



10-26-2017

## The Grizzly, October 26, 2017

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Courtney A. DuChene

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Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

Ursinus prepares for mischief as Halloween approaches.

# The History of Halloween

*The holiday has roots in the ancient Celtic festival, Samhain, and was later influenced by the traditions of various cultures*

**Skye Gailing**  
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Halloween, as celebrated in the United States, is the result of millennia of transformation. According to the article “History of Halloween,” by the history.com staff, the origins of the day of mischief, costumes, and candy actually started approximately 2,000 years ago with an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. To celebrate the end of the summer harvest and the start of the new year and a brutal winter, the ancient Celts would gather around bonfires while wearing costumes to keep ghosts away. The first day of their new year

started on what is Nov. 1 in the Gregorian calendar; the night before, Oct. 31 to us, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead dissipated and ghosts were able to return to the earth, where they would wreak havoc and destroy crops. However, the return of the spirits also allowed the druids, Celtic priests, to prophesy about the future of their people.

According to Professor Katharine Davis, who is teaching her extraordinarily popular Magic and Witchcraft anthropology elective next semester, there are no standard Wicca or neo-Pagan traditions for contemporary celebrations of Samhain. Everyone practices

rituals that feel right for them. Davis described Samhain as “the time of the year where the veil between the realm of the living and that of the dead is the very thinnest. It’s the time when spirits have an easier time reaching out to the living and vice versa. It’s a time to work magic like divination and communion with the dead, and... raise energy centered around keeping the lessons and the memories of your loved ones who have died alive.”

By 43 CE, history.com reports that the Roman Empire had conquered almost all Celtic territory. Over the

See **Halloween** on pg. 3

# Senior English majors go Gothic

*The spring senior seminar course will focus on American Gothic Literature, allowing students to delve into the sinister side of American Literature*

**Courtney DuChene**  
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Next semester, senior English majors will be treated to a spooky seminar class as Dr. Rebecca Jaroff leads them through American Gothic literature. The course will feature “Wieland”, one of the oldest American novels, which takes place close to home on the banks of the Schuylkill River, as well as other familiar Gothic texts such as “The House of the Seven Gables”, “Beloved”, “The Sound and the Fury”, “The Haunting of Hill House”, and the films “Psycho” and “Poltergeist.”

According to Dr. Jaroff, the primary characteristics of Gothic literature are captive bodies.

She said, “The Gothic is defined mainly in terms of bodies being thwarted from acting and their resistance to that. So ghosts and the ‘walking dead’ are typical, since these bodies refused to stay buried just as many secrets refuse to stay buried . . . The Gothic is basically about what refuses to stay buried, about bringing secrets to light, demanding justice and gaining freedom. Most times, but not always, the hero/heroine prevail, but sometimes, the house or the dominant forces compelling bodies into captivity win. That, of course, is especially intriguing and really what’s most frightening about the Gothic.”

Jaroff went on to explain some of the tropes of Gothic

literature. She said, “Women being tied up, caged up, or otherwise immobilized, and all of the prurience that suggests, is also a time honored gothic tradition. There is often a dwelling involved, the typical haunted house, with secret passages and tunnels and with a violent history or with underlying sinister intent. In many of the novels and films we will be reading, the house is an actual character.”

These tropes take on a new character in American Gothic literature where they are used to explore the country’s complex history and how it can contradict with the founding values.

Jaroff explained, “The Gothic is a complex genre and the American Gothic is especially intriguing be-

cause it reflects the psychological, historical, and cultural conditions in America that often tend toward the captured or captive body, the restraints on sexuality and mobility imposed by a Puritan ethic, and other challenges to the notions of freedom and equality offered up as the defining principles of the American Revolution and the birth of this nation.”

Given the complex and often-times fraught ways the Gothic form intersects with history, one of the course’s primary goals is helping students understand how the long term effects of oppression have shaped America’s national literature.

Jaroff said, “My hope is that they will work in concert to give students a deeper, more

profound understanding of the long-lasting effects of enslavement, Indian removal policies, sustained gender and racial oppression and the ways in which American authors either imagined these forces or how these forces helped shape the literature regardless of the author’s intent.”

While this course is currently only open to senior English majors, Jaroff hopes to run future versions at lower levels if the class proves successful. She said, “My hope is that if this proves a popular and successful endeavor, then I can offer this course, in a different version, at the 200-level... so more students, not just English majors, can take it.”

**History** continued from pg. 1

course of approximately 400 years, the Roman festivals of Feralia, which commemorates the passing of the dead, and a celebration honoring Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees, were combined with Samhain.

In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III declared Nov. 1 to be All Saints' Day, a special day to honor the Catholic saints and martyrs. Although this was a day of worship in the Catholic faith, some aspects of the celebration of Samhain were incorporated into All Saints' Day festivities. The night before All Saints' Day, Oct. 31, was called All Hallows' Eve, later to be renamed Halloween. All Hallows' Eve was also referred to as "All-hallows" or "All-hallowmas," which is derived from the Middle English "Alhallowmesse" that loosely translates to "All Saints' Day." Christianity supplanted ancient Celtic rites by the 9th century and in 1000 CE, the Christian church officially declared Nov. 2 to be All Souls' Day, which honored all the dead. In Northern Europe, this new holiday marked the effort of the conquered descendants of the ancient Celts to create a new version of the Samhain festival that was church-sanctioned.

