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Dean Nolan recalls her 33 year career at Ursinus



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

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President Brock Blomberg announced in a schoolwide email last Tuesday that Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Debbie Nolan will be retiring at the end of the school year after 33 years at Ursinus.

“Debbie has worked with five college presidents, collaborated with hundreds of faculty and staff, and welcomed over 12,000 students and their families to Ursinus. She will always be a member of the Ursinus family,” President Blomberg wrote in the school wide email.

“Grizzly” writer Jen Joseph sat down with Dean Nolan to talk about her time at Ursinus and the memories she’s made as Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

The interview has been edited lightly for clarity.

What made you interested in working at Ursinus?

I went to undergrad at a small private liberal arts college not too different from UC. When I was looking for administrative work, I was really focused on finding a smaller community like Ursinus. When I saw the ad for the Dean of Students position, I thought it might be a good fit for me. Immediately I fell in love with the beautiful campus, the residential feeling of it, and just being part of such a tight knit community. It was then that I met Professor Houghton Cane, who was the Dean of Students at the time. We really connected and shared a vision for what was to become the future of student life at Ursinus. To sum up, we really wanted to make it more inclusive and stronger. I’ve always believed that learning happens best when

we feel safe and trusted, when we feel we matter, and when we get to know each other in ways that aren’t just strictly academic. I’m all about educating the whole person, not just bits and pieces. When I see students walking with their friends, or playing billiards in Lower Wismer, or working in a lab in Phaler, that’s just as much learning about one another.

What have you enjoyed most about working with Ursinus students?

The best thing about the students who attend Ursinus is that they’re just genuinely authentic people. Many schools can be competitive and [have] I might even go so far as to say [a] pretentious culture, (other liberal arts schools included), whereas Ursinus to me feels very present. We aren’t afraid to be who we are here.

How has the campus changed while you’ve been here?

It has changed so so much, largely for the better. BPS and a few other residence halls were all women. The housing was very gender specific. The curriculum was different as well, because the core we ended up developing in the early 2000s was not there at the time. We had no intentional “first-year experience” in neither the classes nor the residence halls. We also have a much stronger network support system now. Back in the day, there were no counselors, learning support, or disability services on campus. The options were few and far between when it came to tutoring and accommodations. There was only one security officer responsible for all on and off duty calls. There was a nurse who

came into Wellness during the day and an Infirmary overnight, and a retired doctor who would stop by every now and again. The Wellness Center in general was quite lackluster compared to what it is now. In addition, there was also nothing for diversity or inclusion and equity except for a few stray courses. There were no minors that focused exclusively on diversity. I’m very happy to have seen that change during my tenure here.

A huge part of your legacy has been your work with Title IX and the creation of the Peer Advocates program. Why has campus sexual assault been an issue that you felt was important to address?

Sexual assault has always been a very pervasive issue, but it wasn’t really talked about much. I would try to work with students and help them when they reported their cases. I brought in guest speakers for RA training, and would also do the occasional workshop by myself. But I knew it wasn’t enough.

So, I forget what year exactly, I think it might have been 2010, I was talking to another Grizzly student much like yourself. Her name was Rosey Clarke, and she wanted to talk about this very difficult social issue of sexual assault on campus. As we spoke, we both realized the complexity of the problem and how difficult it is to just “fix it” and provide a remedy for students on campus. So we decided to create the Peer Advocates program. We knew that we had to have peers talking to peers in order to increase the public discourse about this subject on campus.

It was important that we not just open up a dialogue, but also commit to empowering one another. The way we talk

with our friends, the way we talk about power, the way we set up policies, major reforms had to take place on every level. Otherwise, it wouldn’t get done. A judicial system alone would not fix this problem. It’s been one of the most inspiring programs I’ve been involved with here at Ursinus. It has been truly motivating to see the change that has occurred on campus.

We know that the problem of sexual assault and misconduct hasn’t gone away, just as it has not disappeared with the other colleges who are also trying to develop meaningful change to policies. But with the energy of so many people agreeing on how it has to change, that alone brings power to it.

How has your view on the issue changed over time?

What’s changed most over time is I realized that I couldn’t fix the sexual assault problem all by myself. I knew I needed help, not just from higher ups in the faculty, but from the students as well.

Have you received any student or administrative pushback for your views and work on this issue?

In terms of pushback on this issue, I have received lots. Lots and lots. Not recently, I don’t think, but certain groups on campus would protest or be upset about a judicial response to a case, or about rumors of a report that they believed wasn’t being handled correctly, or wanting to know the facts about a case on campus while we were trying to keep the privacy. That was a difficult situation, but we managed

See Nolan on pg. 2

Nolan continued from pg. 1

not to buckle down under the pressure.

