



4-25-2019

The Grizzly, April 25, 2019

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Coffee shop and brew pub aims to open second location near UC

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Commonwealth Hall on Main Street, a former Ursinus dorm, might not be sitting vacant for much longer. Phoenixville's Steel City, a Soho/Bohemian-style coffee shop, is considering opening a second location in the building next door to Marzella's.

According to Laura Vernola, who owns Steel City with her husband, Ed Simpson, the business is looking to turn the first floor of Commonwealth Hall into a coffee shop and brewpub-style restaurant, and to convert the second floor into a listening room where live music performances, poetry readings and talks could be held.

"We want to create this space for creative people and people who just want to learn to come in," Vernola said, "We love that Ursinus is a liberal arts college. We think that the creative vibe that we have here [at the Phoenixville location] with the poetry slams, the writer's groups, the

ukulele groups, we do live music during the week... Our hope is to collaborate with the college, but also with the community. We really want to offer the community somewhere to walk to, somewhere to be creative."

If the proposal is approved by the Borough Council, Vernola thinks that their business will bring a more creative vibe to Collegeville and the UC campus.

"I think it takes a certain location to capture this cool, creative vibe. So we felt that in or around a college campus would make a lot of sense," she said.

Cathy Kernen, a member of the Borough Council, head of Borough Business Development Committee, and head of the non-profit Collegeville Economic Development Corp., believes that Steel City coming to Collegeville will help the borough move forward with its plans to revitalize Main Street which they have been working on for over a year now.

"When you work to revitalize a business district, the

first popular new business you attract serves as a catalyst for other businesses to locate in your town. Other new businesses are more willing to take a chance and move to your town if they see a similar business has already done so and is doing well. Steel City was there helping Phoenixville through its rebirth, and we are hoping that they will serve as a similar catalyst for Collegeville's transformation," she said.

Vernola and Simpson are interested in working with the borough to help bring more businesses to the area. They believe their other business, a marketing and PR company, could help the area develop.

"We are ready and willing to start working with the campus, the borough, and other small businesses within Collegeville to help improve the district area," Vernola said. "If this is all approved, our goal is to be well intertwined with the community itself and help grow this. We say this all the time, if the person across the street's business fails,



Photo courtesy of Jackie Botto

we all fail as a community... That's what small business in America is like. We have to work together. We can't work against each other."

UC President Brock Blomberg hopes that a second Steel City location close to campus will help connect Ursinus with the greater Collegeville community.

"Steel City could create yet another lively cultural space for students and visitors, featuring dining, live music and complementing the small-town camaraderie that is already a hallmark of Collegeville and our campus," he said. "While still in the early stages, Ursinus supports the plan

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In memory of Dorinda Ma, 1993-2018

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This past Sunday, loved ones gathered on campus to honor the loss of and celebrate the life of Dorinda Ma '16. They dedicated a tree, planted between Olin and the Berman, in her honor. At Ursinus, Dorinda majored in English, worked in the campus safety office, was a sister of Sigma Sigma Sigma, and wrote beautiful, brave poetry. She was passionate about changing the lives of youth through education and after graduation she became an English teacher for Teach for America. Her kindness, compassion, and warm smile brought light into the lives of countless members of the Ursinus com-

munity and beyond. Some of Ma's professors and close friends shared their thoughts and memories of her with "The Grizzly."

From Dr. M. Nzadi Keita, Associate Professor of English, Coordinator of African American/Africana Studies:

"I met Dorinda as a first-year student in the fall of 2013 when she took my Intro to Poetry Writing course. Her bouncy, sunny, caring demeanor was a bit disorienting to me at first; soon I realized that she was just being herself. An extraordinarily kind, giving person.

Dorinda approached poetry the way she did many things: with a fearless curiosity, an energetic intellect, and a willingness to find her way. Her ability as a

poet was immediately clear. She wasn't afraid of it. She did not try to conquer poetry by limiting herself to cliched ideas, writing copycat poems, or wrestling her thoughts into stilted rhyme. Her gift came from an exuberant embrace of language, an affinity for significant detail, attention, and a well-trained ear. I teach a lot of poetic form, which students often dislike, at least at first. But Dorinda ran with any challenge I gave and worked to bring something of herself into the poems.

I became her academic adviser in the English Dept. One of my favorite memories is our initial advising convo, which lasted about 2 hours. We talked about being from Philly, knowing how to thrift-shop, joked about

Central High culture (my sons were alums, as was she), and had a long, humorous bonding over the similarities between migrant (mine) and immigrant (hers) families. After that, sometimes she'd knock on my door to give me a hug on her way to or from a class on Olin 3.

We kept in sporadic contact via long emails after she started teaching, always with the same subject line: "Long overdue update!" The following excerpt comes from one of them:

"Some of my freshmen are mothers, some have a first grade reading level, and some just love to test my patient nature, but all of my students have taught me more than I can ever teach them. Their academic deficiencies pale

in comparison to their consciousness of their lives and the many contributing forces that crush down on them. I am honored to be where I am and to do the work I have done and will continue to do."

From Chris Wilcox:

"She was always smiling. She had a great outlook on life. When I think of Dorinda, the thing that I think of is her bubbly attitude. She loved life and she loved being here."

