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Photo courtesy of Karen Clemente

The Fringe Festival returns to Ursinus

Annual showcase of student performances celebrates 18 years on campus

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Over the years theater professor Domenick Scudera has discovered many talented students through Ursinus' Fringe Festival.

"In the past, we've had students that I've never seen before volunteer to be part of this and they just knocked our socks off. I remember one year there was a student who came [and] at the rehearsal she sat very quietly. I had no idea who she was . . . She stood up to sing and she had the most incredible voice and it was as if she came out of the woodwork to be part of this . . . We were so thrilled with her we asked her to do more in our department. She opened one of our productions, the very first production here in the Kaleidoscope. [Fringe Festival is about] finding untapped talent here," said Scudera.

Students will once again have the opportunity to showcase their hidden artistic talents

when this year's Fringe Festival kicks off on Oct. 4.

The festival will begin with a series of one act plays written and directed by students, followed by a launch party and an art tour of outdoor works created by students in the Sculpture I class.

Once the festival has commenced Ursinus will be taken over for four days by arts, theater, dance, and music, with events celebrating students and their work. Highlights include fan favorites from past years such as the drag show and the Student Cabaret, and new events like the peace sign flash mob with the cast of Hair and a balloon artist.

The festival, which Scudera started 18 years ago, shares its philosophy with the Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

"I wanted to model our Ursinus Fringe Festival after the Philadelphia Fringe Festival . . . a very popular event in Philadelphia that has that same philosophy or artists doing new

work, experimental work, kind of throwing their stuff out to audiences and often those are smaller works and different and unusual, where artists are really stretching their boundaries," he said.

Junior Juju Bonilla, the student coordinator of the festival, appreciates the student-driven aspect of the event.

"In the past, we've had students that... just knocked our socks off"

— Domenick Scudera
Professor of Theatre

Said Bonilla, "I think it's interesting to see what fellow students are doing. I think that's really cool . . . Seeing students put together their one acts and seeing their own talent is very good. Most of them directed it themselves. It's very interesting to see what students can do."

Scudera agreed, "Over the years, [I've] really enjoyed seeing lots of different types of people doing different things.

For me, it's exciting to challenge our community to experiment and share their artistry."

The Student Cabaret and the flash mob are particular highlights of the festival in that they are open to any student.

Bonilla described the Cabaret, "You get to see students perform what they want. The Cabaret is not just acting or singing, it's whatever talent you have."

Scudera added that performing in the Cabaret and other Fringe events is a great way for students to put their work in front of an audience.

He said, "You can share your work with a big, wide audience. It's a great way to be exposed to the community and get them, hopefully, loving what you do."

The Festival will also include dance performances and a trip to the historic Colonial Theater in Phoenixville for a private, Ursinus-only screening of the film The Rocky Horror Picture Show on Oct. 6. Like all the other events at the

festival, this screening is free for students; however, they will have to pay a refundable \$3 fee to the Student Activities office to hold their seat. Buses will leave at 9:30 p.m. for a 10 p.m. showing.

Scudera encouraged students to attend some or all of the events.

"There's so much going on in four days. There are at least eight different events, so why not take advantage of having this stuff right here in such a condensed, fun way," said Scudera.

Bonilla also encouraged people to reach out to her if they're curious about any of the events. "If you're interested . . . or just want to know more, I'm your gal."

The Fringe Festival will begin on Oct. 4 and end on Oct. 7. For more information, students can stop by the information tables in Lower Wismer or go to <https://www.ursinus.edu/live/news/2436-fringe-festival-highlights-art-film-and-theater> for a list and schedule of events.



Photo courtesy of UCARE

UCARE holds voter registration drive and local election panel

The office hopes that the panel and easy access to registration will encourage student participation in this year's election

Min Son

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Students have until Oct. 10 to register to vote as Collegeville residents in the November election. This week, UCARE is encouraging students to vote locally by holding a voter registration drive in lower Wismer. The drive began Sept. 18 and will last until Oct. 6. It is located in Lower Wismer, giving students the opportunity to register between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. UCARE reached out to the UC Student Government, the Melrose Fellows, and the Bonner Leaders for their help and support with the registration drive.