Another big set of projects you've been involved with is campus housing. Do you have any thoughts on your role in the development of the First-Year Centers, the SPINT Housing program, and the construction of Richter/New/North?

The first year centers were a big deal because the lottery system worked where the first-year students got whatever was left. It was a chaotic system for the first-year acclimation to campus being so arbitrary. A freshman could be put in the center of Reimert with three other guys, or on the far end of campus where it takes ten minutes just to walk here. It was difficult for freshmen to acclimate to an environment that seemed so variable. At the same time, we were also building a core curriculum in 2001 that eventually became the Common Intellectual Experience (CIE). We knew that, because CIE was starting, that it made sense to create a truly comprehensive "first-year" experience for freshmen joining the school.

We built Richter/ North (New came later), and all Upper Class students were no longer al-

lowed in BPS and BWC. BWC in particular was very popular with students in general. We built Richter/North to, in a sense, be the modern version of BWC. That way, it would be easier to motivate students for relocation. In 2002, once we built Richter/ North, the first year centers opened.

As for SPINT, no one can credit me for inventing that. Special Interest (or SPINT) housing started with Musser hall before I arrived here. However, I was the first person to have to worked with it, and in turn thought it might be a good idea to develop multiple SPINT houses. The themes for each house were different then; they've changed so many times I don't remember what the originals were, but they've changed depending largely on student interests.

Did you receive any pushback for taking on these projects?

The main pushback this plan received was with BWC. Students did not want to give that building up to the freshmen. There ended up being town hall meetings and everything to resolve that issue.

How have your views on Ur-

sinus housing changed as your time here went on?

The gender assignments have evolved a lot. That would be the biggest thing, I think. Gender neutral housing was at first only for the SPINT houses. Since the 1990s, more and more buildings became gender neutral, until eventually it became campus-wide. Research indicates that when all genders live together, there's less vandalism, noise, damages, and in general a more peaceful environment. The only SPINT house that ever became controversial was Queer House, because the word "queer" was more offensive to the older generations of faculty. The students were eventually honored in the end, and Queer House has remained ever since.

Is there anything you would have done differently during your time here? Anything that you regret?

I don't know, really. I've loved it here. Even when things happen that don't go well for me, I'm usually still pretty positive about it. I've just enjoyed my time here so much. I'm not sure off the top of my head that I regret anything.

Are there any projects you

think Ursinus should tackle in the next few years?

We've got an exciting campus master plan ready. I can't tell you all the details, but I know they're focusing a lot on the student experience and the residence halls. The biggest thing I know and can talk about is that there's going to be a bookstore, a cafe/coffee shop, and an admissions building on Main Street. We also are hoping to plan with the Collegeville borough to make our college town a bit more robust, with hopefully more restaurants and activities for students to do in their off-time.

That's so exciting! It stinks that I'll be gone by the time the new Main Street building arrives.

I feel the same way, Jen. It's hard to work for so long on something and not be around for the first day it opens. But I'm sure we'll both be back to visit in no time.


What are some of your favorite memories from Ursinus?

I've heard from alums in over 30 years in the past few days, and they've been recounting so many stories to me. It's just been so incredible to hear how much

this campus mean to them. Most of their stories speak of a pivotal moment, a place where they've felt scared or challenged or vulnerable, and how something in our interaction was able to move them in the right direction. You know, Jen, Ursinus really is such a great place. I don't even know, it's so hard to narrow down 30 years of amazing stories.

What do you think is the biggest part of the legacy you left here?

I think it's the fact that I value community and relationship very much, and I believe that it's so essential for people to thrive in their learning and development. I've done that with building a staff that lives and works here on this campus so they can model it and facilitate it. I also built the Residence Life program, and I am so fortunate to have been with them in those early stages. The strong counseling program, too, is something I am very happy about. This school has many more options now for accommodations and mental health, and I'm very proud of that.



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Berman exhibits spotlight opioid crisis, patriarchy

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Last month, the Berman Museum unveiled two new exhibits. "Hard Work: Early Videos" by artist Kate Gilmore, is a visual look into her old internet videos of playfully working around different structures. "Bearing Witness" by Adam DelMarcelle is a collection of video and street art, like videos and sculptures, all addressing the opioid crisis.

Kate Gilmore's work brings an illustration of struggle to the Berman, but her silliness comes through as well. For example, she tries to climb a wall on roller skates. The introduction to the exhibition says, "It is widely understood that just below the surface of humor resides something of significance. Kate Gilmore's captivating, yet wacky, videos are nonetheless masking a disconcerting dilemma: an anxiety prompted by the seem-

ingly universal inevitability of patriarchal power."