From Khalilah Baber '16:

I met Dorinda for the first time entering the summer program called Crigler (summer of 2012) going into Ursinus College. From first impressions

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to create this exciting new venue on Main Street. We're hoping that it will make the neighborhood around our campus a destination in its own right, drawing families and students to the center of town."

Many members of the community have already expressed interest in Steel City. According to Kernen, the April 3 borough council meeting during which they announced the plan "was totally full, with standing room

it was evident that she was a loving, humble, educated and multi-talented person. Our paths seemed to always cross on campus and her captivating smile kept someone feeling warm inside. Dorinda was so proud when I became a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma- she had joined her sophomore year and I joined our junior year. Through that time we became not only sisters but true friends. We shared meals together, tanned in the sun, enjoyed fries with ketchup & black pepper, got dressed up for nights out on campus and off, shared her love for Halloween and Valentines day, took some of the same classes, and bonded on how our Ursinus years were wrapping up but how we both were proud of each other's accomplishments. Dorinda joined Teach for America and I joined AmeriCorp. We both loved education and had a passion to see our youth succeed.

Some of my most precious memories will forever be our night adventures out and admiring her style. Or seeing her speak out about feminism, her heritage, and the history of her family coming to America. Dorinda on many occasions curled my hair for formals and of course we decorated our caps together, taking pictures by the Ursinus gate after we walked across the stage. Dorinda was an exceptional soul.

From Dr. Stephanie Mackler, Associate Professor of Educa-

only."

"The general response from the residents and building owners was overwhelmingly positive for both Steel City and the Main Street revitalization," Kernen said. "One resident said that Steel City was one of the most exciting things to ever happen to Collegeville."

The members of the community are not the only people excited about this potential new location, however. Students have also expressed hopes that the space will provide more options

tion and Assistant Dean of the College:

"Dorinda was a student in two classes with me: Foundations of Education and The Liberal Arts. She was remarkably authentic and willing to be vulnerable when talking in class. I can remember at least two occasions when she came to tears during a class discussion because she felt things so deeply and was able to connect her intellectual work to her personal experience. So, when we discussed issues of race or social justice, she would always be a class leader in making sure the class didn't just talk about the text as though it had no connection to people's actual lives. And sometimes this would move her to tears because she understood how much was at stake and was willing to be vulnerable in the classroom. When she spoke, tears or not, her classmates would listen—not only because she was extremely bright, but because she was so authentic and alive in the classroom. You could really feel her presence in the room, and she spoke in such a way that one wanted to listen. I can remember her coming to me to apologize after class for having cried in class. She was always a little embarrassed about it, but I remember just being so grateful that she was willing to be so real in that way.

In my liberal education class, she ended an essay on the purpose of liberal education with

than just lower Wismer and the Bear's Den for hosting events and studying on campus.

"It'd be a cool place to maybe get some work done," junior Dan Powell said. "I'm excited for live events too."

Junior Sam Harvey said, "This would give another option for students for something to do on the weekend."

Vernola agrees that Steel City would offer an alternative to the library and dorm rooms for students looking to hang out or study.

these words: 'Liberal education is the dialogue in which we allow ourselves, the people of this world, to participate. We must continue to struggle with the difficult questions left unanswered, just as we strive to wonder about our future, in order to keep up with our responsibility of cultivating our humanity.'"

From Director of Residence Life and Assistant Dean of Students Melissa Sanders Geiss:

"She has a larger than life person. She had a big smile, big hair. I always said she was a light. She was always warm and compassionate towards people, and thought about people in everything... I was really proud and excited for her career in education because she was someone who brought many gifts into a classroom... I thought it was very appropriate to have her tree rooted on the campus, forever tied to this place."

From Solana Warner, Class of 2018:

"She was a really lovely person, the kind who would come into the room and ask everyone how they were doing like we were old friends. I loved her poetry and how it ranged from bold and whimsical to striking more serious notes in a truly poignant way - she was very brave, and I had a lot of respect for both her work and her as a person."

A Poem by Dorinda:

"Some people don't want to study in dorms. Some people just want to go to a coffee shop, put their headphones in and just hammer away," she said.

While many people are excited about Steel City's potential move to Collegeville, there's still a lot of work to be done before the move can become official. The borough needs to rezone the building for commercial use and the interior would need to be remodeled before they can open for business.

Vernola is hopeful, however,

that Steel City will be able to open its second location in Collegeville.

"I think that it's a win-win for everyone" Vernola said. "If you're not learning something new everyday, you're in the wrong business. My husband and I are constantly learning about this business. We take all the feedback from the community on a daily basis and we try to keep this brand going and to keep growing it."



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Dorinda at the time of her graduation

Transit Tankas
finding Lombard-South,
labyrinthine of shops and
soul. I am wild young
and I dare go on, dare to
eat drink smoke steal and escape

river, royalty,
Susquehanna-Dauphin. I
think I am ready,
but my city is callous-
and I am young still, flimsy

to Walnut-Locust,
straight lines and pyrrhic suc-
cess.
I laugh at them all,
but eternal life in cash,
we strive for that; like straight
lines



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The **GRIZZLY**

Volume 43 Issue 21

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

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New history professor makes her mark

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Dr. Johanna Mellis came to Ursinus in the fall of 2018 after getting her PhD from the University of Florida. Though she initially came to do a two-year visiting professorship, this spring she was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor, a post she will formally take on in the fall.

