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The Grizzly, November 2, 2017

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Collegeville election: Mayoral candidate targeted by hate flyer

*Unsigned letter to Borough residents
aimed at Democrat Wright-Riggins*

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An anonymous letter was distributed around Collegeville accusing Democratic mayoral candidate Aidsand “Ace” Wright-Riggins of wanting to bring violence to the community.

The letter, which is addressed to Collegeville Borough families, alleged “[Wright-Riggins] is actively seeking to settle dangerous or at least questionable, unproductive refugees in our own community.”

The letter goes on to allege that Wright-Riggins specifically, and the Democratic party more broadly, “Hate and hold contempt for our country, Hate our history, Hate Law Enforcement and our Veterans, Hate small controlled government, Hate anyone who hold any opposing view and Hate the 1st amendment [sic].”

The writers of the letter signed simply as “Concerned Citizens of Collegeville” and left the letter on the doorsteps of Collegeville residents.

Wright-Riggins was hurt by the letter. He said, “I was offended by the letter itself. When I read words like ‘safety,’ ‘cultural,’ ‘integrity,’ ‘questionable,’ . . . etc. what I see there are dog-whistle politics. I see there a person or persons who are appealing to the lesser angles of our character. I see there a subtle, yet clear call for racism, a nativistic call, that demonizes people . . . and I think that’s problematic.”

Wright-Riggins added that he hopes to promote an inclusive community in Collegeville both through his campaign and if he is elected mayor.

He said, “[I want to use the mayoral office] to convene and connect people, in terms of both where we have disagreements as well as where we have an opportunity to form alliances to make something powerful and good happen. In light of the 2016 election, I think we saw a lot of division within our community and within our nation. I think a part of what a mayor needs to do and what leadership needs to do is bring people together.”

Marion McKinney, one of the candidates for borough council this year, joined Wright-Riggins in condemning the letter. She said “the letters that were sent out about Aidsand Wright-Riggins [were] just really outrageous. . . It’s very unfortunate and disheartening.”

After being distributed, the letter was uploaded on social media where several former and current Ursinus students read it and expressed their disbelief. Class of 2015 alumnus Emily Cooper shared the letter on Facebook to express her disappointment. In an interview, Cooper said, “The letter that went out to the community was a show of painful partisanship and an attempted leverage of a hateful and community-less agenda that has in the past and continues to plague the Collegeville community and beyond.”

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Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

The cast of Hair rehearses their rendition of the Grammy Award winning musical for their Nov. 2 opening.

Peace and freedom now! Ursinus brings “Hair” to the mainstage

*Students prepare performance of “Hair” in
honor of the 1967 musical’s 50th anniversary*

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Opening on Thursday Nov. 2 and running through Sunday, Nov. 5 Ursinus students will be performing a rendition of the rock musical “Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical” in honor of its 50th anniversary.

“Hair” is one of Ursinus’ largest productions to date. It is being directed by theater professor Domenick Scudera. Some of the students starring in “Hair” include Christian Eagen as Claude, Blaise Smith as Berger, and Clementine Harvey as Sheila. More than 50 students are involved in putting on the musical, both on-stage and backstage.

For the cast, rehearsals have consisted of music rehearsals, dance rehearsals, blocking

rehearsals, and run throughs.

The show has a non-stop energy and in an attempt to emulate and draw that animation forward, the rehearsals have emphasized that vibrant energy.

“Hair” debuted on Oct. 17, 1967 in The Public Theatre before opening on Broadway less than a year later. Its themes of pacifism and racial inclusivity directly responded to the Vietnam War and racism. Hair is a product of the 1960’s hippie counterculture and sexual revolution.

“Hair” originally broke ground in many ways. One third of its original cast was African American. It also features a non-linear plot. At the 1969 Tony Awards, the cast performed the musical’s more unique and confrontational numbers to the surprise and appraisal of the au-

dience. The cast wanted to shed light onto America’s romanticizing of the military and its racism towards African American people.

Some complications that the Ursinus cast has faced in putting on this large production is the amount of memorization involved. Since the musical consists of approximately 50 songs, and most of the cast is onstage for the play’s entirety, long hours of memorization and coordination are required in preparation for the show.

Another complication is getting the right atmosphere for the performance.

“We are playing hippies/activists, but, to be completely

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AAAS hosts author and journalist Lori Tharps

Award winner speaks on writing identity across multiple genres

Johnny Myers

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On Wednesday Oct. 25 at 7 p.m., the African-American and Africana Studies (AAAS) department hosted guest speaker Lori Tharps, an author, memoirist, and journalist. Tharps is an associate professor of journalism at Temple University, and has written for Ms., Glamour, Suede, The New York Times, Vogue Black, Caribbean Life, Grid Philadelphia, xoJane.com and Essence magazines.