In the New World many centuries later, strict Protestantism did not allow for Halloween celebrations, so colonial New Englanders were excluded from the festivities that Maryland and other, more Catholic populated colonies took part in. In the areas where Halloween was celebrated, the holiday became a hybrid of customs of various European ethnic groups and some Native American nations. There were events held to celebrate the harvest, including the sharing of ghost stories.

This was also a time for practical jokes.

According to the history.com article, Halloween did not gain widespread popularity in the United States until the second half of the 19th century, when there was a surge of new immigrants in America. With them, European traditions for Halloween came to the New World. This is evident in places like Pennsylvania, where the German celebration of Mischief Night has become established. Although Mischief Night is still celebrated on April 30 in Germany, folks from this area have adapted the night's festivities to All Hallows' Eve.

Claire Hughes, a sophomore from the area said that she is not aware of an exact time she learned about Mischief Night, but that "it was just something I grew up with."

She went on to explain that "Mischief Night is the night before Halloween where pre-teens and teenagers go around pulling pretty minor pranks . . . like throwing water balloons at people or toilet papering someone's house."

*"Mischief Night is the night before Halloween where preteens and teenagers go around pulling pretty minor pranks."*

— Claire Hughes  
Sophomore student

Hughes even said that when her parents were younger, "they would throw water balloons and dump water on people."

From Samhain to Mischief Night, Halloween is a holiday with a rich backstory and ages-old traditions. From everyone here at the Grizzly, we wish you a safe and happy Halloween!



Photo courtesy of Dorney Park

Ursinus students will be taking a spooky journey to Dorney Park's "Halloween Haunt" this weekend.

## SAO plans Halloween trip to Dorney

*Students will get the chance to celebrate their favorite spooky holiday at the water and amusement park this Friday night from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.*

**Sophia DiBattista**  
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To help students celebrate Halloween this year, the Student Activities Office has planned a spooktacular trip to Fright Night at Dorney Park!

On Oct. 27, students will be able to attend the Allentown amusement park, Dorney Park, for a discounted price of \$14. Any non-students will have to pay \$44 to attend. The trip will begin on Friday evening at 6 p.m., and all attending will return Saturday morning at 1 a.m. In order to attend, students must reserve a spot by Wednesday, Oct. 25 in the Google Form that was emailed to all students. Students may also reserve a spot by stopping by the Student Activities Office.

Junior student Lauren Feldman is one eager attendee. She said, "It's a great way to get off campus and do something that you normally can't do during the year. It's also really cheap thanks to the

SAO!"

Attending Fright Night will allow students to enjoy the adrenaline rush of a theme park while celebrating the upcoming holiday. Unfortunately, costumes will not be permitted during Fright Night. However, Dorney Park workers will be dressed in gory garments, prepared to scare anyone who walks by.

Regarding the rides, Feldman continued, "Dorney has some fun rides and roller coasters, so it can be a great night with friends."

There are many amusements at Dorney Park, especially during its "Halloween Haunt." For a fearsome time, there are many rides that will satisfy those thrill-seeking ghouls out there. One is the Antique Carousel, an utterly chilling experience in which one sits on a noble steed that revolves for a dizzying, vertigo-inducing journey. Another jolter is the CarnEvil, where clowns launch their own freak show, waiting for people to pay them a visit. Roller coasters

are running as well. Hydra, Possessed, and ThunderHawk are a few of the multiple exhilarating rides. Hopping on one of these will shake riders' cores as they view pedestrians below and hear the shrieks of people next to them.

Todd McKinney, Dean of Student Activities Office at Ursinus, said that the trip will be a great time for anyone who wants to come along, and if someone cannot make it, the event most likely will be happening next year.

McKinney explained, "Normally there is some type of trip around Halloween—not always Dorney Park. In the past, there have been trips to Jason's Woods, Eastern State Penitentiary, and others."

Holidays occur once a year and so do trips like the Dorney Park Fright Night. Students should take advantage of the opportunity to attend and enjoy these events. So, walk amongst the dead and become a monster for a night. It's Halloween, after all.

### THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 7

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

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Staff positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact the adviser for details.

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# The senior Halloween party: an Ursinus tradition

*The annual event will be held at Mad River in Manayunk this year*

**Emily Jolly**

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The origins of the Senior Halloween Party are as mysterious to the students of Ursinus College as the red velvet stairs leading to the fourth floor of the library.

The event, which takes place at a local bar on the Sunday night of Halloween weekend, has been happening for at least ten years, according to Todd McKinney, Associate Dean of Student Life and Director of Student Activities.

For the event, Ursinus seniors who are of drinking age dress up in their best Halloween costumes and bus out to an open bar venue where they can party the night away.

Many students, including John Thomas, president of the class of 2018 and organizer of the event, are unaware of when and how the

party became a tradition.

“It’s one of those things that happens, but you can’t put a finger on it as to when, where, or who started it,” said McKinney.

Despite the mysterious origins, some students see it as an integral event for senior year.

“It serves as one of the many senior class activities that bond the senior class and really squeeze in some awesome memories right before graduation,” said Thomas.

According to senior Helen Brabant-Bleakley, the party is “one of the milestones that people look forward to . . . a fun way to hang out with just your class.”

In the past, the Senior Halloween Party was often held at Kildare’s. But starting last year, the party moved to Mad River, a bar in Manayunk. According to Thomas, the switch happened

because “things got a little too rowdy [at Kildare’s] and we’re not welcome back there again.”