Mellis came to Ursinus after a national search by the college which posted a highly specific description with a long list of qualifications. "The position description for this tenure-track line was detailed and demanding. It emphasized not only certain content knowledge and scholarly expertise, but also a particular approach to teaching, student engagement, community building, and collegial teamwork, as well as engagement in the digital humanities and interdisciplinary programs," said Dr. Susanna A. Throop, Associate Professor and Department Chair of History.

Mellis comes to Ursinus having won many awards during her graduate studies, including being a Fulbright scholar and a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow. "Throughout the search process, Dr. Mellis demonstrated her ability to meet that position description most fully. We are both delighted, and extremely fortunate, to have been able to

hire her in this tenure-track position. She has great ideas for our department and for the college, and we're very excited to work with her in the years to come," said Throop.

Students have also responded well to her. "Dr. Mellis' classes are always run with great care and foster a collaborative learning environment where students are encouraged to explore their personal interests through the texts we read," said Cori Cichowicz '19.

Mellis teaches courses in European history and world history and her deep abiding interest in history stems from two sources. One of these sources was her own teachers. "Through them, [I learned] understanding people's motivations is important to understanding how history plays out," Mellis said. The other of these sources is how history always allows one to discover new things. "I always like to ask people questions, and it's fascinating to learn about people's stories and experience that history with them," she said. This extends into her research, in which she interviews Cold War athletes. Not only is this experience rewarding for her, but also for the people she interviews, since many of them had not had people with whom to share their stories.

Ursinus has been quite a

different experience from the University of Florida. One obvious difference is the size. The University of Florida has 55,000 students, which dwarfs Ursinus' current size of around 1,500 students. The approach to teaching is also quite different, with Florida placing a greater emphasis on old-fashioned lectures. Conversely, Mellis noted that Ursinus is much more about teachers working with students. "Teachers and students are all invested in the same goal," she said.

She has also been highly pleased with how the students at Ursinus typically do the reading: "here, it's expected everyone does the reading, and by and large, the students are really invested in the reading," she said.

Mellis also encourages students never to be afraid of taking a history class or be afraid if they are struggling with material. "Talk to the professor about any concerns you might have, and keep talking them as the course develops, that way the professor can help you as a student. If you're interested in the material, then take the course. It will be a challenge, but the personal growth will be significant," Mellis said. She noted that in one of her courses there were two non-history majors who were struggling, but since coming to talk to her have greatly improved



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Dr. Johanna Mellis

and are now much more willing to "dive into the material."

In the future, Mellis is eager to teach courses on sports history. "I'm really excited about teaching sport history to students who are athletes or non-student athletes to show that sports or sports culture matters to everyone, whether you are a sport fan or someone who does yoga," Mellis said.

For now, however, in the fall,

she will be teaching two courses, a course on World War I and a course on how to do conduct oral histories.

Mellis is already contributing a great deal to Ursinus despite her relatively short time at the college. "I think Dr. Mellis has already become a vital member of the Ursinus community in her short time here," Cichowicz said.

Ursinus student's internship takes her to Yellowstone

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Last month, sophomore Jess Greenburg went on a two-week trip to Yellowstone National Park. The trip was part of her internship with the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (NRCC), which is dedicated to developing future conservation leaders.

Greenburg went with Dr. Richard Wallace, professor of Environmental Studies, director of the Food Studies Program, and co-director of the Robert and Shurley Knaefler Whittaker Environmental Research Station. Dr. Wallace, a board member at the NRCC, helped Greenburg get

connected with the organization.

"Jess and I were already working on my research based in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and I thought Jess would be a great fit as an NRCC intern," said Wallace. "On our Yellowstone trip, Jess and I worked together on our joint research project, which is a continuation of research I have been working on for three years, on the relationship of educational programs in the GYE to the GYE's species and ecosystem conservation needs."

Greenburg led a workshop for educators on how to bring more advocacy into their programs. "The workshop was for environmental educators of different

kinds. There were people who work with K-12 kids, there were people who are private nature guides, people who work for the national parks, just a variety of different types of educators... the workshop was about how they can strengthen their environmental education programs to include more advocacy," Greenburg said.

In many ways, Greenburg said the trip was a growing experience for her. "It was really awesome to be able to work with and help out these professionals. It really built up my confidence because it made me see that I am totally capable as an academic, as an environmentalist, as a sophomore in college. I think that's especially important as a

woman because you kind of suffer from that imposter syndrome a lot of feeling like you're not as good as the people around you, but being put into that situation where it's like, 'OK, lead a whole bunch of professionals, go!' and then you can actually succeed at doing it. You see that you really are a perfectly capable person," Greenburg said.

Not many students are able to get the opportunity to go to Yellowstone to do this kind of work. Dr. Wallace, who works with Board President Peyton Griffin, as well as all the interns at the NRCC, said, "Jess has already made a substantial impact at NRCC, and Ms. Griffin looks forward to Jess's continued

involvement with NRCC beyond her internship. This is all the more impressive because Jess is the youngest intern in NRCC's history (almost all of our interns are graduate students)."

Greenburg's goal is to be a part of positive change. "What we really want is for a greater emphasis on environmental advocacy in both the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and everywhere, because if you teach people to be advocates for the environment, they'll be better stewards of it, they'll better protect it, and we'll have healthier ecosystems in the future," Greenburg said.