With regards to her area of focus, Lori Tharps said, “[I am] always excited about cultural collisions. If it’s food, I love to see Korean Taco truck, or if it’s people, the interracial marriage debate, or [a] multiracial community’s challenge to be able to check more than one box on the census. I really am always looking at how cultures come together and clash. The name of my blog is ‘My American Melting Pot,’ and I love to see how that happens in a positive way, knowing that the media likes to

cover the negative way. People are a lot more similar than we think. Our exterior might be a little bit different, though.”

Tharps teaches a class at Temple called “Ripped From the Headlines” that “uses journalism tools to write fiction.”

She explained, “For me, usually I’m inspired by something and trying to tell that story, or a character might come to me and I’ll want to tell that story. Not necessarily personally, but sometimes through the news or by witnessing something happening, and I have to figure out: is this story best told through fiction, or through nonfiction?”

Tharps also gave advice to future journalists: “I caution people against thinking that journalism is a dying field, because it’s not. We need good journalism today because of how complicated it is, and we need people who can explain the complexities to others. You need to know how to use a camera, editing software, and how to use your phone. You

have to be versatile, to have those skills, and know when to get something on video. You can’t be afraid of the technology. Always remember, it’s about the story. Having good people skills, good observational skills, are necessary to capture the story.”

For junior Jada Grice, meeting Tharps was an incredible experience. She said, “I read Lori Tharps’ book ‘Hair Story’ in high school. The book didn’t come back to me until sophomore year of college when I had to pick any topic on black people and research it. I researched and did a big project on black hair. I have always wanted to meet the author behind this book that fueled so much of my research.”

Nzadi Keita, associate professor of English and coordinator of the AAAS department, helped organize the event. Keita came across Tharps’ work while looking for materi-

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Photo courtesy of Nzadi Keita

Author and journalist Lori Tharps spoke on writing and identity in a talk hosted by the African-American and Africana Studies department.

From star gazing to volunteering, Watson nominees dream big

Four Ursinus seniors selected to compete for prestigious globe-trotting fellowship

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This fall, Ursinus nominated four seniors, Roseangela Hartford, Evan Hunt, Rachael Carter, and Leah Jarvis to compete for the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a program that provides support for a full year of research abroad after graduation.

Ursinus College has been involved with the Watson Fellowship since Fall 2001, according

to Melissa Hardin, the Assistant Dean for International Studies and the coordinator of the fellowship on campus. Hardin believes the Fellowship provides a golden opportunity for students to grow as individuals.

She said, “[The Fellowship] allows a few students each year the opportunity to learn about themselves, others, and their places in the world.”

Hardin further praised the Fellowship, saying “It’s the kind

of experience you wish many more people had the courage (and resources) to pursue.”

One of the four Ursinus seniors who was nominated this year, Leah Jarvis, is excited about the potential opportunity to be a part of the fellowship.

“It’s such a unique prospect since it’s truly rooted in your own ideas. The chance to possibly follow your inspirations across the world is something that I’m definitely excited

about,” Jarvis said.

Like all nominees, Jarvis has a unique project proposition: “My project focuses on how humanity relates cross-culturally to the stars, and I hope to connect ideas of star mythology, science, and more to explore how these influence the formation of our identities.”

Jarvis’ project, titled “Starstruck: Exploring Cultural Interpretations of Stars,” could take her to Greece, Germany, Iceland,

Chile, and Japan.

Roseangela Hartford, another student nominated for the Watson Fellowship, was humbled to be nominated. She said, “I was thrilled to imagine my travel dreams coming to life because of the tools afforded to me at Ursinus College.”

Hartford added, “I am

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Photo courtesy of Erikson Hirn

Community elections spark discord in local Collegeville community.

Letter continued from pg. 1

Cooper went on to address the potential effects of the letter on Ursinus students she said, “[The letter shows that] racism, bigotry, and more, are very much present in Montgomery County. Students deserve to live in a safe neighborhood, particularly in this case, students of Color [and] Immigrants.”

Ursinus Junior Arielle Jones said, “Reading this brings a lot of concerns to me, I’m seeing some very clear, not even hidden or obscure, but very clear Islamophobia. The irony of saying the Democratic party has turned to racism... and other issues of tolerance to push a

platform filled with intolerance and hate where this one flyer shows clearly striking language that seems to be promoting clear Islamophobia and hate.”

“Seeing flyers like this, even now, makes me honestly sad. I mean, I’m well aware of issues of racism, you can’t walk outside too far in Collegeville without encountering it in obvious things like intolerance for religion and micro-aggressions, but seeing this here so bluntly, it definitely makes you think,” Jones continued.

“The Grizzly” reached out to current Collegeville mayor Albert Stagliano asking about the open letter and his experiences as incumbent mayor. We have yet to receive a response.