Because of this, Thomas wanted to remind students planning to attend to “please be respectful towards Mad River as well as the bus drivers. If you have any issues, please reach out to one of the members of the Class Council. Drink responsibly and feel free to go to the pizza place with a friend across the street if you feel you need sobering up.”

Thomas added, “It’s super important we respect the establishment, especially since they give us a really good deal on the open bar each year.”

That open bar is part of the reason Brabant-Bleakley is looking forward to attending the party. Another unique aspect of the party for her is the ability to be off-campus

and spend time with her classmates in a different environment than the usual Reimert weekend.

According to Silmarie Rodriguez, who graduated from Ursinus two years ago and attended her Senior Halloween Party, “I really enjoyed it because I went with my close friends and we ended up having a good time.”

However, Rodriguez also offers advice for students hesitant about going because of homework or other responsibilities. “You can have just as much fun if you get together with some close friends on campus or hit up a local. But if you’re a social butterfly and want to have a good time, you’ll definitely enjoy it.”

Thomas acknowledges that due to the timing, many decide not to go because they have homework or exams to worry

about, so normally only 175-200 people attend. They have decreased the price this year by five dollars, so he is hopeful that will be enough incentive to bring out close to 250 students.

Said Thomas, “It honestly is a very fun time to get dressed up in the wackiest costume you can put together and just be yourself with the people that you started the Ursinus College experience with. It is rare that a large portion of the class rallies together for events like these.”

Tickets are \$30 and will be sold in Lower until Oct. 27. Students must be from the Class of 2018 and over 21 in order to attend. Students will be carded at the door. Four buses will leave Reimert Lot at 8 p.m. and one late bus at 9 p.m. One early bus will depart Mad River at 11 p.m. and the rest will leave at 12 a.m.

## Fright Night: Phoenixville theatre hosts horror film series

**Courtney DuChene**

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Fright Night has returned for its eighth year at the Colonial Theater in Phoenixville. The film series, which features popular cult and horror movies, screens films on the first Friday of each month with a special screening of *Night of the Living Dead* on Halloween night. This year, the Fright Night lineup includes the films *Halloween 3: Season of the Witch*, *Lady in White*, and *The Shining*.

Fright Night got its inspiration from the midnight movie trend started in the late 60s. Brendan Carr, the marketing director for the Colonial and one of the hosts of Fright Night, said, “Indie theatres with repertory film programs began programming midnight movies—mainly for the college crowds and hardcore movie fans.”

In 1999, a midnight movie series was first put on the schedule since most of the theaters showing midnight screenings were located in Philadelphia. They held midnight showings of cult and horror films for several years, but eventually the program went dormant. With

the help of volunteers, Colonial Film Programming Director Kirsten Van Vlandren brought the screenings back in 2008 with a slight time change. Screenings would take place earlier in the evenings on the first Friday of each month under the series title First Friday Fright Night.

Carr said, “First Friday Fright Night grew in popularity and programming ideas—so much so that in 2012, an additional repertory film program was born: Cult Cinema. In addition to presenting eclectic horror movies, the Colonial was now showcasing cult classics like *RoboCop*, *Repo Man*, *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me*, and *Spice World!*”

Since the split into two, First Friday Fright Night has rebranded itself simply as “Fright Night,” which, Carr said, “really opens the door to new programming possibilities.”

Films are selected through a volunteer committee and a voting process. Carr detailed the process saying, “Kirsten, the Colonial Programming Director, works with a committee of volunteers and other Colonial staff members to determine which films are best suited for the Fright Night and Cult Cinema programs. The committee



Photo courtesy of Bill Cannon

The Colonial Theater in Phonexville hosts the Fright Night film series on the first Friday of each month.

members suggest various titles and also rely on patron suggestions. Then votes are cast. Once a preliminary schedule is made, Kirsten then has the often difficult task of securing film rights from distributors, locating prints, etc. Schedules are often revised if film rights cannot be acquired or print availability is nonexistent. The committee also puts a lot of thought into which time of the year certain movies play better, which movies make a great double feature, etc.”

In addition to showing older movies, the Fright Night and Cult Cinema screenings also feature a different energy than the typical movie going experience. Carr described a favorite memory from a past Fright Night to give an example.

He said, “My favorite [memory] was the night that we showed *The Blues Brothers*. It was a packed house, we were blaring Stax records soul music in the lobby, and a local fan brought his 1974 Dodge Monaco that he had restored to look like the Bluesmobile (complete with working PA speaker mounted on the roof.) The crowd had such a good time and it was impossible not to smile the entire evening.”

Carr is particularly excited for the remaining three films in the 2017 lineup. He said, “Even films that I’ve seen countless times like . . . *The Shining* are still fun with a theatre full of die-hard fans and first-timers. And *Lady in White* is such a cool movie with a great cast and a ton of atmosphere that is going to

play well in a theatre especially right after Halloween. I’m eager to see how many folks take a chance on that one since it’s a deep cut; I think the folks who do will be rewarded with a new favorite for fall.”

While the 2017 series is coming to a close, the committee members and the Colonial staff has been busy selecting which films to show in next year’s series. Carr said, “We just had a meeting to pick the movies for the first half of 2018 and are now in the process of confirming these titles. Stay tuned to the Colonial’s website and social media pages for updates!”

The Next Fright Night will occur on Oct. 31 with a screening of *Night of the Living Dead* at 9 p.m.