Sesquicentennial celebration continues with the Minerva Term

Students and faculty spent the day taking a class on either documentary theatre or the ethics of genome editing

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Ursinus' Sesquicentennial celebration was revived on Sunday, April 14 with the first ever Minerva Term, an immersive day-long learning experience in which students, alumni, and faculty could attend classes, eat a free lunch, and mingle at the Berman Museum. The classes offered were "The Promise and Peril of Genome Editing," taught by Professor of Biology, Dr. Rebecca Lyczak, and Professor of Politics, Dr. Paul Stern, and "The Word Becomes You: Documentary Theater," taught by Professor Domenick Scudera of the Theater Department.

Prof. Scudera expressed his excitement about having his class chosen as an offering in the Minerva Term. "The Minerva Term is a wonderful opportunity to focus on a particular topic in depth," Scudera explained. "The day-long immersion in documentary theater allowed the participants and I to understand both the theory and practice of the art form."

Lyczak also found the experience enjoyable. Discussing the crowd present for the workshop, Lyczak said, "It was wonderful to spend the day with a diverse set of people who were engaged in a day of learning for learning's sake. We had a mix of students, faculty, staff, community members, and Ursinus graduates. About half the participants had a science background and half were trained in other disciplines."

Getting to co-teach with Stern was another one of the many highlights for Lyczak. "We like to challenge and push back against each other's ideas and that made for an engaging and insightful day," Lyczak explained. "We were both able to bring our disciplinary expertise to help each other and the participants in the class consider the benefits and concerns of genome editing from multiple perspectives."

Both course options at Minerva Term allowed participants to learn and interact with different topics important to each field. Lyczak touched on the significance of genome editing, saying, "With the advent of CRISPR technology, the genomes of every living thing can now be edited to produce desired effects. In this workshop, participants grappled with the implications of these recent scientific advances. Participants learned the science behind this technology, explored the ethics of its use, and discussed the philosophic roots of modern science that led us to this moment."

"The day involved short readings, video, small and whole group discussion, lecture, panel discussion, and debate," Lyczak continued. "Each participant worked to draw a line to designate acceptable and unacceptable use of genome editing in humans and to clearly articulate the rationale for their decisions of how this technology should be regulated."

The Minerva Term is all about learning, and even the professors were able to learn something new. Scudera was able to realize the importance of community within documentary theatre. "As we moved through the day from studying about documentary theater to practicing it by creating short performance pieces, it became clear that the art form is less about performance and more about building community," explained Scudera. "It is theater at its best – where empathy is sought and achieved, connections are made, and dialogue is started. At a time when our country is becoming increasingly polarized, this art form strives to bring us together."

Similarly, Lyczak was able to learn something about genome editing, technology, and the reasoning behind it. "I learned that while most of us found it easy to draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable use of genome editing, we struggled

to articulate the rationale for our thinking," Lyczak stated. "I found this day-long experience helpful in allowing us to start making progress on understanding our reasoning. I think there is no better way to understand our own positions than to discuss ideas with others."

Lyczak also found the Minerva Term to be important, not only because of the way it brought together an array of people willing to learn something new, but also because of the dialogue it opened on science. She said, "I think discussions like the ones we were able to have during the Minerva Term could be a way these bodies can solicit feedback and better inform the public on the science and ethics at play."

After the Minerva Term, Lyczak reflected on her own feelings about genome editing and realized that "as a result of this experience, I feel more comfortable with my discomfort with the technology for editing human embryos.... As a scientist, I am comfortable acknowledging that there are things we cannot know. I believe the impacts of genome editing fall into this category and that makes me hesitant to move forward and make changes that will last for generations to come."

The Minerva Term was named after Minerva Weinberger, Ursinus' first admitted female student and valedictorian. It is a testament to the pursuit of education and Ursinus' commitment to promoting lifelong learning. After its successful first run, hopefully the Minerva Term will become an annual staple on campus.



Have feedback on this story? Visit The Grizzly on Facebook!

Fridge of the week

Johnny Myers '19 has no food in his fridge, but he does have three Wawa gift cards! (He put them in his fridge so he doesn't lose them.)



Calling all interesting fridges! If you have a refrigerator you would like featured in the Grizzly, please email sicoleman@ursinus.edu

Ursinus' First Pride Festival

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On Friday, April 19, the Rainbow Resource Center held the first Ursinus LGBTQ+ Pride Festival. The event had performances, giveaways, and resources for everyone, including commemorative T-shirts, and concluded in a campus march from Olin Plaza to the LOVE statue. The entire program was the result of the combined efforts of people throughout the Ursinus community, including Ace Melendez '19, president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, student members of GSA, SUN, and L.A.X, as well as Dean Terrence Williams and Ashley Henderson.

Haunt Pitcher '19 weighed in on the Pride Festival. "The event is the first Ursinus Pride Festival, which we hope will become an annual event. It's designed to support and represent the Ursinus LGBTQ+ community and encourage pride in our identities. The event will feature tables by a number of groups both on and off campus, including the Rainbow Resource Center, the Trevor Project, the Montgomery County LGBT Business Council, Feminists in Action, Peer Advocates, UC Wellness Center, Delta Pi Sigma, Alpha Delta Phi, and Pi Omega Delta. These groups will be sharing information about their groups and how they provide services to the LGBTQ+ community both on and off campus. Delta Pi Sigma will be having a clothing drive for Philly AIDS Thrift, and the RRC will be selling Ursinus Pride t-shirts. This will all take place in Lower

Wismer."