The absurdity of these videos is part of their greater meaning. "Hard Work" is analogous to Gilmore's experience as a woman. "Kate Gilmore's works, while silly in nature, more importantly serve as pointed critiques of the societal and self-inflected barriers women experience as they struggle to succeed," said Catherine Sirizzotti, the Berman's curatorial

assistant.

"Bearing Witness" is a big contrast with the videos of Kate Gilmore. According to the program, "the exhibition brings together video and slide projections, audio recordings, and street art style prints, that inspire personal reflection and advocate the need for public dialogue and action." In addition to the different style of presentation, the subject matter is itself unique. "DelMarcelle's multi-media ex-

hibition uses design activism to address larger societal issues and has devoted his art to bringing awareness to the opioid epidemic that is gripping local and national communities," said Sirizzotti.

An artist who turns pain into art, DelMarcelle's work is heavily influenced by the opioid crisis in America. According to the program, "Since losing his brother to an opioid overdose,

See **Berman Exhibit** on pg. 3

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Senior Alumni Award, its History and Value

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The Office of Alumni Relations is currently seeking nominations for the Senior Alumni Award.

First given in 2006, the Senior Alumni Award recognizes two members of the senior class each year “who, based on their undergraduate career, show promise of making significant contributions to... their careers, their community and/or Ursinus College,” Assistant Director of Alumni Relations Taylor Clark said in an email.

Once the nominations are received, a committee of faculty and staff reviews each submission to choose the two award winners. Clark described some of the traits they look for in a candidate.

“The committee looks for outstanding students who show a promise of engagement with the institution after they graduate as well as serving as leaders in any community of which they are a part,” she said.

Last year, Allie Cook and Chris Tan received the award.

Tan served as student government vice president during his senior year and was captain of the wrestling team. In addition to these activities, he participated in National Model U.N. and the college’s Finance Scholars

program. He was also a member of the Cub & Key, Alpha Pi Sigma, and Omega Delta Epsilon honors societies. Currently, he is working at the Vanguard Group as part of their Emerging Leader Development program.

Cook, an Environmental Studies major, served as a Sustainability Fellow and the President of UC Environmental Action. In addition to her work helping the campus become more environmentally conscious, Cook studied abroad, played basketball, was part of the ultimate frisbee team, and interned with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa in Hinckley, MN for two summers. Currently, she is working as a FoodCorps AmeriCorps Service Member. Eventually, she hopes to start her own Community Supported Agriculture farm and provide organic vegetables to her community.

Cook said it was a “huge honor” to be recognized for her leadership at Ursinus and said that her time as a student has really helped her clarify her professional ambitions.

“My time in the Environmental Department has provided me with direction for what I want to do in life. All throughout high school I worked on a farm and knew that I wanted to have some type of job that deals with food and agriculture. My classes in the ENV department confirmed that.

Taking courses like Community and Sustainable Food Systems and Advanced Critical Thinking along with my Capstone designing the WERS Food Forest introduced me to opportunities surrounding food that I did not even know were out there. The passion my professors showed in their classes inspired me to follow my dreams,” Cook said.

Former senior alumni award winners have gone on to medical school and PhD programs as well as jobs in finance, college admissions, and research editing. Past winners include former gymnastics team member and CIE Fellow Riley Acton ’15, former CSCG Fellow Zeba Hussaini ’14 and former “Grizzly” Editor-in-Chief Brian Thomas ’17.

Clark encourages students to nominate their peers for the award and said that Ursinus has always asked for student nominations.

“We love to see students nominating their friends, peers and teammates and recognizing their excellence in the classroom as well as in life,” she said.

To nominate someone for the Senior Alumni Award, use the link sent out by the UC Alumni account before February 8. Winners will be honored at the Alumni Awards Ceremony on Saturday April 13 from 3-4 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium.

Rhiannon Giddens to be 2019 Commencement Speaker

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This year’s graduation commencement speaker will be musician Rhiannon Giddens. According to her website “Rhiannon Giddens,” Giddens is co-founder of her Grammy-Award winning string band, “Carolina Chocolate Drops.” She first gained recognition performing at the New York City Town Hall Concert in 2013. From there, she appeared on multiple late-night shows, performed for the Obamas, and was the recipient of the MacArthur Genius Award back in 2017. The genius award caught the attention of the school’s Campus Planning and Priorities Committee (CPPC), which is responsible for choosing a commencement speaker.

The CPPC goes through the process of recommending speakers for both the Commencement and Baccalaureate based on honorary “and considerable achievements,” Dean Mark Schneider said. This process is done a year in advance, beginning in June. “After making a list of suggested individuals, [the committee sends it to] the Dean of the College office. The office then reaches out to the top individuals to see if they are available and willing.” Chosen speakers also receive honorary degrees from the college, according to Schneider.