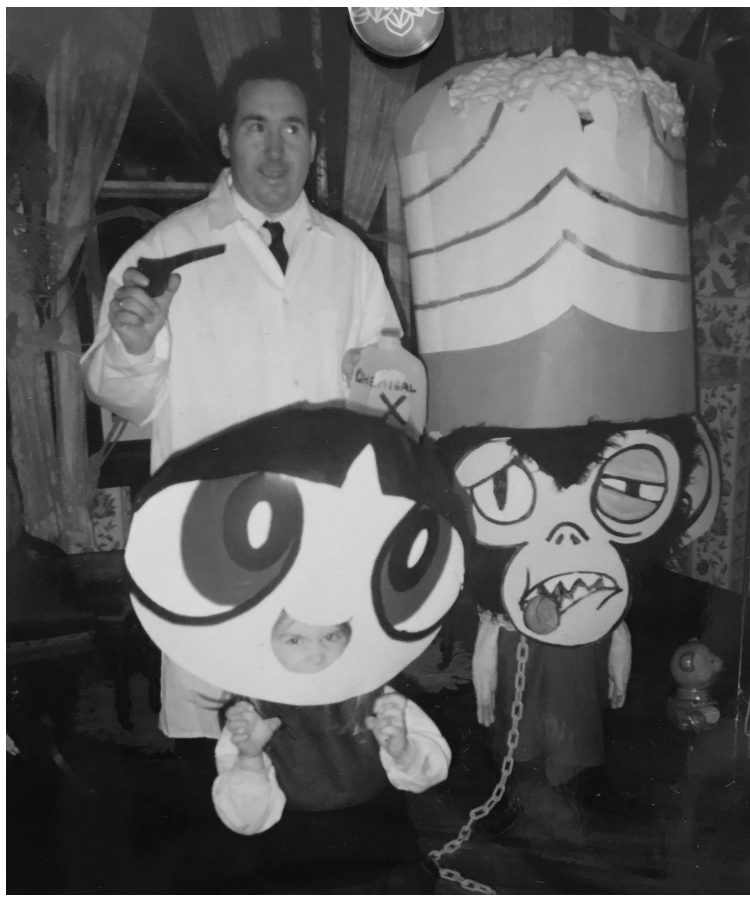
# Spooky Ursinus folk

*Ursinus students shared past Halloween costumes and the Grizzly editors chose their favorites*

**1st Place Winner:** Robin Gow

Class: 2018  
Costume: Buttercup from "The Powerpuff Girls"  
Favorite Halloween Candy: York Patties

I liked the Powerpuff Girls before they made Halloween costumes for them so my uncle and dad made me the Buttercup costume and my dad was The Professor and my uncle was the villain of the show Mojo-Jojo (he let me drag him with me while we went trick-or-treating). -Robin Gow



**2nd Place Winner:**

Joanna Timmerman  
Class: 2020  
Costume: Tropicana Orange Juice  
Favortie Halloween Candy: M&Ms

I wore this costume in 5th grade. I was obsessed with orange juice (and still am!). Naturally, my dad decided to make my Halloween costume an

orange juice carton. If you were wondering, everything is entirely to scale; the carton is completely proportional. It had a wooden frame, was made out of foam boards, and was very uncomfortable to Trick-or-Treat in. I loved it though, because I got to spend Halloween dressed as my favorite beverage! Not pictured: my hat shaped like a twist-on cap. -Joanna Timmerman



**3rd Place Winner:**

Sophia DiBattista  
Class: 2020  
Costume: Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy  
Favorite Halloween Candy: Reese's Peanut Butter Cup

In my senior year of high school, my best friend, Olivia, and

I dressed up as Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy from "SpongeBob Squarepants". I was Mermaid Man, and she was Barnacle Boy. We had a costume contest in my school, and we wanted to show off our awesomeness and be the best duo! The costumes were bought and made the night before, and by 1

a.m., they were finished. We ended up winning "Best Costume Duo" and got a trophy, which we gave to my mom because she helped create the outfits. Afterwards, we ate dinner and went to the mall, still in our costumes. Children kept pointing and saying who we were, which made us proud! -Sophia DiBattista

## Honorable mentions: the ones you can't forget

Name(s): Carl Christoph, Colin McNamara, Mitchell Kelly, Rick Gould, Joseph Duffy, and John Thomas

Costume: Sexy Campus Safety  
Class: 2018  
Favorite Candy: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Every so often a specialized division of campus safety is called into action. This Special Forces unit is called in when the college is at its rowdiest. These officers won't shut the party down, but they are ready to throw down. I speak of course of Sexy Campus Safety. Armed only with their shorts, polos, sunglasses, and a glare that would make Tom Sell-

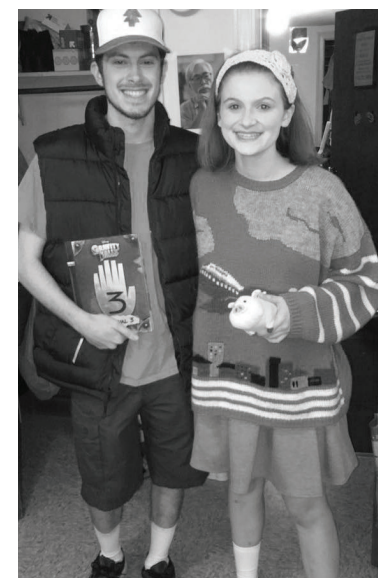


eck proud, this elite force works to keep the parties bumping and the college safe. Don't get too wild though or they may just write you

up. They may not be the heroes that Ursinus College wants, but they're the heroes Ursinus College need. -Robert McNamara