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als for one of her creative writing classes. She said, “I teach memoir, and probably at some point in looking at possible books to teach in a memoir class I came across her book, “Kinky Gazpacho,” which is a memoir of the years she spent living in Spain. That was how I first heard about her. Then, she moved to Philly, so I was already interested in her subject matter, and I took a writing workshop with her, so I got to know her a little bit at that point ... I thought she would be an interesting person for the students to hear from.”

Keita was able to bring Tharps to campus as part of the Reverend Charles Rice Speaker

Series that was started this year in honor of the college’s former chaplain.

Past AAAS speakers have included Dr. Ibram X Kendi, author of “Stamped from the Beginning”; Ivan Noisette, who works with inner-city youth; and Dr. Quito Swan, professor of African Diaspora History at Howard University.

Dr. Keita said regarding future events that “in the spring, when Dr. Onaci is back from leave, he’ll be bringing in Dr. Kwame Essien, who I believe is focused with black people from Brazil returning to live in Africa.”

Students who are interested in the AAAS minor or future talks can email Dr. Keita at mkeita@ursinus.edu.

Watson continued from pg. 2

overjoyed to imagine a year of focusing my attention on local cooperatives, volunteers, community members, and international leaders to further my own personal growth and development.”

Hartford praised both the personal and educational value of the Watson Fellowship. “[It] challenges students to create their own path with responsibility, creativity, and tenacity in mind. [It] embodies self-love since Fellows are afforded the opportunity to apply and develop

their education through experiential learning and cultural immersion.”

In regards to her project, titled “The Power of Generosity: Exploring Local and International Humanitarian Initiatives,” Hartford said, “I hope to explore the intentionality of foreign-based NGOs and volunteer service organizations in grappling with refugee and migrant crises. Specifically, I will be visiting local cooperatives that work on localized issues to further observe what actors are best fit for aiding refugees and immigrants.”

Hartford’s project focuses on studying in Singapore, Sri Lanka,

Sierra Leone, Spain, and the Dominican Republic.

More information can be found regarding the Watson Fellowship at the Watson Foundation website <https://watson.foundation/> and the Watson Fellowship page <https://watson.foundation/fellowships/tj>. Although the nominees have already been chosen, the winners will not be selected until March 15, 2018. Best of luck to the four Ursinus nominees!



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@ursinusgrizzly



Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

Hair rehearsals engage students singing and dancing talents as they prepare for their final performances.

Hair continued from pg. 1

frank, most of the cast is white, so that’s brought up some good conversations about how we romanticize white hippie-dom,” said senior cast member Skye Gailing.

The racial diversity of the cast may not be on par with that of the Broadway rendition, but that’s not the musical’s only shortcoming in its goal for racial inclusivity.

“The play was written by multiple white men, and as a result, it lacks the perspective of the people of color who it was aiming to represent,” said sophomore cast member Art Thomas.

On a positive note, this realization brings to light how modern activism is trying to take a better, more intersec-

tional turn. It is increasingly apparent that the inclusivity and ideas that “Hair” focused on in 1967 are still influencing modern activist movements and making them more inclusive. They may not be models to build around, but they are a good starting point.

“We are playing the young people of 1968 that want to change the norm and break out of the system with peace and freedom of expression. We almost lose our voices from screaming, ‘Peace now! Freedom now!’” said senior cast member Mya Flood.

The musical aims to prompt its viewers to consider the same questions that the characters confront on stage. What should matter? How should people of different backgrounds live together? These questions are just

as important now as they were in 1967.

However, thanks to its unconventional, non-linear approach to plot development and its heavy reliance on songs, this may prove to be a more difficult task than wanted. The audience will have to actively pay attention to the lyrics and follow the different story lines closely if they wish to fully grasp the topics at hand.

“Hair” opens on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m., with another showing on Friday at the same time. Saturday has two showings, one at 2:00 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. It closes with Sunday, Nov. 5’s 2:00 p.m. performance. All performances will be at the Kaleidoscope in the Lenfest Theatre. Tickets are \$8 dollars for the general public and \$5 for students.

Families take over Ursinus

Family Weekend provided various activities for students and families to enjoy on and off campus

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This past weekend was Family Weekend, an annual event the Leadership Development and Student Activities Office put together for a weekend packed full of events for students and their families to enjoy.

This year, the weekend kicked off on Friday with a reception for the students and their parents, the Ursinus faculty, and Parents Leadership Council. During this reception, faculty members gave two-minute speeches about the things that are going on in the classrooms, promoting education at Ursinus College.

After the reception, family members had several options to kick off the weekend, including the opportunity to accompany students on the Student Activities Office trip to Dorney Park's Fright Night. Families were also encouraged to take the rotating shuttle bus to visit neighboring towns Phoenixville and Skip-pack and enjoy their shops and restaurants. However, families wanting to spend the night on campus also had their share of available activities, including the volleyball game against McDaniel and the opportunity to try out one of Ursinus' visiting food trucks, the Love Truck.