"I am a nonbinary, transmasculine, pansexual individual," said Pitcher. "Primarily, I want this event to serve Ursinus' LGBTQ+ community, to show that Ursinus is a safe place where we can be ourselves and take pride in our identity. However, I hope that the entire Ursinus community realizes that we are a vibrant and important part of Ursinus, and learns a bit about how Ursinus can support LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as the type of work we're doing on campus," said Pitcher.

"At 1 pm, there will be a series of Lightning Talks by faculty and students in the IIE, exploring LGBTQ+ topics and academic course offerings. At 2 pm, Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN) will be hosting a presentation on ballroom culture in the IIE, run by Donay Burden. At 3 pm, there will be an open mic/poetry slam in Lower, hosted by Val Axtle and Cyn Ercole. At 5 pm, there will be a pride march from Olin Plaza to the LOVE statue. Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun and celebrate their pride," said Pitcher.

Ace Mendelez, who spearheaded the event, reflected on Ursinus' history with the queer community. "Ursinus, to my knowledge, has never had a large-scale celebration of pride before, so I thought that would be something to strive for in my last year," they said. "As for things that will be going on, we'll be selling T-Shirts that say 'Ursinus Pride' on them, Delta Pi Sigma will be hosting a clothing drive, and there will be different

events during the day."

Ace had the idea after noticing what other colleges were doing. "This event came to be just off of an idea I had," said Ace. "I took up the Rainbow Resource Center this year as the student director, and a big item I had planned was to have a pride festival. Other colleges have had these before, and I wanted to bring that to Ursinus. I saw that Ursinus never had one before, and took it upon myself to initiate planning for this one."

The planning process was difficult, said Ace. They noted that the set-up "involved the help of many deans and faculty who were really supportive of my vision and met with me weekly to plan out different parts of the event." Ace also tried their best to "contact different organizations to try and make it a collaborative effort across campus instead of just the RRC. I unfortunately missed out on contacting everyone, as some groups reached out asking why they weren't invited. This is

entirely valid, and I hope this the pride festival becomes an annual event after I graduate so I can make note to have whoever replaces me reach out more in the future."

Ace also wants the event to launch a conversation on campus about gender and sexuality. As a person who uses they/them pronouns, this is sometimes a difficult conversation to have. "I think this event could help start conversations surrounding gender identity and sexuality. I feel like an event like this should have been done far earlier in Ursinus' lifetime personally. And as for what can be done, I think funneling more funding into inclusivity groups on campus would be a large part of what the school can do on an administrative level. I also feel that the school could be doing more in the way of having staff that specializes in inclusivity, because as of now, most inclusivity centered events on campus are run and organized by students. Personally I feel like that shouldn't be

the case. This event and others like it shouldn't be something that is spearheaded by students with the help of some staff, it should just be something the college does annually and funds. On a community and student level however, I feel like what should be done is simply learning more about different identities, attending meetings from inclusivity-oriented groups, etc. Engaging with each other and learning from each other should be common practice, and I want to bring that energy forward with this festival. Everyone deserves a place on campus where they can be validated, loved, and appreciated with the support of their peers and their community."

Ace is also excited at the prospect of the festival continuing after they graduate. "It's the very first festival, so I'm just hoping that it goes well and that it can be a good jumping-off point in the future," said Ace. "I don't expect it to be perfect, I just hope that everyone has fun."



Ursinus statue decked out for the Pride Festival.

Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
COSA	UCDC Spring Dance Concert 7:30 p.m.	Drag Queen Story Hour 11:00 a.m.	Ursinus College Chapel 10:30 a.m.	Lidl Grocery Store Information Table 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Amazon Information Table 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Breeze of Hope Information Session with Roseangela Hartford '18 12:00 p.m. Olin 107
	Lenfest Theater in the Kaleidoscope	Myrin Library	Bomberger Hall Meditation Chapel	Lower Wismer	Lower Wismer	

Restructuring the tax process might benefit Americans

With April 15 behind us,
Americans have had our annual

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With April 15 behind us, Americans have had our annual reminder that taxes are often a pain. Even those who advocate for more government spending financed through taxes are annoyed at how burdensome filing taxes can be. There is a reason why so many people find tax day miserable: Americans waste billions of dollars and millions of hours per year filing their taxes. However, it does not have to be this way, because there is a very simple solution to this issue. The IRS could file Americans' taxes for them.

The idea sounds strange but is actually quite reasonable. The IRS already knows the incomes of most Americans and probably knows what most Americans are going to owe. Hypothetically, the IRS could send you a tax return with what you make and what you owe and you can make changes as you see fit. Importantly, if you don't want to complicate your taxes, then you could

just sign off on the tax return and you're done.

Some economists believe this plan could work. Austan Goolsbee, an economist at the University of Chicago and tax expert, estimates that having the IRS prepare the taxes of Americans could save \$2 billion and 225 million hours per year for the American people. This is a simple idea with many supporters - among them Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, President Obama, and the late President Reagan.