Name: Skye Gailing  
Class: 2018  
Costume: Mabel and Dipper from "Gravity Falls"  
Favorite Halloween Candy: Milky Way Dark

My family is super competitive and would always compete in my town's Halloween parade/costume contest while my sister and I were growing up, so dressing up is my jam (we were eventually no longer allowed to compete due to some sore loser bias but whatever.) Although it was considered a children's show while it was on Disney Channel, "Gravity Falls" is an iconic series about twins investigating supernatural goings-on in the Pacific Northwest. My friend and I dressed up as Mabel and Dipper,



the protagonists, complete with a handbook and pet pig, Waddles. -Skye Gailing

# Something wicked this way comes

*Could something sinister be haunting Ursinus College and the surrounding community?*

**Johnny Myers**  
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There is no doubt in my mind that Ursinus College is haunted by ghouls, ghosts, and nightmarish fiends from a place beyond this living world. Stepping foot into Ritter at night and shivering due to the cold, still air in the lobby is enough to convince any skeptic that phantoms haunt the building. Pfahler basement after hours? I wouldn't want to be caught there alone. Bomberger Auditorium and the organ machine shriek the sounds of the hellhounds at night, and the bells clang until morning.

But the spaces on campus that win the award for most likely haunted are the Main Street houses. Centuries of history, of civil war generals and Ursinus students who have committed terrible deeds, creak beneath the floorboards of Shreiner and Hobson.

Shreiner Hall has a long and seemingly haunted history. According to HistoricTrappe.com, Shreiner was "built in 1876 for Dr. John H. A. Bomberger, founder and first president of Ursinus College." It was "originally known as Zwinglihof, after the Swiss theologian and Reformation leader Ulrich Zwingli. Dr. Bomberger lived here until his death in 1890, after which it became Ursinus property."

According to an article by C. Joy Keen in the Oct. 24, 1974 edition of The Ursinus Weekly, the house changed ownership several times before Ursinus bought it and converted it into a dormitory. The article tells the

legend of the ghost of a young woman who supposedly haunts Room 15 of Shreiner Hall. The tale is that her forbidden lover who lived next door in Hobson was killed at sea after joining the Navy, and she committed suicide when she learned he died. The two students who lived in Room 15 during the fall of 1974 claimed to have heard footsteps in the early morning hours, and that their mirrors would fall at the foot of their beds.

The home of the young girl's lover is also rumored to be haunted. A post on the DramaticUnderground, an online blog, claimed that, "Ursinus College supposedly has ghosts in Hobson Hall. One is a ghost named Terri, who died during her senior year in the building. The other one is a boy who died in a car accident in the street in front of Hobson. Both are harmless ghosts."

**"Sometimes the radio would just come on without reason."**  
— Dave Duryea  
Employee, Trappe Tavern

There have also been reported hauntings off Ursinus grounds in Montgomery County. The local Trappe Tavern, a bar located just up the road, has had its fair share of hauntings, hidden deep in the bar's long history. Originally known as the Fountain Inn, Trappe Tavern has "served as a tavern since it was built in the late 1700s," according to the Historic Trappe website. Travelers rested at the



Photo Courtesy of Robery Varney

Is Shreiner haunted? If you look closely, you can see a dark, mysterious figure in the first floor window.

Trappe Tavern on their way to Philadelphia.

Dave Duryea, an employee at the Trappe Tavern, explained some of the supernatural events that have happened in previous years. "At the end of the closing shift, we were outside the bar and the kitchen stovetop shot a flame up in the air. Sometimes, the radio would just come on without any reason."

There was supposedly a funeral in the 1960s at the Tavern, and on the wall of the Tavern there is a "picture of a lady who's supposedly haunting us," said Duryea. While it's unknown if she died in the building, the funeral was held at the Trappe Tavern in her honor.

Perhaps Ursinus students who frequent Trappe Tavern on Sunday nights should keep an eye out for mysterious flames and the ghost of the lady in the picture on their next visit.

In the college's past 148 years, history has built up stories that suggest hauntings on the old grounds. Despite the dark past of many of the houses, few students today can report any supernatural activity. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that something is haunting Ursinus College, and with Halloween fast approaching, students should be extra vigilant while wandering about at night.

## Lantern Writers Wanted

Have an original spooky sonnet or a sinister short story? Submit it to the Ursinus' literary magazine, the Lantern! Students are encouraged to submit up to four pieces in the categories of poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction and up to six pieces in the visual arts category. All submissions are due at midnight Nov. 1 and guidelines for submissions can be found in the schoolwide campus email that was sent out earlier this month. Any students with questions about submissions can contact Lantern editor-in-chief, Solana Warner, at sowarner@ursinus.edu.

## Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
International Film Festival: <i>Mina-mate: The Victims and Their World</i> 7 p.m. Olin Auditorium	Online Job and Internship Fair All Day	Family Weekend All Day		GIS Showcase 4 p.m. Myrin 1st floor	Meet and Greet with Dr. Shawn C.T. Jones 1:30 p.m. Thomas 334	Institute for Inclusion and Equity: Fall Open House 6 p.m.