On Saturday, more family-centered events began at 8 a.m., with a bundle of outdoor activities that included a walk or run on the Perkiomen Trail.

Later Saturday morning, there was a mini Celebration of Student Achievement [COSA], a sculpture tour, and the President's conversation, where Brock Blomberg explained upcoming campus initiatives. Modeled after the all-day event that happens in the spring, at the mini COSA students shared their academic findings from research and their experiences studying abroad.

For Saturday's dining options a Family Picnic was provided on the grass between Wismer



Photo Courtesy Robert Varney

Families gather on the lawn for food and entertainment from the B'Naturals and Bearitones on Saturday before the football game.

and Kaleidoscope. The picnic was accompanied by performances from the B'Naturals and the Bearitones, the student-run female and male acapella groups on campus, showcasing students' musical talent and providing entertainment for visiting family members.

In spite of these offerings, some students found this year's Family Day disappointing. Student Nicole Kosar said, "My family could only come down to spend Saturday with me, and I felt like there were barely any activities compared to all the trips on both Friday night and Sunday. We actually ended up leaving campus because we didn't want to watch a sports game . . . or go to the president's talk and so there was nothing left to do."

For senior Morgan Kentsbeer, whose parents came up on Saturday, the weekend paled in comparison to past years. "I think it was better freshman year . . . I'm not sure if it was because it was Family Day or

because something got rescheduled, but there were things even little kids could do. There was cotton candy and bounce houses, and it just felt a lot more fun. Now it feels like the only thing my family and I can do is just go to the football game."

But for other students' families, the football game was the main draw. According to student Delaney Baker, her family was "very excited for the football game because we are huge football fans, so it [was] really fun to go and watch as a family." With the 28-21 win on Saturday, the Bears added another victory to their powerful season so far and certainly left families who trekked out to see the game satisfied.

After the game, events like Veteran's card-making, the Inter-Denominational Chapel service, Catholic Mass, dinner in Collegeville, College Choir Concert, the Great DuBois Live, and a Regal movie trip were offered to keep students and families busy. Late-night pancakes wrapped up

the night in Lower Wismer.

On Sunday, scheduled bus trips to Philadelphia provided families the opportunity to spend all day walking the rustic streets of the city of brotherly love. Families had the opportunity to stop by Reading Terminal Market, Chinatown, City Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Mutter Museum, and the Ben Franklin Parkway.

According to Todd McKinney, Associate Dean of Student Life and Director of Student Activities, "We always start out thinking what it is we can do to not only showcase the college but actually present it in a way that students can experience . . . with their families. We also want to make it fun by showcasing the surrounding area, too."

"It's just really neat to see all the families on campus because most people come to campus and engage, making it a really lively time," said McKinney.

Additional reporting by Emily Jolly and Valerie Osborne.

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“Food Evolution” sparks debate

Documentary film screening accompanied a series of talks on GMOs organized by the CSCG

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On Oct. 23, the Parlee Center for Science and Common Good (CSCG) hosted a screening of the documentary “Food Evolution” produced by filmmaker Scott Hamilton Kennedy in collaboration with the Institute for Food Technologists. According to the Ursinus College

website’s announcement on the event, Kennedy described “Food Evolution” as a “fully independent investigation into the topic of GMOs every step of the way, interviewing experts on both sides of the aisle and including all points of view.”

Some attendees found the film to be disappointing in relating issues facing GMOs. Dr. Robert Dawley, coordinator of

the CSCG, explained some the film’s problems. Dawley found that “the reaction to the documentary itself was rather negative. The documentary makers had advertised it as strictly scientific and just the facts, which is why we showed it. There wasn’t that much actual science in it, and the science that was present wasn’t as complete as it might be.”

He added, “There [was] a great deal of science on the safety and efficacy of GMOs, but we’ve now heard [from] guest speakers that are more skeptical of GMOs. Also, and maybe this is the nature of documentaries, it made a deliberate effort to use music and cinematography to present some of the characters in a favorable and unfavorable light, which is attempting to manipulate the audience rather than present facts. It had a clear agenda to make GMOs seem beneficial without question, and that didn’t fit my agenda of allowing our students to evaluate the benefits and the dangers of GMOs.”

Additionally, Dawley summarized the evidence found throughout the speaker series. He said, “Beyond that, what we learned is that no one on the panel had seen . . . any evidence that genetically engineered plants are unsafe to consume. On the other hand, we’ve seen evidence that genetically modified plants could be beneficial: the one [genetically modified papaya] that’s resistant to the papaya blight [and saved the papaya] industry, and the [genetically modified] banana that

could resist the plight in Uganda that could keep Ugandans from starving. [However] there are other examples that the benefits of GMOs may have been initial and fleeting.”