Dr. Meredith Goldsmith, assistant Dean, Professor of English shared some additional information on the two-day graduation ceremony. In explain-

ing the difference between the Baccalaureate and Commencement, she said, “The Baccalaureate is traditionally religious, a service, a more spiritually-flavored ceremony. It’s more collective and intimate, especially since it’s held in Bomberger Chapel.” The Commencement ceremony revolves around the graduating class receiving their degree(s). According to Goldsmith, Rhiannon Giddens, an African-American woman, will be the first person of color to be an Ursinus Commencement speaker since 2014, when Zainab Hawa Bangura spoke.

Class of ’19 student and Music major Sam Pope also shared his thoughts on having Giddens attend the ceremony and make her Commencement speech. He admitted to not knowing much about the musician but believed having a famous platform should not be of high importance. “As long as what they say has a chance of making us better than we were yesterday, I’ll be listening,” he said.

Goldsmith is definitely excited for Giddens’ speech. “[We] should highlight more diversity,” she said. “We’re in the process of making it more impactful... have a richer, more significant meaning. Different voices should be heard. Diversity should be more forefront and in the center.”

The graduation ceremony begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18.

and discovering countless more families torn apart by this issue, DelMarcelle has devoted his art to bringing awareness to this epidemic that is gripping his community of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and many others nationwide.”

The Berman Museum finds art to put on display, as well as connect with the Ursinus community. Sirizzotti said, “These exhibitions demonstrate how art can help address and bring awareness to important issues, and in a way that can make them more acces-

sible and relatable. Especially with DelMarcelle’s exhibition, it gives the students in the Museum Studies class an opportunity to take on this process firsthand and explore their creativity.”

The opening reception for these exhibits will be on Thursday, February 7th. Both Kate Gilmore and Adam DelMarcelle will be there!

Word on the Street

What was your favorite and least favorite Super Bowl commercial?

“My least favorite was the one with chunky milk. My favorite was the commercial advertising the NFL”

-Sean Siegel, 2022

“Favorite was corn syrup one. Can’t remember them to list the least favorite”

-John Murray, 2022

“Favorite was Stella Artois. Least favorite was Pringles one.”

-Chad Johnston, 2019



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Inclusive Community Grant Awardees Announced

Building a stronger community at Ursinus

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Book clubs, a theater piece, and a speaker series are only a few of the projects to have received funding from Ursinus' new Inclusive Community Grants and Fellowships program.

The program, an initiative of the President's Office, aims to further a "commitment to fostering conversations on issues of equity, diversity, and social justice." Recipients include Senior Angela Bey's the "White Feather Project," a theater piece that looks at "racial cowardice" in the Ursinus community; Professor Rebecca Evans' Project on Migration capstone research course; the Time Alone with Baldwin book club led by Codi Yhap '20 and Angela Upright '17; and many other projects, according to an email sent by President Blomberg.

One of the winners, Angela Bey '19, began working on their proposal the day the Inclusivity Grants were announced and submitted a proposal two weeks later. Combining scholarly research, in-person interviews, and other primary sources, their project will culminate in a play that examines the Ursinus College community's understanding of white fragility and recent racial bias incidents on campus. Specifically, the project and its research will demonstrate how "this trait has larger repercussions for marginalized groups – whether white people intend it to or not," according to Bey.

"[The White Feather Project] holds a mirror to the Ursinus community, but all will be able to see themselves in the data and performance," they said.

Although Bey said that this

iteration of The White Feather Project is "specific to the Ursinus College racial climate," they believe their project has broader meaning as well.

"Its messages go further into the white psyche and the insidiousness of white supremacy. White people can be aware of their privilege, cowardice, and guilt, but The White Feather Project's work places the responsibility and bravery necessary to dismantle a racist system into the laps of its audience members," they said.

"The White Feather Project will be devised for two performers in a collaborative process emphasizing vulnerability and tenderness. "We have just had auditions at Ursinus and will be holding another round of callbacks and auditions in Philadelphia within the upcoming weeks. Currently, our collaborators are Dramaturg, Rachel Ceciro, a multidisciplinary artist and recent graduate of New College of Florida (Anthropology & Performance Studies), and Ursinus senior Sophie Gioffre as our stage manager." Performances will be on-campus and in Philadelphia in Spring 2019. More information is available at www.thewhitefeatherproject.com," Bey said.

Another winning project came from a group of professors with the goal of uniting Ursinus' campus under one literary project. The One Book, One Ursinus project was submitted by Associate Dean Dr. Meredith Goldsmith, Director of Research and librarian Diane Skorina, Assistant Director of UCARE Katie Turek, Dr. Patricia Lott, and Dr. Talia Argondezzi.

