personification of brands has gone too far

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Brands have increasingly used social media to come off as more personal and in tune with today’s zeitgeist. Accounts like Wendy’s, or in a recent case Planters, have used Twitter to tweet jokes using many of the memetic formats that gain popularity seemingly every few days.

In the past week, Planters decided to kill off their mascot Mr. Peanut, without much reason other than to create a spectacle. After his “death” was announced, the tragic news of Kobe Bryant’s death caused Planters to pivot away from actually killing off the peanut man. Instead, he has been rebranded as “Baby Nut” in a blatant attempt to capitalize on the recent hot media trend of babies.

2019’s “The Mandalorian,” a new Star Wars series, introduced a character known as Baby Yoda. He quickly became a beloved character due to his cute, yet old, looks. Other babies had come before, sure. There was the Boss Baby and Baby Groot, but neither had what Baby Yoda has: familiarity and nostalgia. Those two made Baby Yoda the cultural force that it is.

So, seeing a snack brand shamelessly try their marketing hands at the now-mainstream baby fever is exhausting. Mr. Peanut is one of those mascots that exists, and people know it exists, but no one ever actually cared about. He’s a peanut with a top hat and a monocle. Recently, even the state of New Jersey has gotten a Twitter account to do this kind of engagement. The difference here, though, is that at least New Jersey isn’t trying to sell you burgers or peanuts. This absence of entrepreneurship makes them more tolerable.

The thing that kept Baby Yoda from this pitfall (‘cause if we’re honest, Baby Yoda is Disney trying to sell us something too) is that the character has a reason to exist. There is a role for him. People already had an understanding of regular Yoda. There is no such prior sentiment for a Peanut baby.

Couple in the fact that the Twitter account was already unamusing. That they killed off a peanut for attention. That Mr. Peanut isn’t even a good mascot design.

The worst part is that much like any other issue, there are people on both sides. There are people who like this. Who have found it amusing. They exist somewhere, I’m sure @ mrpeanuts’s 114k followers aren’t all bots. That’s more unsettling.

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After assistant coaching for Ursinus, Coach Merc ran a start-up Men's Lacrosse program for Delaware Valley College, while still keeping tabs on Ursinus and following the team and its successes. He describes the day he saw the posting for the Head Coaching position at Ursinus, and the urge to get this job being the only thing on his mind. "I have always kept in touch with Coach Steele (former UC Men's Coach) and when I heard he was leaving I knew this was my chance to do something big."

The Bears were coming off of a 3-11 season, so Mercadante had to strategize about what the team needed to do in order to turn things around. The pressure of convincing a roster of 42 men to jump on board with him and his vision was at first intimidating. But after a few short weeks of interacting with the team, he realized that these guys wanted serious change. Coach Merc explained, "they wanted to see the team turn itself around and gain success." He continued, "all 42 of them came in willing to adapt and listen to new ideas, and I knew that they were willing to do anything to change the culture and trickle down the new expectations I had set."

- Gary Mercadante

I f I could get them to work with me and be on the same page we were going to make a name for ourselves in the Centennial." He gives much credit to his seniors and leaders of the team, "They were willing to do anything to change the culture and trickle down the new expectations I had set for these men."

In a few months, a change in the UC Men's Lacrosse team had become quite apparent. From how they presented themselves off the field, the amount of work they were putting into the classroom, practice, and the weight room, to the Saturday morning runs and team hugs after every practice and game, Mercadante was beginning to see the culture he had hoped and aspired for become a reality for Ursinus Men's Lax. By February 1st, the boys were hungry, the season began and Coach Merc and his team established a common goal, to create a name and standard for Ursinus. The first six games Ursinus was on fire, with a 6-0 out of conference record. Their first in-conference game was against Gettysburg a well-known, strong, and successful team. The boys lost to them 13-9 on March 23rd, a game that none of them, especially Mercadante, would forget. The boys carried on and had a record of 5-3 in the conference, beating strong opponents such as Franklin and Marshall. Coach Merc stated, "As time went on I was realizing that our opponents were not expecting much out of us, and that's the fuel to our fire that we needed, we had nothing to lose, and our goal was to leave each team with a slap in the face that Ursinus Lacrosse was not to be overlooked." After making it into the playoffs and beating Franklin and Marshall for a second time, the boys packed their bags and headed back to Gettysburg where they would fight for a championship title. "I am glad Gettysburg beat us the first go around," Mercadante states, "I don't know if we would have beaten them in the final game if we had won the first time."