Local elections often have

low voter participation. While citizens are willing to stand up on their feet, raise their voices, and go wild for presidential elections, local elections are relatively quiet, often lacking participation from constituents. According to the Montgomery County website's election report archives, only between 24 and 30 percent of registered voters show up to the polls. This is minuscule compared to the 77 percent of voters who the website reports participated in the 2016 election.

This year, the UCARE office is trying to encourage students to vote locally. The office recently sent out an infographic with five reasons to vote in local elections:

Local government man-

ages things that directly impact residents' lives, such as police protection, local ordinances, and local taxes.

"Collegeville is your home for... four years... I think voting is an important piece of that."

— Katie Turek
Director of UCARE

Registering to vote for the local election is another way students can take action to show that they care.

See **Voting** on pg. 3

U-Imagine hosts marketing contest

Students can win up to \$2,500 in #TalkUpTheBears Social Media Marketing Competition

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This semester, the U-Imagine Center for Integrative and Entrepreneurial Studies is launching the #TalkUpTheBears Social Media Marketing Competition.

The competition aims to bring Ursinus students, staff, and members of Collegeville to a club-hosted event by advertising through social media. Teams of two to six students will collaborate with a club on campus, and work to market a single event. Platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, and Pinterest are targeted to bring the Ursinus community together. Competitors are expected to use creativity and ingenuity to compete for up to \$2,500 in prize money.

At the end of the competition, teams will present their marketing strategy and results to an independent panel of judges, who will score the entries. According to the Ursinus website, judges may be "social media professionals, successful entrepreneurs or executives, professors in social media studies or professional business persons."

This year, sophomore Dan Powell is helping advertise and coordinate the competition. Powell became involved with the U-Imagine Center after Maureen Cumpstone, the entrepreneur-in-residence, recruited him. Powell recounted the story, saying, "[As one] of the founders of the Enactus club here on campus, I had designed

a brochure for the club and the entrepreneur-in-residence Ms. Cumpstone noticed it and invited me to join the board of students in charge of the #TalkUpTheBears social media challenge."

While Powell will not be competing in the competition, he will be working with students to help them succeed and have fun. Powell said, "I'm helping the competition be as or even more successful than it was last year . . . I will be making sure competitors are having fun and staying motivated as they build and present their projects."

The competition focuses on developing participants' social media and digital marketing skills in ways that demonstrate creativity, marketing knowledge, and the ability to appeal to multiple generations. Students will have seven weeks to find a club to pair with and to collaborate with club administrators to create, promote and host an event. A written paper and oral presentation accompanies the project, both of which are presented at the end of the semester. Students are encouraged to create a video to document their journey of managing and marketing their competition.

Powell thinks the competition is a valuable way for students to enhance their digital marketing skills and prepare for their careers. Said Powell, "Digital marketing fluency is a great tool to have when try-

See **UImagine** on pg. 3

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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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Q&A with Aneesah Smith: Ally training facilitator

LGBTQ+ speaker discusses how her life experiences affect her intersectional approach to ally training

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This past Saturday, West Chester University graduate Aneesah Smith came to the Ursinus campus to facilitate an LGBTQ+ ally training session. Smith, who has 10 plus years of experience in higher education, is a well-known speaker and educator in the LGBTQ+ community. Smith has served as a keynote speaker at a variety of national conferences and seminars including the 2016 Keynote Speaker for Mid Atlantic LGBT Conference and the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference. She was recently awarded the West Chester University Legacy of Leadership Alumni award for commitment to leadership and community support at West Chester. Smith spoke with The Grizzly about her experiences with higher education, LGBTQ+ issues, and the importance of ally training.

How did you get started working with students in higher education? Why did this line of work interest you?

I started working in higher education 12 years ago. I can remember being an overly involved college student leader and really not wanting to graduate. My mentors suggested I pursue the field of student affairs, [so] I applied for the master's program and the rest is history. I wanted to stay in the college forever; the growth and experiences that it provides you, I truly felt my happiest there. This career field allowed me to impact the lives of college students for many years to come.

What do you consider to be the purpose or philosophy behind your work?

My purpose is to truly use my voice to advocate for the underrepresented and for those that cannot safely be out. It's a privilege to live my life out loud for the world to see and share my experiences as learning tools for others. My philosophy is respect and love above everything else and then education, that is the key. Once people learn, understand and see beyond the

identities the walls break down and true acceptance can happen. You have to remind people to focus on humanity and love, that works too.

