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Anger about Admitted Students Day

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On Saturday March 27, Ursinus held an Admitted Students Day, in which students considering enrolling at Ursinus next year could visit campus. In an email to the student body, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Missy Bryant wrote that the event was “managed with your health, safety, and well-being in mind.” Many students are angry about ASD, however, and have been expressing their frustration.

Senior Megan Hasulak emailed a petition to the student body, which was also posted on Change.org, arguing that the decision to host the event in-person put the school’s financial concerns ahead of the well-being of current students, and that hosting visitors was not consistent with the school’s approach to COVID safety precautions. “I am happy to see the college trying so hard to appreciate and welcome their new accepted students, but I fear they are forgetting about the ones who currently go here,” Hasulak wrote. She also argued that COVID-safe events for current students should be allowed in light of ASD. As of press time, the petition had 531 signatures.

Senior Ian Johnson later emailed a video to the campus community arguing that the administration’s decisions were “hypocritical.”

Other, less respectful forms of protest occurred as well: The morning of ASD, spray paint was spotted on numerous welcome signs and the LOVE statue, and chairs were rearranged. (Johnson called the vandalism “wildly inconsiderate” to maintenance and facilities staff.) For the duration of ASD, the defaced property was covered with tarps.

In an interview with the “Grizzly,” Dean Bryant explained the school’s position on ASD. “One of the most important things to know is that enrollment ran ASD by the virus task force for approval,” she said. Regarding COVID protocols, Bryant said, “Our students are tested on a weekly basis due to the constant congregation; families completed a health survey since they were not going to be in direct contact with any of our students.” She noted that ASD was only confirmed to happen once the Centennial Conference had approved spring sports competition and campus was accepting outsiders. As for the vandalism, Bryant addressed it in an emotional email: “I was surprised by this behavior and I was not expecting it. I know it is not something the student population overall is in agreement with.”

Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management Shannon Zottola said that “ASD is a very important event in recruiting, it solidifies [students’] choice to attend Ursinus. We were not going to go through with an in-person event, unless we felt that the safety measures we put in would protect students, families and faculty.” She noted that Admissions has been holding tours for prospective students and their families. “I believe the knowledge of how well we have safely controlled tours this year without any COVID transmissions has showed how we have handled the situation,” she said.

As for the current students’ concerns about celebratory activities, especially for the Class of 2021, there are some measures to look forward to. As the weather improves, vendors who are fully vaccinated will be coming to campus. Missy Bryant has been in communication with the Senior Class Council recently to plan events for seniors that are safe and exciting. “We have been having consistent conversations about what these events could look like, it will not look like the past, but we are working with senior class council to move forward,” said Bryant. There are guidelines available for how student organizations can host events.

In an interview with the “Grizzly,” Hasulak said she wrote her letter because, “I was hoping that Ursinus would take a step back and realize how they are treating their current students. I wanted to inform the school of how disregarded and neglected their students feel and spark conversation for the future. If the school was able to organize that large of a ‘safe’ gathering for prospective students, why does administration choose to hold back on the same types of institutional event for current students?”

As the year winds to a close, the administration is now faced with a question quite familiar to students: What will you do?
Eligible Faculty, Staff, and Students Granted Opportunity to Participate in Vaccine Clinic

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Faculty, staff, and students who are currently eligible for vaccinations against COVID-19 are receiving a vaccine clinic opportunity through Ursinus.

Eligible members of the Ursinus community were invited to participate in a Phase 1A vaccine clinic in March. This opportunity was a result of Ursinus’s work with State Representative Joe Webster’s office. The Phase 1A vaccine clinic was organized through Skippack Pharmacy. “We, as a College, have been trying to advocate for the importance of vaccinating college students while they are still on campus and before the return home for summer break,” says Lauren Finnegan, Director of Counseling and Wellness at Ursinus. “We see this as a significant opportunity to ensure equitable access to the vaccine for all our students and to help with the public health crisis.”