For example, one of the primary crops that is genetically modified is corn, which is used to produce high fructose corn syrup and a number of derivatives. Dawley mentioned that “there exists a corn that can resist herbicide that allows you to spray RoundUp [Monsanto’s largest-selling pesticide] on it. There was a short-term benefit to it, that using RoundUp reduced the amount of much more dangerous pesticides. Now, however, as resistance to RoundUp has built up, farmers are returning to having to use the pesticides, plus with the added difficulty to grow any other kind of corn seed, because farmers have become locked in to using this kind of corn seed.”

“We’ve seen evidence that genetically modified plants could be beneficial.”

— Dr. Robert Dawley
Coordinator of CSCG

Dawley also pointed out some flaws in the CSCG series this semester. “The talks in the series largely lacked on the political and economic implications of using GMOs. What we learned in the panel that we hadn’t learned enough of in the series is the political and economic forces behind using GMOs, in particular, Monsanto.

We didn’t learn enough about the political and economic forces behind using GMOs that might drive its use when it’s not in the public interest. I think that could have been focused on more.”

“It has opened my eyes more about how science can be used in a variety of ways for the good of society.”

— Jake Lachowicz
Member of CSCG

The issue of GMOs is politically divisive and there are no set conclusions on the debate regarding their safety. However, junior Jake Lachowicz, a member of CSCG, believes in the future of GMOs in the United States and thinks that the benefits outweigh the costs.

“As of right now, they do much more good for our society than harm. They increase yields and allow for better crop survival. Although this is true, there has not been extensive studies on the long term implications of GMOs. However, more studies need to be published to have a concrete answer on the GMO debate,” he said.

Lachowicz also mentioned the usefulness of programs like CSCG. “[The CSCG speaker series has] allowed me to listen to a variety of unique speakers and their perspectives. From their discussions, it has opened my eyes more about how science can be used in a variety of ways for the good of society.”



FROM ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE SCOTT HAMILTON KENNEDY


FOOD | EVOLUTION

NARRATED BY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

Photo Courtesy of “Food Evolution”

The documentary film “Food Evolution” screened at last week’s CSCG event discusses the benefits of GMOs.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
New History of Conquest in Early China - Lecture 6 - 7:30 p.m. Wisner Red Alcove	Hair 7:30 p.m. Lenfest Theater	2nd Annual UC MiniTHON 6 - 11:59 p.m. Floy Lewis Bakes Center Field House		Spring Term Registration Begins	Literary Society 7 p.m. Olin 104	Institute for Inclusion and Equity: Building Bridges Not Walls 6 p.m.

Weinstein sexual assault scandal is a call to action

Dr. Jennifer Fleeger
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I feel compelled to comment on the latest Hollywood scandal, not because I teach film, but because I teach. As I am sure everyone knows by now (if they had not known all along, as almost everyone even tangentially related to Hollywood had), producer Harvey Weinstein has faced a rising tide (flood? deluge?) of accusations of sexual assault. As a result, he has become the second person to be expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (not even Roman Polanski faced such a sanction). The wisest and saddest words I have read about Weinstein came from filmmaker Sarah Polley writing about her own experiences in *The New York Times*: “The only thing that shocked most people in the film industry about the Harvey Weinstein story was that suddenly, for some reason, people seemed to care.”

If there is any hope in these horrific stories, it is that people care. But more than that, it is our responsibility as professors, classmates, and students to care, to trust women’s words, to understand patriarchy and power, and to fight back. Misogynistic behavior is not isolated in executive hotel rooms or limited to weekend parties. Sometimes it occurs in our own classrooms.

Twenty years ago I was an undergraduate student in a world music course. Our professor was away at a conference and had invited a colleague from another institution to take his place. The guest speaker gave a lecture on sexuality in music. Now, every word he said was true; I had no objections to the subject of the lecture (I have since written on this topic myself). But his manner of delivery made me extremely uncomfortable. The lecturer repeatedly pointed to his crotch, undulating as he spoke, while staring intently at students in the front row. After class, several of the women students

lingered in the hallway talking with one another about how we felt, the sickening feeling in our stomachs slowly subsiding. In his absence, the professor had asked us to provide a write-up of the class session, and mine commented on being held captive to what felt like an inappropriate display. In the following class period the professor brought up our responses, hoping to generate a discussion. But before any of the women could speak, a young man in the back row angrily remarked that there was nothing inaccurate about the guest’s talk, so what could we really be objecting to anyway? We must be too sensitive. You might imagine the consequences of this outburst: not one woman who had written about her discomfort was willing to speak it aloud. In fact, several of us ended up switching positions, agreeing that being overly sensitive was the “real problem.”

I have often imagined what I could have done differently in that moment. I do not really

know whether the professor believed us, but I suspect not. The guest was his friend, and in light of that, our hastily penned feelings were probably easily discarded. It is difficult to articulate why some incidents feel wrong, when a transcript of them could read as innocent. Even now, as I recount this story I begin to doubt my own response. That is one of patriarchy’s devious devices: the little voice in the back of my head that says I must have misunderstood; nothing “really” happened. Yet, I take heart in your generation. You have the language for encounters like these and you use it. I like to imagine that college-sophomore, sitting among you today, would have known what to do. But then I imagine present-day me in front of the room.