How do you think your lived experiences affect your work?

As a queer woman of color who came out at the age of 25 [and] also within the same year became a mother, my experiences cover a wide range. I experienced internalized homophobia all my young life and today I find my identity and religion reconciled. I'm very out about being a Christian and loving God. I believe that in me people will see God's love when many in our community have been pushed away from religion. My experiences as a feminine queer woman who dates masculine-centered women leaves me with a great perspective on dating and perception as well. Lastly, as a newly engaged and soon to be married woman in a same gender relationship, it honestly feels like I'm coming out all over again. This work for me is personal just as much as it's professional. I'm passionate about these issues because this is my life and my advocacy is about survival.

How does intersectionality affect your work?

The way in which I am marginalized is definitely different considering my intersecting identities such as race and sexual orientation. I understand what it means to be under the same umbrella but have a different experience. Intersectionality is a theory that informs the way we look at the -isms, the way they play out in our constructed social groups. As a black person, I experience homophobia in some circles and racism in some queer spaces. My experiences as a queer woman of color look very different than a white queer woman. This doesn't change our experiences, but the theory informs how we relate to our oppression and in turn resist these -isms in our own spaces.

Have you worked with Ursinus students in the past? Who/what helped bring you to our campus to lead ally training?

I have not worked with Ur-

sinus students since about 2003 when I frequented the campus because a chapter of my sorority was [here]. Robin Gow was my primary contact and responsible for leading the charge to bring me to campus. [He has] been a pleasure to work with.

"My advocacy is about survival."

— Aneesah Smith
LGBTQ+ Educator and Advocate

Why do you think ally training is important for students?

Ally training is a [two] part component [that includes] LG-BTQ 101 training work, reviews terminology, current issues, and takes a deeper look at Trans identities. It's super important for people who say [they're] allies to be informed and knowledgeable [and] most importantly resourceful. Being an ally is not about what you say, it's about what you do. It's important to create a welcoming, safe environment that allows people of any LGBTQ identity to be their most authentic self. College is a place for exploration and students can be open to all identities.



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

The U-Imagine Center is hosting a competition that will help students to develop valuable social media and marketing skills.

UImagine continued from pg. 2

ing to work with markets or people. There's no doubt in my mind that what I'm doing with #TalkUptheBears will help me later in my career. And it can help anyone else who's interested, too, if they sign up for the competition."

Students who are interested in registering for the competition have until Friday, Oct. 6 to do so. Registration can be found at https://ursinus.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6tDxoHhK0mjkdp3.

SV_6tDxoHhK0mjkdp3.

The requirement that participants work with campus clubs to host an event is also a great way for smaller clubs to boost their attendance and get their name out there. While many participants enter the competition with a club already in mind, some students are still looking for clubs to collaborate with. Clubs that are interested in connecting with competitors to help promote their clubs should contact Maureen Cumpstone at mcumpstone@ursinus.edu.

Voting continued from pg. 2

Every vote counts. In previous years, the elections have been decided by as few as two votes.

Council Borough has a direct impact on Ursinus. They discuss matters relevant to pedestrian safety on Main Street, as well as the community's relationship with Ursinus.

Finally, UCARE makes voter registration easy for students. Assistant Director of UCARE, Katie Turek, commented on the importance of voting locally, "As college students at Ursinus, Collegenille is your home for the four years you are here ... As members of this community who contribute to it in many ways, I think voting is an important piece of that."

In addition to the voter registration drive, Turek and UCARE Service Fellows Nyrobi Barnes

and Min Son, worked together to plan and organize the registration drive and the UCARE Local Election Panel. They've contacted and invited both local Democrat and Republican candidates to come and share their platforms on Oct. 5 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium.

UCARE recently received confirmation that the Democratic candidate for mayor, Reverend Aidsand ("Ace") Wright-Riggins, will also attend the Local Election Panel.

Turek shared her excitement about the Local Election Panel. "This is a very exciting time for Ursinus and UCARE to have these local leaders on our campus sharing what is important to them and answering students' questions."

Students who missed the registration drive can vote online at <http://www.montcopa.org/761/Voter-Registration>.