However, despite the support, pushes in Congress to simplify taxes keep failing, for two reasons: first, there is the issue of lobbying. Firms whose business is to help Americans file taxes, such as H&R Block and Intuit, lobby congress to oppose tax simplification measures in order to stop the IRS from destroying their business. For example, H&R Block and Intuit spent \$6.6 million dollars on government lobbying related to the IRS and tax issues, and both the firms also contributed \$16,000 to House Ways and Means Committee

chair Representative Richard Neal of Massachusetts over the last two election cycles.

In addition, there is the issue of ideology. There are some conservatives and libertarians in the United States who truly despise taxes and view them as illegitimate government overreach. As a result, they oppose measures to simplify taxes because people won't join their anti-tax movements if taxes are easy to pay and non-burdensome. The anti-tax movement has a vested interest in having taxes be as burdensome and hard to pay as possible. This is an issue in congress as we speak. The misleadingly named Taxpayers First Act (H.R.5444), a bipartisan bill that has been floating around congress for the last 2 years, bans the IRS from automatically preparing tax returns for the American people. A ridiculous bill like this needs to be stopped.



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Word on the Street

Allergy season has started. How do you feel about the flying pollen machines (flowering trees) that are all over campus?

"I don't necessarily mind the pollen machines, I just pop a Zyrtec and I'm good. What really gets me is the fact that I'm inhaling tree gametes."

-Lilly McQueen, 2019

"As a non-allergy-sufferer, I find the trees quite beautiful. I would prefer they not attack my car though; I washed it yesterday and the windshield is already yellow again."

-Jonathan Guba, 2019

"As someone with horrible seasonal allergies I am definitely deeply affected by the pollen in the worst ways but I happily accept my suffering because campus is a lot brighter and more beautiful once those trees start blooming!"

-Kiley Addis, 2020

Notre Dame tragedy speaks to the necessity of historical preservation

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On April 17th, 2019, the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris suddenly and unexpectedly caught fire. Though the inner spire of the venerated church collapsed shortly after the fire began, its outer structure and its two historic bell towers still stand defiantly intact. I first heard the news of the Notre Dame fire in the secluded Mac lab in Ritter Hall; preoccupied as I was with carefully editing and arranging my opinions on why The 1975 are a bad band, I initially only half-digested what I was hearing. The notion of a building like Notre Dame just suddenly deciding to burn to the ground one day seemed almost absurd - wait, I thought, *are they talking about the school or the church? Is that church even as big as I remember it being?* It was only when I returned home and scoured social media for pictures and videos of the then-still-

roaring blaze did I fully grasp the enormity of what had happened. And, judging by the outpouring of grief and sympathy - mixed with promises to rebuild and preserve - that accompanied the aftermath of the blaze, I was not the only one.

The global response to the tragedy at Notre Dame speaks to our collective fascination with the artifacts of our shared history and the past achievements - be they architectural, artistic, etc. - of our species. It's not a desire we vocalize often: before this past week, how many people would stop you on the street and talk unprompted about how much they love the Notre Dame cathedral? For most of us, the so-called seven wonders of the world or the buildings and monuments that our culture deems truly significant exist only as abstractions, seen secondhand through a splash page in a textbook or the four-walled frame of a television set. Today, when the great museums of our civilization

can be toured from the comfort and safety of one's own home and all the wonders of the world, man-made or otherwise, are but a Google Image search away, the crypto-Luddites and pop pundits of the world might see fit to pontificate about how those damn iPhones and that damn Internet are ruining people's appreciation for experiencing these aforementioned wonders in a face-to-face capacity. But, in the wake of Notre Dame, it is apparent that not only have we maintained our attachment to these towering relics of wonder, but the newfound sense of community and comradeship that social media discourse has wrought has intensified our shared sense of awe and enabled us to express it to a degree that we never have before.

My initial reaction upon seeing the pictures from Notre Dame was something along the lines of *My God, it's like something out of a disaster movie.* You know the type of scene - a

rogue tidal wave swallows the New York skyline, a wayward UFO smashes St. Peter's Basilica. For many people, including me, this sudden intrusion of the chaos of the present onto the idyll of the past came as an unpleasant shock. Per official word, the Notre Dame fire was the result of a freak accident, nothing more. But in the uncertain future, who knows what will happen next? What historic landmarks will be swallowed by rising seas or crumble in scorching heat? How many historic mosques have been - and will continue to be - wiped off the map by million-dollar American drones bearing Hellfire missiles? If humanity really is as doomed as even the smartest among us seem to think we are, what's even the hope in maintaining the relics of a past that we're too selfish to learn from?

I don't know if I have an answer to this last question, but I know someone who does: a figure who, like Notre Dame

itself, occupies a larger-than-life presence in the cultural canon in more way than one. In 1973, Orson Welles wrote, directed and starred in the film "F For Fake," a metafictional docudrama about truth, deception, forgery, art, life, and death among other things. In a scene that briefly circulated across social media in the days following the tragedy at Notre Dame, Welles stands before the cathedral at Chartres and ponders aloud on its significance. Sometimes it's best to let the past, imperfect though it may be, speak for itself, so I'll let Orson wrap things up: "Our works in stone, in paint, in print, are spared, some of them, for a few decades or a millennium or two, but everything must finally fall in war, or wear away into the ultimate and universal ash . . . 'Be of good heart,' cry the dead artists out of the living past. 'Our songs will all be silenced, but what of it? Go on singing.'"