One Book, One Ursinus seeks to "invite members of the campus community to read

a common text, take part in small-group discussions about it, and attend talks related to it throughout the spring 2019 semester," according to President Blomberg's email. The book this spring is *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a novel about a young woman who "navigates the limitations many immigrants face securing respect, a sense of community, and fulfilling work in the United States... she develops relationships that help her develop her sense of self."

According to Skorina, "One Book programs have been around for a while now, and they are often run by libraries in an effort to get many people in a community to read the same book at the same time so that everyone can talk about it in both informal and formal ways."

Katie Turek added, "The Inclusive Community Grant gave us the funding to purchase 125 books to do this as a pilot to gauge campus interest. There will be three main events – February 25th, March 28th and April 30th – to which everyone will be invited where someone will give a brief talk and then we'll have small group discussions about the book."

Skorina hopes that "if this program is successful this semester, we'll be able to get funding from the College to keep doing it every Spring, and perhaps even get money to be able to bring relatively big-name authors to campus to speak in the future."

More information about the Inclusive Community Grant and Fellowship is available online at: <https://www.ursinus.edu/offices/presidents-office/inclusive-community-grants-and-fellowship/inclusive-community-grants/>.

Fridge of the week

Freshmen Michael Spirk and Bob Fiedler drink a great deal of soda and eat ... ice packs, apparently?



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

Externship Profile: Christopher Karmilowicz explores the world of finance

Sienna Coleman
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“Interesting, welcoming and motivating,” is how Christopher Karmilowicz ’20 describes his externship at SEI Investments Company. Karmilowicz spent a week of his winter break at SEI, learning about careers and opportunities in his chosen field, finance.

The Career and Post-Graduate Development Office organizes the externship program and facilitated Karmilowicz’s visit to SEI. The winter externship program runs each winter break. Due to the success of the program, there will also now be externship opportunities during spring break. The deadline to submit all application materials for the Spring 2019 Extern Program is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 14. Karmilowicz recommends the experience. “The staff at the CPD were great throughout this whole process. I cannot thank them enough for arranging the externship,” said Karmilowicz.

For those of you wondering what finance is, Karmilowicz explained, “Finance is the art and science of managing money. It is making decisions about asset allocation based on factors such as risk, expected rate of return, and time.” Many people have an image of those with careers in finance as traders on Wall Street, but according to Karmilowicz, “the industry as a whole is much more diverse and interesting. The finance industry is massive and there are countless roles within the industry.”

At SEI, Karmilowicz spent most of his time with the Ursinus

alumni who work there. Between observing the daily routines of the employees and learning about careers in finance, he got to hear about how much Ursinus has changed over the years. Karmilowicz added, “I had a lot of fun sharing stories about professors, since I took courses from many of the same professors as the alumni.”

The most interesting thing that Karmilowicz got to experience during the externship was actually an internal course on time management. This course is normally only offered to SEI employees. Karmilowicz was surprised to find out that “many professionals deal with the same kind of distractions as college students. It is important to delegate.”

This externship was the clear choice for Karmilowicz because he really wanted the opportunity to experience work at SEI. He said, “We are so lucky, as Ursinus Students, to live in close proximity to SEI.” Karmilowicz is thankful that the externship provided him with useful insight into finance and the lives of those who work in the field. He explains, “I definitely learned a lot about what the typical day looks like for someone in the finance industry. I really enjoyed talking to people about how they stayed up to date on financial news and the extremely specialized publications some subscribed to for the most cutting-edge information.”

Karmilowicz is glad that he was able to have this valuable experience and that the alumni opened up their workplace to him: “I would like to thank



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Christopher Karmilowicz ’20 with Ursinus alumni and a sculpture of a shark at SEI.

everyone who hosted or talked with me during my externship. I cannot thank them enough for guiding me through their professional life and for offering me so much advice.” Karmilowicz enjoyed the externship so much that he added, “hopefully, I will have the opportunity to continue my career there.”

His experience at SEI shaped

Karmilowicz’s ideas about his future career. It broadened his sense of what the finance industry is: “I had this idea in my head before that I had to choose my classes in college extremely carefully because I would only have that information to take with me in a career. However, I talked to many people during my externship who said they received

intensive education after graduating, such as professional certification programs or an M.B.A, to expand their base of knowledge. I am now planning on attending graduate school courses in actuarial science and coding to further develop myself.”