As your professor, the lesson for me from the Weinstein scandal is this: I am witness to misogyny more often than I would like to admit. I do not always know what to do, even though I’m nearly 40, even though I am

a woman, even though I have a Ph.D. I cannot stop the Harvey Weinstens of the world and I do not think it was the responsibility of the actresses he assaulted, raped, or otherwise humiliated to stop Harvey Weinstein either. But I recognize my own position carries power. I need to ask myself what I have ignored to keep things running smoothly. I need to remind myself to listen to women who may not have been given space to speak aloud, whether they sit in my classes or not. I need to remember that patriarchy operates everywhere, but I do not have to be quiet.

It would be much easier if we could pretend the Weinstein story is just another Hollywood scandal, the tolerance for his actions the consequence of his extreme wealth and power, a rarity. But that is not true. If we really want to change how we experience classrooms and the world beyond them, if we really want to ask ourselves, “What will I do?” we must start by believing women.

CSCG Speaker Series response reveals gendered assumptions

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For the past few weeks the Ursinus campus has been abuzz with discussions regarding the three speakers hosted by the Parlee Center for Science and the Common Good (CSCG). Professors and student organizations alike have done an excellent job of circulating ideas introduced by Dr. Nina Fedoroff (Sept. 12), Dr. Dave Mortensen (Sept. 25), and Mitch Hunter (Oct. 11) who delivered varying lectures about the usage of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the ever-evolving field of agriculture. As a student who is ever appreciative of my Liberal Arts Education, and as a Fellow for the Center for Science and the Common Good, I’m endlessly enthusiastic about this campus-wide discourse.

However, there has been a reoccurring theme in these discussions that cannot be ignored. The core lexicon used by students and some professors to

describe Dr. Fedoroff, who spoke in support of the use of GMOs, is essentially different from the core lexicon used to describe Dr. Mortensen, who warned of the dangers GMOs can bring. That is, we use gendered language to describe these two particular speakers. In discussing Dr. Fedoroff’s lecture there’s a tendency to use words like “overbearing” and “condescending”, and in conversations regarding Dr. Mortensen’s talk there’s a tendency to use terms like “authentic” and “approachable.” These conversations occurred mostly in informal conversation between CSCG Fellows and lecture attendees, though it was certainly not limited to these groups.

Now, there were clear strengths and weaknesses to each speaker: Dr. Fedoroff is a leader and pioneer in the field of plant biology, and spoke about how we ought to use GMOs in order to feed our ever-growing population. She is unimaginably knowledgeable about all things regarding plant genetics, which is an essential aspect of the “do we or don’t

we” GMO conversation. However, her talk did not shed much light on the ecological impacts of genetically modified organisms. Additionally, most of her informative work felt one-sided. It was an example of the educated preaching to the unknowing, which is a flawed method of science communication.

Dr. Mortensen’s talk focused on ecology, which he studies extensively. He discussed the consequences of using genetically modified organisms, focusing especially on how they can create glyphosate resistant super-weeds. These weeds would require that we increase our use of herbicides substantially, and that is not ultimately sustainable. Moreover, he talked about the danger of overhyping population growth, which is something he claims Dr. Fedoroff did in her lecture. However, his talk took on a similar structure and didn’t necessarily engage the audience differently from Dr. Fedoroff’s talk. Overall, Dr. Fedoroff and Dr. Mortensen’s lectures had similar weaknesses. So why was

Dr. Mortensen considered to be the more “approachable” speaker when compared to Dr. Fedoroff?

Dr. Fedoroff has spent much of her life working in science policy, and has likely grown accustomed to the fact that women navigating male-dominated fields must assert themselves in a way that’s firm and unwavering in order to be taken seriously. Men assert themselves in a similar fashion regularly, but we perceive this assertiveness differently. Had Dr. Mortensen presented the way Dr. Fedoroff had, students would likely not have labeled him as overbearing. Dr. Fedoroff was almost certainly held to a double standard because of her gender. This is simply because we evaluate male and female speakers differently and, frankly, in a way that’s unfair. Of course, the idea that bias can hide in our use of language and other subconscious tendencies is not a novel concept. Other minorities also deal with such challenges. I am focusing now on gender politics, but people of

color and people of low socioeconomic status are also often held to a double standard in majority-dominated fields. Most of these biases are ingrained in our culture, and we must be aware of them in order to combat them.