The “History! With an exclamation point!” Award: Alex Mumme



Photo courtesy of UC Athletics

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The UC Baseball team played the most absurd game I’ve seen in person in a long time when they beat Muhlenberg 22-9 last week.

I was upset when I had to watch it, because the Yankees were playing a 6:35 game that night, and this game went so long that I was cutting it much closer than I’d like.

Regardless of how I felt personally about it, the Bears slugged their way into the record books in a few ways.

Juniors Alex Mumme and Dom Fiorentino became the first pair of Bears to both homer twice in the same game.

Mumme set two home run records himself that day, blasting his ninth and tenth dingers of the year to set the single season and career standards, respectively.

His record-setting 22nd career blast came on a grand slam in the fifth inning, the most exciting form of home run, which invoked my memory of Derek Jeter’s home run for his 3000th hit: History with an exclamation point!

Swimming continued from pg. 8

Not all of the trips were necessarily the same because of the change in location, but also because of the different teammates they were able to go with to nationals.

Lyons said, “Each year Clara and I were able to go with different people which made each experience unique and different. We were also able to travel to three different natatoriums each year which was fun.”

Baker echoed, “The group of girls varied from year to year, as we lost seniors and gained freshmen. Each time it was a different experience due to whether relays made it or not, where it was located, and how prepared we felt. I have memories from each of the years and they were always a highlight of my season.”

This year, though, was also unique because it was the last time these two were able to swim on a competitive level. The two outlined their feelings coming out of the pool for the last time as competitors.

Lyons said, “After that last relay I was very overwhelmed with emotion because this sport has been such a big part of my life for so long and within seconds it was all over, but looking back on my swimming career over the years I can say that I will be leaving this sport with no regrets.”

Baker agreed that it will be hard to find something to replace her time, but is excited to find out what that will be.

“It was definitely a bittersweet feeling, especially because I am fortunate enough to say that I didn’t experience burnout. Swimming has basically been my life for the last 10 years and watching it come to a close was a little painful. I know that I will find other things to take up my time, but swimming and the butterfly will always hold a special place in my heart,” Baker said.

The two said that they are going to miss being part of a team more than anything else, along with missing the sport itself.

“I honestly just have a big love for the sport. I developed a competitive edge young, and racing was always so much fun for me. Working out for two hours a day without thinking about anything else was a huge stress reliever. Also, always being surrounded by teammates for support both in and out of the pool are likely to leave a hole in my heart,” Baker said.

Lyons said, “I think what I’m going to miss most about swimming is the team. For 7 months out of the year, every day we [would] push ourselves physically, mentally, and emotionally, but we all do it together and that is something that brings everyone on of this team closer together. The friendships and memories that were made because of this sport is something I will be forever grateful for.”

The two both plan to take a break from the sport for a little bit after a decade of competing, but will take away many lessons from their time as athletes.

Baker said, “I am planning to take time off. I am lifting in the gym again, because you’ve always got to get that exercise in! But for now, swimming will be on hold. I know one day I will get back into it, because I can’t imagine straying too far.”

Lyons agreed, “I know I really want to stay involved with the sport some way or another, but for right now it feels good to step away and really reflect. . . If you dedicate time and effort to something that is really important in your life you will be successful no matter what it is.”

Ultimately, these two feel that swimming has been a big part of who they are, and will certainly miss it.

Baker said, “It has shaped me into the strong, dedicated, empowered woman I am today. I will always look back on my memories of swimming with fondness and appreciation. Finding this sport is probably the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I will use what it taught me every day.”

UC Golf ready to make noise in CC

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The Ursinus College Men’s Golf Team received their best score of the spring at the Rosemont Invitational on Sunday, April 14 and is now preparing for the Centennial Conference (CC) Championship that will be held from April 26-28 at Brookside Country Club in Macungie.

Fellow freshman Kyle Quagliero played a huge role in contributing to the Bears’ best of the spring at the invitational. Quagliero shot 74 – including an eagle during a 2-under-par back nine, which helped him tie for 18th with a 36-hole tally of 154.

Quagliero admitted that the team got off to a slow start.

“[We struggled a bit] to get back to mid-season form after the cold winter, but I feel that everyone is getting back to the top of their games the past couple tournaments,” Quagliero said.

Freshman John Murray was another crucial contributor to the Bears’ success at the invite, as he had the best round of his career, PR-ing his previous low by 10 strokes.

Murray has achieved individual goals that he set this season, but acknowledges the need for more time to see team goals accomplished.

Murray said, “I have accomplished scoring lower, but my team goals will be accomplished [with] more time.”

Quagliero feels that his game is in a good spot.

“[I] can accomplish a couple more goals at the CC Championship next week,” Quagliero said.

Murray said that the team is working hard as the Championship Tournament approaches.

He said, “As a team, we are trying our hardest to practice a lot heading into the tournament. We are applying ourselves to the game more than ever.”

Quagliero agrees, “Our mindset as we prepare for the CC Championship is just to believe in ourselves and work as hard as we can leading up to it. This is the most talented team we’ve had in a while, so we just need to believe that we can compete with the other schools.”

Freshman Kai Toomey also had a career-best at the Rosemont invitational and played an integral role leading to the Bears’ success. His mind is in a good place as he approaches champs..

“My feelings are good because of my teammate Liam Bradley, he helps me stay positive,” Toomey said.

Junior Brian Barrett is excited to see what the team can do on the big stage this year.