In addition to providing a vaccination opportunity to eligible members of the college community, Ursinus will be contributing to the continued vaccination efforts within the county. In discussing Ursinus’s participation in Skippack Pharmacy’s clinic, Finnegan says: “We are working with them to find ways to support their mission to offer vaccines throughout Montgomery County. They have graciously offered to reserve space in their Sunday mass clinic to vaccinate Ursinus’ 1A faculty, staff and students.” Eligible participants in the Phase 1A vaccination category were asked to complete a survey in order to request an appointment with Skippack Pharmacy. The vaccine clinic took place at North Penn High School in Landsdale, Pennsylvania, and was scheduled for March 28. Participation in this clinic was voluntary, and participants were made aware that eligibility did not ensure them a time slot to receive the vaccine. In addition, a date to receive the second dose of the vaccine has not been set; setting a date for a second vaccine dose will most likely follow in several weeks.

Ursinus’s participation in the vaccine clinic is a step toward future collaborations with the pharmacy as well. “We feel incredibly fortunate for this opportunity and look forward to a continued partnership with Skippack moving forward,” says Finnegan. Ursinus continues to work towards vaccine access for the Ursinus community in other ways as well. “In addition to the Skippack efforts, we have made applications with the state of Pennsylvania to obtain access to vaccines for campus at Wellness, and have been in close contact with the Montgomery Office of Public Health to be alert to other opportunities,” Finnegan says. “We have also been working with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) to encourage state leaders to prioritize the immunization of college students before the end of semester.”

Ursinus College has received state approval to be a vaccine provider. Members of the Ursinus community are still encouraged to use outside providers for vaccinations until more information is available about Ursinus’s role as a vaccine provider.
On Saturday April 3, Dr. Kneia DaCosta gave a talk to the Ursinus community on the topic of microaggressions. She described the rise in interest in microaggressions in academic literature, the dangers of microaggressions, and ways professionals help clients work through these insults. Dr. DaCosta offered insight into the ongoing debate about whether microaggressions are harmful and detrimental to one’s mental health, or simply a concern of “oversensitive and politically-correct millennials.”

Dr. DaCosta and her research team conducted a focus group in which they studied microaggressions experienced by women of color at a small liberal arts residential college in the northeast.

An unexpected theme that was found during the team’s research was the presence of “macro-aggressions” -- meaning instances when explicit discrimination was experienced, such as insults, dismissals, and exclusions. The women experienced microaggressions as well. DaCosta opened the talk by allowing students to give their input on this subject, including their firsthand experience with microaggressions and the effect that they had on them.

Happy Pride Week, Ursinus!
April 5 - April 10th 2021
Info via Ursinus Gender & Sexuality Alliance (@gsa_ursinus on Instagram)
Ally Hendrikson ’21: A graduating senior interview

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With graduation approaching, The Grizzly is taking the time to speak with seniors on how they feel about graduating and leaving Ursinus. Ally Hendrikson ’21, originally from San Fernando Valley, California, is a Biology major and Neuroscience minor. During her time here at UC, Hendrikson was involved in various clubs, conducted research with Dr. Ellen Dawley, and held jobs as a Resident Advisor (RA) and in the amphibian care room for the Neuroscience Lab dept. Hendrikson reflects on her time at Ursinus and provides a glimpse of her future plans, as well as advice for the rest of the student-body on campus.

"Looking ahead I will be taking a gap year working as an EMT in Philadelphia..."
- Ally Hendrikson
2021

“Looking ahead, what are your post-grad plans or steps for the next couple of years?”

Looking ahead I will be taking a gap year working as an EMT in Philadelphia and I’ll be actually moving in with my best friend who just happens to feel like a senior when the school doesn’t recognize you as a senior.

What was the most unexpected part of your senior year?

The shocking behavior that the school has performed [with Admitted Students Day]. I think that they can really do better. I know myself and other seniors are very very upset about that whole thing. It feels like the school doesn’t care about current students [and instead] cares about the incoming money that is promised with new students. Having people who are untested walking around campus and possibly carrying COVID and spreading to students, while seniors are only able to bring two people to graduation, is very disheartening. I am very disappointed at the Ursinus administration.

Do you have any advice you would like to give to underclassmen or to the class of 2022?