Informal and formal discussions about a major concern in the field of agriculture and plant biology are necessary and rewarding. But this conversation should be approached with mindfulness. I firmly believe the best way to learn this mindfulness is to continue having these challenging conversations about hard-hitting issues, and then reflecting upon these discussions. Comparing and contrasting these speakers, and the ideas they present, is one of the central goals of the Center for Science and the Common Good. But think, if you are more inclined to describe Dr. Fedoroff’s talk and presentation style as “overbearing” and Dr. Mortensen’s as “approachable,” you ought to reflect deeply on what biases inform this decision. Awareness precedes progress, even on our small campus.

Swimming continued from pg. 8

Guriman] have really helped with not just physically preparing us but mentally preparing us for the tough upcoming season. They really are amazing coaches that we all respect," said Sturla.

Porter elaborated, "The swim coaches and the strength and conditioning coaches have really prepared us for the upcoming season with challenging practices and goals throughout the preseason. Currently the women are in the best shape of the four years I have been on the team."

The Bears are not pushing to change much in their routines in the week leading up to the meet.

"The team is still training very hard in and out of the pool.

I am trying to focus on recovery after practices including getting more sleep this week, stretching, and replenishing my food intake after practice," said Porter.

"There are very aggressive goals for each individual and the team."

— Katherine Porter
Senior Co-Captain

Said Baker, "I am just continuing with the aggression and pace that we have been going at the past few weeks. Nothing is really different the week leading up to a meet besides possibly honing in on a specific event one will be swimming. Other than

that, we have to keep stretching, eating right, and getting enough sleep, and we should have all the tools to come out on top on Saturday."

The Bears' victory over Dickinson was aided by the setting of an Elliot Pool record of 3:59.97 in the 400 medley relay by junior Peyton Lyons, senior Olivia Tierney, junior Clara Baker, and senior Sydney Gunderson to eclipse the record previously set two years ago.

The women's team finished 1-2-3 in five different races of the afternoon.

The Bears' next home meet is against Gettysburg College on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 1pm at Elliot Pool in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.

lessons learned, and the memories created that makes this sport special."

Palladino hopes to take her work as a gymnast even further, aspiring towards working in the Olympics.

She said, "Coming into college, I knew I wanted to pursue a degree in business with the interest of becoming an event planner. I have always loved the Olympics for as long as I can remember, not just for the talent shown but also its values and what it represents. After the last Olympics in 2016, I came to the realization that as a future event planner, 'Why not aim for one of the largest events in the world, the Olympics?'"

She continued, "Ideally, I would like to find myself in the Sport Performance Team, Operations, or Internationals Games department just to name a few. I would help with day to day operations consisting of duties such as scheduling meetings, coordinating events and clinics, and assisting with programming and logistics." Since Palladino will graduate with a major in Applied Economics with a concentration in

Finance and Accounting and a minor in Management Studies, she will be well prepared for whatever may come her way.

Said Palladino, "Am I ready to move onto the future? Yes and no. Yes, because I'm ready to put down the textbook and utilize what I've learned at Ursinus in the real, working world. No, because I'm not quite ready to leave this close-knit environment where all my friends are gathered conveniently together."

Stressing the importance of taking advantages as they come, Palladino follows her own advice. With the acceptance into the 2018 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program, she hopes to make her family, friends, and college proud. From Jan. 17 to Jan. 20, she will be participating with the other 39 members in the program to initiate diversity and inclusion in student athletics. Until then, Ursinus can continue to cheer Palladino on as she pushes forward through the year and on towards her goals.

Palladino accepted to 2018 Division III Immersion Program

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Recently, senior gymnastics star Amanda Palladino received an opportunity most people only dream about. For her work as a gymnast, Palladino has been accepted into the 2018 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program, which focuses on emphasizing diversity among athletes.

Palladino shared that she feels "blessed [to have] been chosen as one of forty participants in the 2018 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program."

"I found out about the program through an email sent by my coach, which was sent [to him] by the athletic administration, highlighting this opportunity. After several

weeks of waiting, I found out by email that I was selected for the program," she went on.

On her history with gymnastics and how she began laying the path for her future academically, Palladino explained, "I started gymnastics at the age of six, becoming interested in the sport through a friend's birthday party. That single party helped guide me to my love of gymnastics for the past sixteen years."

A long while has passed since then, but the sport has remained a constant in her life. Her determination to resume gymnastics year after year is notable, especially considering the physical demands of it, but she stressed that she enjoys every moment.

Said Palladino, "It's fun. It's a sport that many find intriguing to watch, but with a smaller percentage of participants. You not only enhance your flexibility, but also your strength. Gymnastics encompasses many attributes: grace, balance, power. Plus, who doesn't like to show off by doing a handstand or flip anywhere?" While having pride in her abilities, Palladino maintains humility, but most would agree that being able to do such tricks on a whim would be fabulous!