## Comments Sought for Cirka

Dr. Carol Cirka, Professor of Business and Economics, will retire at the end of this academic year.

She made a real difference in the lives of many Ursinus students and it would be appreciated if students would take some time to jot down remembrances and thoughts about their interactions with this memorable and dedicated member of our community. The Dean's Office is in the process of collecting comments as well as creating a book that will hold messages from current and former students, faculty and staff. Photos are encouraged as well.

Please send in your comments, reflections, and good wishes to the Dean's Office mailbox (DOffice@ursinus.edu). We thank you in advance for your help and would appreciate hearing from you before Jan. 12, 2018.

## "A Ghost Story" haunts with quiet pain and loss

**Courtney DuChene**  
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Imagine a series of old, square photographs. Their edges round, the colors faded to sepia from too much sun exposure. Something seems a little off as you flip through them. A misplaced shadow, perhaps, or a peculiar beam of light. These types of ordinary hauntings are the premise of "A Ghost Story," a 2017 film from director David Lowery. The film follows the story of a young couple, portrayed by Rooney Mara and Casey Affleck, after the death of the husband in a car accident. When he dies, the husband enters the afterlife as a simple bedsheet ghost who becomes trapped in their crumbling farmhouse. With its simple costumes and plotline, "A Ghost Story" is able to take a bedsheet ghost, the most basic idea of a haunting, and twists it to probe humanity's deepest fears about death and the afterlife and, in doing so, redefines the idea of a haunted house.

It is clear from the film's opening that the old house and hauntings will be major themes in the film. In the opening dialogue, Mara tells her husband about the notes she hid in the houses she moved away from as a child. As they talk, the husband notices a strange glimmer of light dancing on along the wall. Later that night, they are awakened by a strange sound from their piano.

When the ghosts finally appear, the film shoots them in a sharp focus, while human subjects are relegated to soft focus blurs in the background. These early instances allow the film to suggest that humans are the trespassers in a world inhabited by ghosts who are just waiting for the closure they need to enter the afterlife. Through the stories of the husband's ghost and the other apparitions he encounters on their journeys through the house's past and its future, viewers are able to ponder what it means to live in a house and what types of histories remain on particular sites.

At times the film feels heavy-handed as it tries to impart its themes about history and what it means to have lived a meaningful life. One particular instance of this occurs during the party scene, when a drunken guest rambles on about the meaninglessness of art, the end of the world, and the existence, or lack thereof, of God. This rant plays on for a full seven minutes and phrases such as "by and by the planet is going to die" and "everything that ever made you feel big or stand up tall-- is going to be gone" made it feel especially pedantic. The film redeems these moments, however, with flashbacks where the ghost watches the first family who ever lived on his property settle the plains and die violently in their yard. This nearly silent scene reminds viewers of the often forgotten histories that live inside old houses

## Trick-or-Treating should end for children older than thirteen

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Having worn the same Harry Potter costume for thirteen years in a row, the charm of Halloween was lost on me, and fast. In my younger years, I was Blue from "Blue's Clues" and Buzz Light-year, but as I got older, the Harry Potter costume (involving a robe, a plastic wand, and a pair of fake glasses) became the standard. My parents refused to buy me another costume. I liked my Harry Potter costume, even though I got picked on because of it. "Harry Potter again, Johnny?" the kids who teased me said. Other kids in lower and middle school had creative and wild costumes, which, over time, turned into lazy costumes. I didn't care about Halloween to begin with, and by the time I was in the seventh grade, neither did most of the kids in my class. I think that, by the age of thirteen, kids should stop trick-or-treating and start accepting Halloween as a holiday for kids.

My experience was unlike the cartoon image of suburban trick-or-treaters, where hundreds of children with their parents or in groups of friends go out on Halloween night. No, I was usually the only one on my block to participate in the evening's festivities. My neighborhood was predominately older people, who had either recently sent their last kid off to college, or whose kids got married and lived somewhere else. They were empty-nesters

and allow the haunted house trope to take on new life.

The film's stark realism and the matter-of-fact attitude towards death prevents the bedsheets costumes and the old-timey home movie 1:33:1 aspect ratio from feeling gimmicky. The film often lets the action play out in long shot lengths. The wide shot when the husband's dead body emerges as the ghost, for example, lasts three minutes. Another shot, where Mara devours an entire pie out of grief as the ghost looks on also stretches into the three minute mark. These

who had nothing better to do than run to Target and pick up the cheapest and most convenient bag of whatever candy for the end of October. Most Halloweens, I was the only one out with my dad, and the lights were off in half of the houses with a bowl that said "Take One Please." I remember my mom buying a bag of candy for Halloween and letting us eat the bag as our secondary score after no one came that year. I even told my mom what to get at the supermarket, so that when no one came, I got exactly what I wanted.

In my older years, when the neighborhood started to change, children much younger than me started to show up. As a high-schooler, I would stay home and hand out candy. If kids are still feeling the Halloween spirit in their teens, they can help out at home by handing out candy like I did. Most of the kids, seven or eight years old at the oldest, and two or three-year olds at the youngest, showed up before it was dark out. I remember one year, we were done at 8:00, and I turned off the lights and left the bowl out. Then I returned to the "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" special on television, and the Simpsons spoof of it that aired later that night. There are plenty of other ways to celebrate Halloween for people who are too old to go trick-or-treating.