To the class of 2022 and all underclassmen: you sometimes have to work harder than the administration and other people on-campus to fight for what you want and I hope that now you all see...the true colors of the Ursinus Administration. On a happy note I think that the professors here are amazing and the education that you get is very good. The one thing that I wish I learned sooner would be how important it is to communicate openly with your professors and use...resources that they offer up because there’s some great opportunities if you talk to your professors and form a good relationship with them. But also make sure you’re taking time for yourself because I know everything can get overwhelming, especially in your sophomore and junior year [with] a lot going on, and learning how to take care of yourself and still be happy with all of the work going on is very important. Being [on] campus has meant so much to me, it [has given] me the chance to meet so many new people and help residents all around campus!

“...you sometimes have to work harder than the administration and other people on-campus to fight for what you want and...now you all see...the true colors of the Ursinus Administration.”
- Ally Hendrikson
2021

Wear a mask.

Socially distance.

Stay safe!
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated is a global, historically African-American fraternity. The Omicron Kappa Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi resides on Ursinus’ campus. There are currently three brothers on campus, and they are hoping to expand their second family in the coming years. Kappa Alpha Psi® is a very large community with over 400 undergraduate chapters in the United States. Additionally, there are a sizable number of alumni and international chapters. Brothers can find each other wherever the wind takes them, whether it be at Temple University, and in states like Indiana or California. All brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi® embrace each other’s spiritual, social, academic, and moral well-being. Honorable and academic achievements are also encouraged and a big part of the Kappa Alpha Psi® culture.

Since this is a global fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi® assists the aims and purpose of other colleges and universities in addition to their own. While they are a tight-knit group of brothers, they want to inspire service in the public interest of the campus-community. Kappa Alpha Psi® were welcomed to and became a part of the Ursinus’ Greek Life community in February 2002.

Justin Martinez ’21, the 2020-2021 President of Kappa Alpha Psi®, has led his chapter by example and with a big welcoming heart. He follows the motto, “Achievement in every field of human endeavor,” so as to maintain the level of endearment and honor recognized in their chapter.

“Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated has given me the opportunity to develop leadership skills, confidence, and the ability to leave a lasting impact in the community.”

- Justin Martinez

2021

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR “DESK DRAWER OF THE WEEK” SECTION?
HOW MESSY, CLEAN, OR ORGANIZED IS IT?
TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR DESK
SEND YOUR PICTURE, NAME, AND YEAR TO GRIZZLY@URSINUS.EDU

Reach out to any brother to learn more about Kappa Alpha Psi®. The fraternity resides in Reimert 108.

SPOTLIGHTING THREE STUDENTS’ DESK DRAWERS!
SEND YOUR PICTURE, NAME, AND YEAR TO GRIZZLY@URSINUS.EDU
PICTURES ARE DUE EVERY THURSDAY!!!
If you know me, you may think I’ve never had an enemy. But you’re quite wrong. I did back in middle and high school.

It was running. I avoided the mile like the plague. All of us students, athletic or not, were thrown to the wolves. We were told to run and make sure we finished with a time worth talking about. I even asked my gym teachers for running tips and tricks! Their response...total crick.

For instance, when her van breaks down, Fern’s new life as a van dweller allows her to forge stronger connections with nature and free. Yet, through her experiences living alone as her home. While Fern epitomizes the American way of life. Fern is limited by her own humanity, while also providing her with a sense of closure regarding her husband and her former home of Empire, Nevada.

Nomadland is an inherently American movie, but not in any patriotic sense. It feels American because of Fern’s initial desperation for work along with her continued economic hardships. Her experience reflects the necessary struggle for work as well as community with other vandwellers, she still faces financial insecurity and bouts of grief brought on by reminders of her husband’s death. Despite the hardships, Fern’s new life as a vandweller allows her to forge stronger connections with nature and her own humanity, while also providing her with a sense of closure regarding her husband and her former home of Empire, Nevada.

Fern is limited by her material circumstance. For instance, when her van breaks down, Fern has little choice but to go to her sister, who lives the traditional American way of life. As Fern walks up to her sister’s suburban house, the audience can feel Fern’s shame for having to resort to this. Her brother-in-law’s boast about real-estate success creates discord, as Fern mentions her position as vandweller. Additionally, Fern meets a variety of impactful people, many of whom influence her along her journey. These heartwarming scenes reflect the necessary optimism of Fern and other vandwellers.