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Faculty Baden Lecture - Nick Scoville 4:15 p.m. Pfhaler Hall	These Bears Don't Hibernate 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Phoenixville	Inclusive Leadership Conference 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Temple University	Chapel Service 12 p.m. Bomberger Meditation Chapel	U-Imagine Escape Room 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. UImagine Center (IDC 115)	Thomas Jefferson University Couple and Family Therapy Graduate Program Info Table 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lower Wismer	Yoga at the Berman Museum 4:30 p.m. Berman Museum

U.S. should keep its hands off Venezuela

Venezuelan citizens should choose their own leader

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With the federal government shutdown and Trump's border wall ideas taking the national center stage, the United States' involvement in Venezuela is increasing without much prominent news coverage. Venezuela has been in crisis for years now due to corruption and a plummeting economy. On January 23, 2019, Juan Guaidó, the president of the national assembly of Venezuela, declared himself the new interim president. The U.S. instantly recognized this move as legitimate. Considering the U.S.'s past history of intervening in South America, this move might foretell further problematic meddling.

Guaidó's position grants him the power to declare himself interim president if there is a vacancy in the presidency. Nicolas Maduro was re-elected in 2018,

but to Guaidó and other Venezuelans, that election was illegitimate. This interim presidency is supposed to last until a new election is held within 30 days.

America has a history of meddling with democratically elected governments in Latin America, most notoriously in their involvement with the Argentinean Dirty Wars of the 1970s and 80s. The repercussions of U.S. interference can be seen today with the constant turmoil in Central America.

The U.S. is positioning Guaidó as a democratic figure who is trying to liberate Venezuelans. He is a part of the opposition that has challenged Maduro for years. That same opposition has exercised anti-democratic actions against Maduro, which includes a drone assassination attempt on Maduro last summer.

Through these actions, Washington has clarified that it isn't interested in establishing

"democracy." They're not trying to liberate the people of Venezuela. The U.S. placed sanctions on the oil sector of Venezuela which further crippled their economy. But within these sanctions, oil companies Chevron and Halliburton were given exceptions to continue working in Venezuela. Senator Marco Rubio essentially called for oil companies to support a coup by tweeting "for the sake of these U.S. workers, I hope [U.S. oil companies] will begin working with the administration of President Guaidó and cut off [the] illegitimate Maduro regime." American oil interests are a prominent force in determining how the United States handles the current Venezuelan situation.

On January 28, John Bolton, the National Security Advisor, appeared at a White House briefing with the words "5000 troops to Colombia" written on a note-

pad, which showed the real possibility of military intervention in the region. Jair Bolsonaro, the newly elected far-right nationalist president of Brazil, has already welcomed U.S. military presence within Brazilian borders.

The ideal outcome for the U.S. government is Maduro stepping down, but that doesn't seem like it will happen. Maduro has thus far refused to budge, and with the backing of the Venezuelan military, he doesn't have much of a reason to. With America's unwillingness to rule out military intervention, this situation could escalate. On February 4, Maduro went on television to send Trump a message. "Let's respect each other, or is it that you are going to repeat a Vietnam in Latin America?"

Now, it's clear that there are those in Venezuela who wish to see a change in their government. That pressure should culminate

in political action and possibly a new election. But whatever the outcome is, it should be up to the people of that country to decide. The United States should not intervene. Acknowledging Guaidó as president sets a bad precedent that the U.S. can determine the legitimate leader of sovereign governments. America shouldn't decide who is the president of another nation via tweet.

The government of Maduro should be criticized. But it's not America's place to intervene and decide what the future of the country should look like. Washington's track record of backing Latin American regime changes should be a good enough deterrent.



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The opioid crisis: widespread and institutional

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As highlighted by Adam Del-Marcelle's recent exhibition in the Berman Museum, there is an opioid crisis in the United States. In "Time Magazine's" expose on the opioid crisis, Deputy Sheriff Walter Bender of Columbus Ohio remarked bitterly that "opioids reach every part of society: blue collar, white collar, everybody. It's non-stop. It's every day. And it doesn't seem like it's getting any better."

Phillip Reeve of "BBC News" reports that in 2017, there were over 72,000 drug-related deaths in the United States. Additionally, Yale Medicine reported that opioid use is the leading cause of death for people aged 18-35 in the US. The root of this problem can often be linked to the use of addictive painkillers. I personally knew a woman who had been happily married for five years only to see

her husband become increasingly apathetic due to his addiction to the drugs. This story is far from unique, with two million Americans taking prescription painkillers in 2015.

A study by the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital also found that one in 20 young adults use opioids for too long after surgeries. One example from the study concerns a person called "Jessica" who was feeling pain after she had her wisdom teeth removed. Her stepfather lent her some Percocet, which led to her becoming so addicted that taking the drug became the first thing she thought about when she woke up, and the last thing she thought about before going to sleep.

Disturbingly, a CNN report by Aaron Kessler, Elizabeth Cohen and Katherine Grise found the pushing of painkillers is often done by doctors. The journalists revealed that in 2014 and 2015, opioid manufacturers would pay

doctors who endorsed their product. As a result, thousands were paid over \$25,000 by these companies. Dr. Andrew Kolodny, a senior scientist at the Institute for Behavioral Health at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where he is co-director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative, lamented that "it smells like doctors being bribed to sell narcotics, and that's very disturbing."