My Halloween experiences don't accurately represent every high-schooler's. Other kids from

my grade lived next to each other in "cooler" neighborhoods. I can fairly assume that, if the score of candy is good enough, and social events are lively enough, then Halloween can be prolonged a little bit into the later years. I pulled some data from the Internet to see what others believed. As initially stated, the magic number to hang up the pillow case is thirteen. According to a study on fivethirtyeight.com, "About 57 percent of respondents picked an age between 12 and 15 as the age that kids are too old to trick-or-treat," which seems fair enough. Entering high school, there may be some parties to attend instead of hanging out with mom and dad. Even though other people had different trick-or-treating experiences, most of the Halloween spark seems to fizzle out in the early to mid-teens.

Kids should stop trick-or-treating by 13 before it begins to lose its magic for them. Halloween is something I remember fondly because I was able to remove myself from it at the appropriate age. I enjoyed going out with my dad and my sister, knocking door-to-door, asking for candy. When I was thirteen, my dad asked if I wanted to do one more year after that. I figured that, as I was the only kid in my neighborhood celebrating the holiday, and that I was missing my TV specials walking around and finding that most of the houses were empty, there was no point. I was happy to begin celebrating another way.

scenes are painfully long and the inability to change perspectives forces the viewer to grapple with the harsh realities of death. Additionally, the film treats the husband's death with a slow pan from the house to the aftermath of the action with a quick cut to a medium shot to show his face cut up against the wheel. This scene plays out without traditional underscoring, and only the diegetic sounds of the birds can be heard. By avoiding flashiness in this scene, the director is able to emphasize the quiet pain of the widow's loss and focus the

story on what the ghost must be feeling as he witnesses her grief and inevitable healing when she leaves both him and the house. The film's simplicity is what makes it a truly haunting story. The strange glimmers, random midnight noises, and even the bedsheets ghost feel as though they could belong to any house. It leaves the viewer feeling like they truly live in a supernatural world.



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**First Year** continued from pg. 8

as the time commitment for sports leaves a limited amount of time for school work.”

Dylan Geissinger-Tuttle of the men’s cross country team was excited to arrive on campus. “I was expecting to improve tremendously and to be part of a strong, up and coming team.”

However, excited as these students were to experience college athletics, coming to Ursinus required some adjustments both on the field of play and in the classroom.

Said Geissinger-Tuttle, who had a top-five finish in his first race, “The commitment to [classwork] outside of the classroom is very different [from what] it was in high school. This is probably the biggest thing I needed to get used to.”

Carroll agreed, “[The biggest adjustment was] time management. It was difficult for me to adjust to the amount of schoolwork at first, but I have a routine now.”

Howell also noted the need to readjust to a bigger workload. “The biggest adjustment I have had to make so far is the amount of time I put into my school work. The time I spend studying has increased more than three times as much as I studied in high school.”

Other students like Darren Sipf, who has seven total tackles this season, said that their biggest adjustment is not in the classroom, but rather in the dorm rooms.

Said Sipf, “The biggest adjustment has been taking care of myself with no help from my parents. Getting to meetings and practice, eating right and taking care of my body all by myself with no reminders

has been new to me.”

The first year athletes also spoke about what has been the hardest part about playing their sports at this level.

Howell, who will also be a member of the swim team at the conclusion of field hockey season, spoke on the physical toll that playing a sport at the college level can take.

“The hardest part about my first year of field hockey is the amount of stress it puts on my body. The change of surface from playing on grass in high school to playing on Astro-turf makes the game so much faster and requires me to run faster and stay lower all the time,” said Howell.

*“I honestly could not have asked for better teammates and coaches. Everyone is so supportive.”*

— Devon Carroll  
Ursinus College Field Hockey

Some challenges are multifaceted, as Sipf explained, “The hardest part has been managing my type 1 diabetes [while] playing football . . . since I was diagnosed it’s been a family effort to control my diabetes so taking it on by myself has been difficult.”

However, some of the fears and challenges for first year athletes have been levied by their coaches and teammates who helped them feel like integral members of the team immediately.

Geissinger-Tuttle explains, “[My coaches and teammates] always push each other to do better. . . [They] included me in “team bonding” activities such as when all of us got mullets, and they all want to see the freshman on the team succeed.”

Said Howell, “My coaches

and teammates have helped make me feel like I play an important role on [both of] my teams.”

Sipf chimes in, “Coming in [to Ursinus football] I was extremely nervous . . . from the first practice till now, the coaches and players have been so accepting and helpful to me. They have kept me calm but pushed me to be the best guy I can be on and off the field. They’re my new family.”

Carroll corroborates the welcoming nature of her team. “I honestly could not have asked for better teammates and coaches. Everyone is so supportive and made the transition here so incredibly easy.”

As the regular seasons for the fall athletes is winding up, these athletes commented on the best part about their first collegiate seasons and their transition to the Ursinus community.

Said Howell, “The best part so far has been to watch such talented athletes work together to become a strong unit that loves the game.”

Said Sipf, “The best part has been making amazing friends here and winning games. The Bears are [having a fantastic season and] it’s a great team to be a part of. I wouldn’t [want to] be anywhere else.”

Adds Geissinger-Tuttle, “[I have loved] watching everyone on the Cross Country team do so well, and being a part of the strong community that is at Ursinus.”