Palladino maintained that the team is her favorite aspect of the sport. "College gymnastics is always about the team. How can I support and contribute to the team? It's the people you train alongside, the friendships forged,

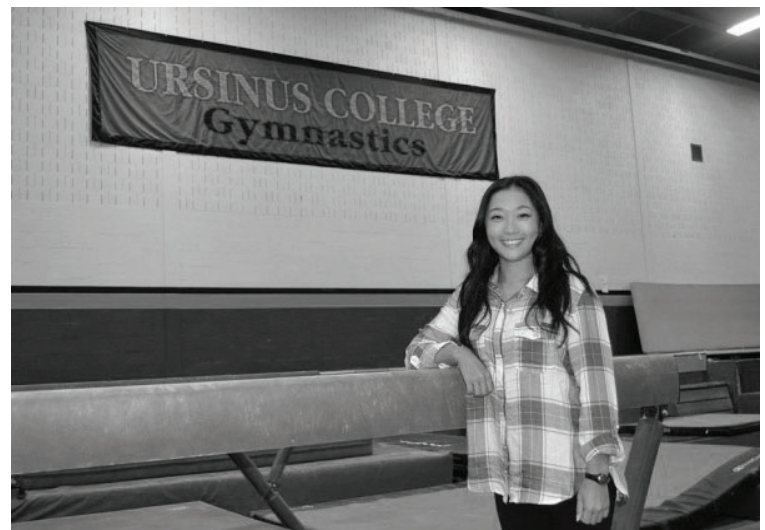


Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications
Amanda Palladino (pictured) is one of forty participants chosen in the 2018 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program.

Scores as of Monday, October 30, 2017

Football (6-2)	Volleyball (7-18)	Field Hockey (10-7)	M. Soccer (2-13-1)	W. Soccer (3-10-3)	Cross Country	Swimming
	October 25: Washington Coll: 3 Ursinus: 0	October 25: Ursinus: 2 Washington Coll: 1	October 28: Ursinus: 1 Gettysburg Coll: 2	October 25 (2OT): Ursinus: 1 Washington Coll: 0	October 29: Centennial Conference Championship: (@Gettysburg Coll.)	October 28: Men: Dickinson Coll: 82 Ursinus: 120
October 28: McDaniel Coll: 21 Ursinus: 28	October 27: McDaniel Coll: 3 Ursinus: 0	October 28: Ursinus: 3 Bryn Mawr Coll: 0		October 28 (2OT): Ursinus: 1 Bryn Mawr Coll: 1	Men: 7th (177) Women: 9th (244)	Women: Dickinson Coll: 66 Ursinus: 134



Photo courtesy of Athletic Communications

The men's swim team came in third place and the women's team came in first at last year's Centennial Conference Championship.

Women's swimming defeats Dickinson

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Ursinus College women's swimming began their defense of last year's Centennial Conference Championship season on Saturday, Oct. 28 against Dickinson College. The women's swim team defeated the Red Devils with a score of 134-66. The men won 120-82.

The Bears were confident going up against the Red Devils, a team they defeated last year by 25 points.

Sophomore Haley Sturla, who swims breaststroke, said, "Our expectations going into Dickinson were that we [were] ready to win and that we want[ed] to win by a larger margin than last year. We [were] also super excited to start competing."

First-year swimmer Katie Moore, who would go on to win her first collegiate race in the 200-yard IM, added "I expect[ed] nothing less than for the team to win on Saturday against Dickinson. We

[had] been training hard for three weeks and I believe[d] we [would] pull out some great swims."

Their goals for the season remain lofty.

Junior Clara Baker, who placed tenth in the 100-meter fly at NCAA Championships last year, explained, "We're really coming into our own on a new level [this year]. We're taking our successes from the past few years and building upon [them], so we are only getting stronger. Our confidence is building in

the water and I really think we are going to be unstoppable this season. I would like to see our relays stay on top and to see a good group of us make it to NCAA's in the spring."

Moore added, "I have really high expectations [for us] for the season, like pulling off another undefeated season. I would love to drop time and set new PR's this year, especially in the 100 and 200 breast, and the 200 IM."

Senior co-captain Katherine Porter noted, "There are very

aggressive goals for each individual and the team. I think we will have another very competitive and successful season to come . . . We have had a great pre-season and this should show during this weekend's meet."

Head Coach Mark Feinberg and his staff have worked tirelessly to prepare the women for the upcoming season, and the swimmers have taken note.

"So far, Coach [Feinberg] and [Assistant Coach] Matt [Mc-

See **Swimming** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Fri. Cont.	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday
 <p>M&W Cross Country: UC Fall Twilight</p>	<p>Field Hockey: Time TBA:</p>	<p>Centennial Conference Semifinals @ #13 Franklin and Marshall Coll.</p>	<p>Wrestling: 9a.m.:</p> <p>Messiah Invitational (@Grantham, Pa.)</p>	<p>M&W Swimming: 1p.m.:</p> <p>vs. York Coll. & St. Mary's Coll. (@York, Pa.)</p>	<p>Football: 1p.m.:</p> <p>vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.</p>	