When asked what he was thinking on his way to the game all Mercadante could say was, "We were ready. We had prepared for this game, my coaching staff had made adjustments Gettysburg was not prepared for, the boys were in this and this was our time." The boys beat Gettysburg 10-8 on Saturday May 4th, a moment that will last with every one of them for the rest of their lives. Coach Mercadante stood on the field at Gettysburg College, a smile larger than life on his face, with the pride and love for a team he did not know he could have. He had set the tone of the culture for Ursinus Men's Lacrosse, and his team had emulated exactly what he had created.

All Mercadante can hope for this season is that the boys stay true to themselves and carry on the culture and drive that had formed last year. He truly believes that if the boys can be consistent with their work ethic, respect of the game and of each other, there will be success again for the Bears. "Last year is over, the championship is in the past, we pick up and work to be better than the year before, and we continue to demand the respect we deserve, for Ursinus Men's Lacrosse." Coach Mercadante will continue to hold his team to a high standard, and hug each and every one of them after every practice and game. "We win together, we lose together. Every man on this team has a role and is important in their own way. We are a family and that is why we will continue to do big things."

For the Men's Lacrosse 2020 Season, the boys have begun to practice, and get back to the grind. They will start their season against Stevenson College on February 15th.

Scores as of Monday, December 2nd

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Women’s Basketball edged out by Haverford

Ian Abrahams
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The night of January 29th brought the Women’s Basketball team a hard-fought defeat against Haverford. With a final score of 59-64, Ursinus was in it until the end. Seventy-eight people attended the game, and they enjoyed a ride. Ursinus started the game with a quick, hopeful lead, but the tide quickly turned. Haverford started scoring and Ursinus went into halftime down by 9, 26-35.

Throughout the game, the Bears were on the attack, both with an aggressive offense and a persistent defense. However, many of their most notable moments took place later on in the game, which shows their endurance and grit. According to the announcers, Nathaniel Dorfman, and Mike Stanziale whose broadcast, which includes live play-by-play for each and every game, can be accessed on the website, a big moment was when Lydia Konstanzer set an “earth crunching screen” in the 3rd quarter, which informed Haverford that “the Bears are not to be trifled with.” And that they are not, as even in the final moments of the game, Alyssa Martin scored a delightful three pointer, refusing to give up.

The Bears’ effort was greatly aided earlier in the fourth when Coach White called timeout, stunting Haverford’s offensive momentum. It showed an encouraging dynamic because once the timeout ended, the players were right back in it, as determined as ever.

Overall the team is 6-12 as of Wednesday night, but they seem to be losing close games, and they can hold their heads high.

Guard Aliyah Stephens, expressed her desire to win.

See Basketball on pg. 2

The Mercadante Method

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Gary Mercadante, Head Coach of the Ursinus Men’s Lacrosse team, entered the program last year with only one goal in mind; to change the culture of the team. He knew that the team had the strength, skill, and game IQ they needed for success, but something needed to be adjusted in order to see a positive result.

From a young age Coach Merc has always had a passion for lacrosse. He played for a majority of his life growing up in New Jersey and eventually knew he wanted to play at the collegiate level. Mercadante remembers his passion for high school ball and the number of memories he made playing on the turf field at the Delbarton School, where he was a four-time New Jersey state champion. After high school, Coach Merc played for Dickinson College, a member of our very own Centennial Conference. During his career at Dickinson, Mercadante was a four-year letter winner and two-year captain. This lead to his involvement with coaching, as he helped Dickinson recruit players during his summers. Mercadante explained, “while recruiting for my team, I picked up on a lot of key factors about players individually and how to build a team by finding guys who could complement each other and produce a win.”

See Method on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

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