Barrett said, “This is the closest and best team since I’ve been here. With our roster, I think it’s very possible for us to make some noise [at Conferences].”



Photo courtesy of Dave Morgan/Stylish Images

Scores as of Monday, April 22

M. Lacrosse (10-2)	W. Lacrosse (3-11)	Track and Field	Baseball (17-14)	Softball (17-13-1)	M. Tennis (7-9)	W. Tennis (9-9)
	April 17:		April 16:	April 16:	April 16:	
	Ursinus: 18	April 13:	Ursinus: 6	Muhlenberg: 4	Ursinus: 0	
April 20:	Bryn Mawr: 5	Easten Shore	Muhlenberg: 4	Ursinus: 2	Haverford: 9	April 17:
Haverford: 12		Challenge	April 18:	April 18:		Ursinus: 8
Ursinus: 9	April 20:	@Salisbury U	Muhlenberg: 9	#11 Moravian: 0		Muhlenberg: 1
	Haverford: 18	Men: 6th of 8	Ursinus: 22	Ursinus: 2	April 20:	
	Ursinus: 4	Women: 9th of 10	April 20:	April 20:	Gettysburg: 2	
			Ursinus: 12	Ursinus: 7	Ursinus: 7	
			McDaniel: 6	Washington Coll: 3		

Baker and Lyons reflect on UC careers

All-American duo completed their fourth and final trip to the national competition in March

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The Ursinus College Women's Swim Team has been the overlord of the Centennial Conference for over half a decade now.

The Bears have not lost a meet within the CC in over five seasons, and won their sixth consecutive conference championship this February.

It takes a full team of competent swimmers to have that level of team success, but Ursinus has been fortunate enough to have several standout swimmers over the years, as well. Two of the greatest performers in the history of the women's swim team wrapped up their careers at Ursinus this semester and will graduate next month. Their names are Peyton Lyons and Clara Baker.

These two women are currently the first- and second-place record holders in All-America honors, with 19 honors between the two of them. Lyons and Baker have 24 and 21 conference championship gold medals apiece, with four individual program records. Lyons was a member of all five current relay event records, with Baker a member of four of those as well.

Because of such accomplishments, both qualified for the national level of competition all four seasons at Ursinus.

Baker said, "Something that I always feel to be special at nationals is looking around and knowing that I am surrounded by athletes that have worked just as hard as me up to this point. It is a unifying and humbling experience. I love watch-

ing all the fast swimming, and feel honored to have been a part of it."

Being part of such elite teams during their reign at Ursinus, moving on to the national level each season was a big jump in the levels of competition for the Bears, relative to their regular season and conference-level competition.

Baker described the challenge that can come with such a high-level of competition.

"I have learned that nothing comes easy. At a meet like nationals, everyone has highs and lows; it is the nature of the sport that not every swim is going to be your fastest. But I learned how to come back from the disappointing swims, keep up a positive attitude, and trust that my training was enough to get me to where I needed to be," Baker said.

Lyons echoed how difficult it can be and explains that it is a tough adjustment when you are used to winning fairly easily and then not having success when facing swimmers as good as you are. She learned to not worry as much about the results when facing such elite competition.

"I think what I learned from competing there was to just have fun and enjoy the experience and whatever happens happens," Lyons said.

Being able to attend each year was an honor in itself, and the women used it as motivation during the preseason and regular season, when the workload ahead may seem daunting.

"[Going to nationals] is always a motivator. Thinking about my competition in the offseason helps me get to the gym. It makes me push in the pool when I feel like giving up.

I wanted to become top 8 in the 100 fly, and envisioning myself in that position throughout the season definitely helped me achieve that goal, because I worked like I was already there," Baker said.

Lyons said, "I think each year I was more and more motivated

to qualify. Since our season is so long and grueling I think having that goal in the back of my head at all times really kept me focused to push harder at the times I was lacking the motivation to do so."

Each year, the NCAA national competition has been in a different

location, so Baker and Lyons were able to travel all over the country because of their swimming careers, including stops in Dallas, Texas, Indianapolis, Ind., and Greensboro, N.C. this past season.

See Swim on pg. 7



Photo courtesy of @ursinusswimming on Instagram

(Left to right) Seniors Clara Baker and Peyton Lyons wrapped up their incredibly decorated swimming careers at UC last month. They graduate as the consensus top-2 swimmers in the history of Ursinus.

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday
Women's Lacrosse: 4 p.m.: @Muhlenberg	Softball: 3 p.m.: Double Header @Alvernia	Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: @F&M	Women's Tennis: 10 a.m.: @Gettysburg	Softball: 1 p.m.: Double Header @McDaniel		Track and Field: Penn Relays
Men's Tennis: 4 p.m.: vs. Muhlenberg	Track and Field: Penn Relays @Franklin Field - Philadelphia, Pa.	Men's Tennis: 4 p.m.: vs. Immaculata	Baseball: 12 p.m.: Double Header vs. Washington Coll.	Men's Tennis: 1 p.m.: @Washington Coll.		Golf: Centennial Conference Championship @Brookside C.C. - Macungie, Pa.
#13 Men's Lacrosse: 7 p.m.: @Muhlenberg		Track and Field: Penn Relays	Women's Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: vs. #22 Dickinson	#13 Men's Lacrosse: 3 p.m.: vs. #15 Dickinson		