It is not just doctors who are culpable, however, as in fact culpability reaches up to the very top. A new report by Chris McGreal of "The Guardian" found that the FDA appears to be failing to do its job. The head of the FDA opioid advisory team, Dr. Raeford Brown, spoke out in the piece against what he saw as harmful FDA practices. Brown directly accused the FDA of caring about the profits of the narcotics industry, such as their approval of the drug, Dsuvia, a

narcotic pill. This pill was approved despite Brown's warning that this drug would cause abuse and death as soon as it reached the market. Critically, Brown is not the only one criticizing the FDA for this decision as four US senators wrote a letter to the head of the FDA, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, with a plea not to allow it on the open market as it would only be "to the detriment of the public health."

Clearly, if we are to solve the opioid crisis infecting the country right now, we have to work at overhauling the institutions that, rather than doing their job of protecting us from harm, are in fact actively contributing to the problem. Only by reforming the pharmaceutical industry can we prevent the poor and vulnerable from falling prey to this crisis which has swept through our country over the past decade.

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Konstanzer continued from pg. 8

Konstanzer's 1,000th point came on a mid-range jump shot in the third quarter of the Hopkins game. She said the feeling of reaching such a milestone was "surreal. This is something that I have dreamt about ever since I was a little girl and being able to see my hard work pay off and my dreams come true is exhilarating."

The junior finished the game with 10 points, which was exactly the amount she needed to reach 1,000. Konstanzer joined her sister, Carolyn, who scored her 1,000th point for Ursinus in 2014. Having her sister's name on the banner in Helfferich surprisingly did not put additional pressure on Konstanzer.

She said, "The fact that my sister is in the 1,000-point club never added pressure to my basketball career here at Ursinus. Instead of adding pressure, it motivated me to also get my name up on the banner to be the first sisters on there together."

Coach White believes Konstanzer can accomplish more than just joining the 1,000-point club.

"Lydia has the potential to be one of the most highly decorated players to come through the program. She is also a co-captain as a junior, so her leadership will also be vital throughout the rest of her career as we continue to climb towards the top of the Centennial Conference," said Coach White.

Aside from her most recent individual goal achievement, Konstanzer yearns to win a Centennial Conference championship.

"Over the last two and a half seasons I believe that our team has grown and improved more than any other team in the conference. Every single person is so motivated to achieve this goal and we are all willing to do whatever it takes to do so," Konstanzer said.

As the 2018-19 season con-

Men's hoops upsets #10 Swarthmore; Williams Jr. earns CC Player of the Week

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The Bears pulled off the biggest upset of the Centennial Conference regular season on Jan. 19, beating nationally ranked #10 Swarthmore, a long-time conference foe, 94-88.

Ursinus had faced Swarthmore nine times since the 2015-2016 season. They had lost all nine of those matchups with the Garnet. Therefore, for senior players who were on the team for all of those losses, this win meant something a little more than other regular season conference wins.

"It definitely felt [like a monkey off our back]. Swarthmore was the only team we haven't beaten since I've been a freshman so it was great to be able to finally knock them off," said senior guard Zack Muredda, who finished the game with 11 points.

The Bears had to play arguably their best game of the season in order to finally take down the Garnet. They trailed 42-37 at halftime, but it seemed as if the Bears couldn't miss in the second half, as they shot an incredible 65.2 percent from the field

continues, Lydia is eager to play the teams that defeated the Bears the first time around this season.

Konstanzer said, "I think that if we continue to work hard and end regular conference play with a long string of wins, that it will give us the confidence to prove the preseason rankings wrong and come out of playoffs as conference champions."

The Bears will play a home game against Washington College on Thursday Feb. 7, then they'll play their next home game, senior day, on Feb. 13.

They were led by senior guard Eric Williams, who was awarded Centennial Conference Player of the Week for averaging 21.0 points on 65-percent shooting for that week against Swarthmore and Gettysburg. Against Swarthmore, though, his thrilling 30-point performance, including five three pointers and shooting 9-9 (100 percent) from the free throw line made the biggest difference.

"I definitely think this was my best game [of my career]," Williams said. "It was my best game because it was against a ranked team and not a team that nobody has ever heard of. It was a game that we knew every shot counted and we all had to trust one another. My team trusted me to make tough shots and continued to give me the ball almost every other possession."

Williams wasn't the only player

with a big offensive night, however. Junior forward Shane Stark had an impressive performance from the low post, putting up 21 points and nine rebounds. Junior guard Ryan McTamney added 19 points, three rebounds, and two assists of his own. Ursinus ended with all five starters scoring in double figures.