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# Superstitions win confidence for Ursinus student athletes

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As Halloween approaches we begin to think more and more about the supernatural side of everyday life, unexplained happenings and even common superstitions. While these things are not often associated with sports, they have their place in the athletic world. Often athletes have their own rituals and superstitions they perform year-round before or after a competition in order to bring their teams luck during games. Some of these rituals can be downright wacky, even strange, but athletes swear by them. But not all athletes do the same thing. Here at Ursinus, the fall sports teams have a myriad of different sacraments they perform before competing in their respective sports.

Two Ursinus football players described some of the good luck practices they go through before every game. Senior Heath Hidlay said, “Before games I like to listen to music all the way up until we get to the opposing team’s locker room or our home field locker room. After that I like to stop listening to music and just get into the zone before I have to take the field. I’ll do a few pushups to get my blood flowing. I feel that the best way to pump yourself up is self-motivation. If you can [convince] yourself in your head to go run through that guy, then you’ve already won the battle.”

Fellow senior football player, Carmen Fortino, had his own similar ritual to get his head in the game.

“Before games I always like to eat a very big meal the night be-

fore. I have always done it. Leading up to kickoff, I have a specific playlist that I must listen to before each game. I always like to run routes and catch balls on field an hour before kickoff. Then as soon as we take the field I’ll chew on a piece of quench gum to calm my nerves. [I] always pray before the game to have both teams be safe and for a Bears win!” said Fortino.

Junior swimmer Dan Becker shared his rituals before a race.

“Before a race I always need to listen to one of my pump up songs, like ‘It’s Rise’ by State of Mind or a motivational speech that I have saved. . . . When I get behind the blocks [before the race starts] I swing my arms around like Michael Phelps and I just look at the pool and the water is all I think about. I know this is the only thing that matters for the next several minutes. Then I put my left foot on the step so that my right foot can be the first one on the block. My right foot has to be the first one on the block,” said Becker.

Whatever the ritual is, these practices help players to feel more comfortable and confident going into their competitions, even if the may sometimes seem inconsequential. Students who want to see these aforementioned rituals put to the test can see the swim and football teams play this Saturday, Oct. 28 at 1 p.m. in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center and Patterson Field against Dickinson College and McDaniel College, respectively.

*With additional reporting by Valerie Osborne and David Mendelsohn.*

## Scores as of Monday, October 23, 2017

Football (5-2)	Volleyball (6-16)	Field Hockey (8-7)	M. Soccer (2-12-1)	W. Soccer (2-10-2)	Cross Country	Golf
	October 20:	October 14:	October 11 (2OT):	October 18:		October 15:
October 21:	Penn St-Abington: 0 Ursinus: 3	#4 TCNJ: 2 Ursinus: 1	Goucher Coll: 0 Ursinus: 0	Moravian Coll: 0 Ursinus: 1	October 14: Gettysburg Invitational @Gettysburg Coll:	Revolutionary Collegiate Classic @Patriots Glen National G.C (Elkton, Md)
Ursinus: 14 Susquehanna U: 21	October 21: #16 Johns Hopkins U: 3 Ursinus: 0	October 21: Johns Hopkins U: 1 Ursinus: 3	October 21: Johns Hopkins U: 6 Ursinus: 0	October 21: #10 Johns Hopkins U: 6 Ursinus: 0	Men: 8th of 25 Women: 18th of 31	Men: 3rd of 6 (633) Women: 3rd of 3 (809)



Photo courtesy of Sydney Cope

Student athletes get ready to participate in fall sports, activities that can often require huge adjustments for first-year students just beginning to acclimate to college life.

# First year athletes face scary new adjustments

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Halloween is a time to experience fun, scary things. Few things are more fun and scary than leaving home and going to college for the first time! With this in mind, some first year Ursinus athletes have agreed to share their experiences so far as college athletes.

People choose to come to Ursinus for many reasons, whether it be a particular interest in a major or for the opportunity to play their sport. For first year field hockey midfielder Devon Carroll it was a combination of the two.

Said Carroll, who has scored a goal and a pair of assists for the field hockey team this season, “I chose to be a field

hockey student athlete at Ursinus because the field hockey program here is phenomenal. I was interested in the Biology program, and going to a Division III school with such a great team seemed to make the most sense to me.”

Many people don’t know exactly what to expect when they decide to play a college sport. The transition from high school to college compe-

tion can be quite challenging. Darren Sipf, a first year defensive lineman for the football team, expected quite a few changes in his approach to the game when he got here.

Said Sipf, “I was expecting a whole new game of football. Becoming a college athlete has been a goal of mine [for as long as I can] remember and it took a lot of hard work. I just knew college would

mean even more hard work and better players.”

Gabby Howell, a forward on the field hockey team with three goals and four assists on the season, expected similar challenges when she chose to come to Ursinus.

Said Howell, “I was expecting to be pushed both athletically and academically,

See **First Year** on pg. 7

## Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday
	Volleyball: 7:30 p.m.: vs. McDaniel Coll.	M&W Swimming: 1p.m.: vs. Dickinson Coll.	Volleyball: 1p.m.: @Bryn Mawr Coll.	Women’s Soccer: 2 p.m.: @Bryn Mawr Coll.	M&W Cross Country:	M&W Golf:
	Field Hockey: 11a.m.: @Bryn Mawr Coll.	Football: 1p.m.: vs. McDaniel Coll.	Men’s Soccer: 4 p.m.: @Gettysburg Coll.	Centennial Conference Championships @Gettysburg Coll.	Arcadia Invitational @Cedarbrook C.C. (Blue Bell, Pa.)	