Nomadland is acutely relevant tale of woe, the film executes its messages with a sense of subtlety and grace. There are many uplifting moments, as Fern proves to be unshakeable in the face of uncertainty due to her ever-changing lifestyle as a vandweller. Additionally, Fern meets a variety of impactful people, many of whom influence her along her journey. These heartwarming scenes reflect the necessary optimism of Fern and other vandwellers.

Intend to see Nomadland nominated in several categories at this year’s Oscars, including Best Picture. This film is a necessary watch; stream it on Hulu.
Like the Centennial, every game is a battle and an opportunity for either team, no matter their record, to come out on top. Having this bit of hope has helped the women’s lacrosse team become stronger than they were before.

Unlike many of the other schools in the conference, Ursinus had the privilege of having full team practices throughout the fall semester. This time together as a full group enabled for additional preparation, proving especially useful with a first-time coach on board this year. The team hopes that the time granted to them in the fall to get back into the swing of playing and developing cohesion will be beneficial in their games this spring.

“Each day, we go into practice with the mindset of doing what we can to make ourselves and our teammates better. The encouragement, accountability, and competitiveness amongst the team is higher than it’s ever been before.”
—Julia Kohout, Class of 2021

In addition to preparing for games, the team is trying to focus on staying in the moment. Reflecting on the past year and talking about the present, Julia said, “The team, especially the seniors, have developed an attitude that reflects not taking anything for granted and living in the moment. You’ll never know when the last time you’re going to step out on the field will be. We’ve been and are very grateful for the opportunity we have to play a shortened conference season and are ready to get out on the field.”

“With the season schedule being sprung out so quickly, the postponing of our games has given us more time to prepare and put the pieces of the puzzle together. Many players have really stepped up this preseason and I am excited to see what we can do on game day.”
—Julia Kohout, Class of 2021

This mindset and sense of togetherness is what they are valuing going into the start of their season. They’ve had time to prepare and now are just waiting their time to show everyone what they can do. We wish the best of luck to women’s lacrosse as they take on their first competitor in over a year. Go Bears!
SPRINGS WELLNESS

Spring Sports
Week Two Recap

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Ursinus College spring athletes were able to compete once again this past weekend.

The baseball team played Washington College in a double-header. As soon as the game started they fell behind, allowing two runs to be scored on them. They made a quick recovery, matching the runs they had given up, but Washington College struck again, and the game ended 5-3 Washington. The Bears were able to pick their heads up and make a comeback in the second game. With two back-to-back singles from Will Pfeiffer and Solomon Griffith got the team motivated, and they secured a win in the second game, 7-1.

Softball had a tough fight against Washington College as well. They dropped the first game 6-2, but turned things around in game two. Brushing off the last game, the Bears put themselves in a position to score repeatedly, and triumphed 11-3.

The men’s Track Team made their names known this past weekend at the Muhlenberg Invitational. The team was able to spread out its nine wins over different events. Sprinters, throwers, javelin, high jump and distance all helped Ursinus secure first place. Over on the women’s side, the Lady Bears put on a show at the Muhlenberg Invitational, showing up first and second in a lot of their main events and ensuring top results for themselves.

Men’s and women’s Tennis got after it this weekend in a match up against Washington College. The men were able to grab their first win 7-2. The women put up a good fight, however they were not able to pull through with a win.

Women’s lacrosse made their first appearance of the season, throughout this unpredictable year, the question of whether Spring sports will have a season has been on a lot of athletes’ minds. While the Centennial Conference has elected to play, the season has had a rocky start. The women’s lacrosse team had to deal with this firsthand, with their first two games in over a year being postponed.

While the start to the highly anticipated spring season has been rough, the team remains eager and ready to go. Senior Julia Kohout stated, “With the season schedule being sprung out so quickly, the postponing of our games has given us more time to prepare and put the pieces of the puzzle together. Many players have really stepped up this preseason and I am excited to see what we can do on game day.”

In preseason rankings in the Centennial, Ursinus found themselves sitting at the bottom. While this may seem upsetting and disheartening, the team has become more motivated than ever. When discussing this topic, Julia went on to say that, “Each day, we go into practice with the mindset of doing what we can to make ourselves and our teammates better. The encouragement, accountability, and competitiveness amongst the team is higher than it’s ever been before.”

They hope to use the doubt as fuel to prove people wrong. Being in a high-level conference

What is Next For Women’s Lax?

Madison Handwerger
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Thinking of you!