"We were able to play with a pace that helped our offense and helped our rhythm. We are at our best when the ball is moving and we are making plays for each other. We were able to get some easy looks and converted on them," Muredda said.

"We are learning how to play together and we wanted to begin to play our best basketball in January and for the most part, I believe we are playing with a chip on our shoulders. We know we are good, and we have a trust in each other

that is incredible," said Williams.

Williams Jr. backed up his Player of the Week honors in the Bears' win over McDaniel on Feb. 2. He led the game in scoring with 25 points, including seven second-half three-point field goals.

The Bears certainly are playing their best basketball right now, as their wins over Swarthmore and McDaniel are now a part of a seven game win streak nearing the end of the regular season. Ursinus is currently tied atop the Centennial with Swarthmore and Johns Hopkins with an 11-3 record in the conference.

Ursinus will travel to Baltimore, Md. this Saturday, Feb. 6, to square off against Johns Hopkins. They'll make their return to Helfferich Gymnasium on Feb. 13 against Muhlenberg College.



Photo Courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images

Senior Eric Williams Jr. has been automatic from 3-point range this season. He leads the Centennial Conference in shooting percentage from distance, among all players who have played in over 15 games.

Scores as of Monday, February 4

Wrestling (7-3)	Gymnastics	Track and Field	M. B-Ball (14-7)	W. B-Ball (13-7)	M. Swimming (6-2)	W. Swimming (8-0)
February 2:	Jan. 20: @West Chester: 2nd of 2 (183.125)		Jan. 19: #10 Swarthmore: 88 Ursinus: 94	Jan. 22: Bryn Mawr: 42 Ursinus: 72	Jan. 26: F&M: 129 Ursinus: 133	Jan. 26: F&M: 101 Ursinus: 157
Gettysburg: 13 Ursinus: 26	Jan. 27: @Temple: 4th of 4 (174.175 pts)	Jan. 19: Collegeville Classic: Men: 9th of 24 Women: 2nd of 19	Jan. 30: Ursinus: 96 Haverford: 84	Jan. 26: Ursinus: 77 Dickinson: 61	Feb. 2 Ursinus: 152 Washington: 103	Feb. 2: Ursinus: 162 Washington: 92
McDaniel: 16 Ursinus: 25	Feb. 3 @Penn 4th of 4 (183.025 pts)		Feb. 2: McDaniel: 58 Ursinus: 86	Jan. 30: Ursinus: 53 Haverford: 57		



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images

Junior forward Lydia Konstanzer became the 15th person – and second in her own family – to score 1,000 points for the UC Women's Basketball program

Konstanzer joins 1,000-point club

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Junior Lydia Konstanzer became the 15th member of the Ursinus Women's Basketball 1,000-point club on Jan. 12, in their game against Johns Hopkins. Although Ursinus fell short of a victory as Hopkins dominated the fourth quarter, beating the Bears 71-59, the day remained a memorable one.

On the day of the Hopkins

game, Konstanzer admitted to feeling a bit nervous, needing just 10 points to eclipse the 1,000-point threshold.

"I came into the gym forty-five minutes early that day just to get my rhythm going and collect myself in preparation for the big day. I knew that this would be a day that I would want to remember for the rest of my life so I wanted to take it all in before the stands were full and the game began,"

Konstanzer said.

Konstanzer has certainly put in the work necessary to achieve such a milestone in her basketball career. The junior had a strong freshman season— she was named Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year— and said she felt like she had "a target on her back."

"Every team knows my moves, my counter moves, my strengths, and unfortunately my weaknesses as well. Each game I play is dif-

ferent, but the other team always gives me something that I can capitalize on," Konstanzer said.

Despite the challenge that comes with getting extra attention from the opposition, Konstanzer credits head women's basketball coach Margaret White with helping her "develop new skills and find even more counter moves to use in games when teams take away my first option."

Coach White said, "Lydia's

biggest strength is that she is like a sponge, constantly soaking up new skills and strategy. She always wants to learn and continue to expand her skill set. When an opponent takes away one thing, she is able to counter with something else. She has also increased her stamina and strength throughout her career, which has also enhanced her play."

See Konstanzer on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Monday	Wednesday
Men's Basketball: 7:30 p.m.: vs. Washington Coll.	Women's Basketball: 7:30 p.m.: vs. Washington Coll.	Track and Field: Boston University Invitational	Wrestling: Centennial Conference Championships	Gymnastics: 11 a.m.: @Cortland (with West Chester)	Women's Basketball: 1 p.m.: @McDaniel	Women's Basketball: 6 p.m.: vs. Muhlenberg (Senior Day)
					Men's Basketball: 4 p.m.: @Johns Hopkins	Men's Basketball: 8 p.m.: vs. Muhlenberg