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Breaking through the Haze

Slam poet Ashlee Haze performs for the Ursinus community

Madison Bradley
mabradley@ursinus.edu

On Wednesday Sept. 27, poet and spoken word artist Ashlee Haze visited the Ursinus campus for an animated and intimate poetry reading and book signing. The poems she performed, like “The Help” and “For Colored Girls (The Missy Elliot Poem)” centered on her experience as an African-American woman, her childhood influences and role models, and on some of her past relationships. Her collection of poems, *Land of the Living*, was available for purchase after the performance.

Land of the Living, centers on racism, sexism, and the intersectionality of identity, offering her unapologetic approach to these subjects. With a touch of humor, Haze’s poems mixed serious issues with her own personal voice in order to captivate her audience.



Photo courtesy of Erikson Hirn

Ashlee Haze performs her slam poetry in front of a student audience in Musser auditorium.

“I’m going to talk a lot about intersectionality: the intersection of my identities.”

— Ashlee Haze
Poet and Spoken Word Artist

While introducing her set, Haze described her poems, “[They’re] about how I live my life. I write a lot about being a woman of color, being a woman of color in a plus-size body, and those experiences that come with it. I’m going to talk a lot about intersectionality: the intersection of my identities, how they all overlap and how they are not just singular.”

One of her poems, “The Help,” encapsulated the feeling of admiration she had for the women in her family and their strength. Haze talked about the “The Help,” the 2011 film that inspired the poem and gave it its name. She noted that the film resonated with her and

with how she thought about her mother and grandmother.

“When I saw that film, it was actually one of the first times that I saw a reflection of a woman I can identify with...I wrote this poem to pay homage to [my mother and grandmother] and to that time in my life,” said Haze.

When asked about the performance, junior Chiara DeMelfi said, “We’ve had a lot of slam poets already this semester and I’m very happy about [that]. And also, I wasn’t expecting to have a good laugh. It was fun.”

Jen Joseph, a sophomore, added, “It’s very nice to be able to get slam poetry in the school because I thought there could have been more of it last year and I have been really liking the new initiative that’s being taken. Because in my high school, slam poetry was a big part of me discovering my identity and so I thought

she was incredible. I am very glad I got her book; that is very exciting.”

In response to their favorite aspect of Haze’s set, DeMelfi said, “The puns were my favorite part. She’s very charismatic.”

Haze, who has been a part of the poetry slam circuit in Atlanta, is a full-time poet and artist and has also been a two-time Women of the World Poetry Slam Finalist. Haze is currently the co-slam master for the Java Monkey Slam Team and is the first woman to hold this title. Released in February 2016, *Land of the Living* is her first full-length collection of poems.

Correction: In last issue’s story on John Bera, he was misquoted as saying Ursinus College is sixteen acres. It should have read one hundred and sixty eight acres.

Comments sought for Retiring Faculty

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

In early February 2018 the Dean’s Office is planning to honor her many contributions to the College by celebrating her career and by remembering her various roles as a teacher, scholar, mentor, adviser, colleague and friend.

Dr. Cirka made a real difference in the lives of our students and the Dean’s Office invites students to jot down remembrances and thoughts about their interactions with this memorable and dedicated member of our community. In addition to collecting comments, the Dean’s Office is 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 by including comments in the enclosed envelope or by replying to the Dean’s Office mailbox (DOffice@ursinus.edu) by January 12, 2018.

Word on the Street

What is your favorite part about fall?

“Halloween, undoubtedly. ‘Tis the season.”
- Audrey Pitcher, 2019

“Watching the leaves change color.”
-Sarah Hojsak, 2018

“The crispness.”
-Dave Mendelsohn, 2019

“Fall makes me nostalgic for marching band.”
-Paige Szmodis, 2018

“My birthday is in the fall.”
-Courtney DuChene, 2019

A perspective from the past

Dr. Rebecca Jaroff reflects on how Ursinus has changed since she was a student, and how it is the same

Emily Jolly
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If you have ever participated in one of the many internship opportunities offered at Ursinus, you probably have Dr. Rebecca Jaroff to thank.

Jaroff, a professor in the English department, graduated from Ursinus in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Communication Arts, now known as Media and Communications Studies.

According to Jaroff, "[Internships] didn't exist in 1979. But I earned one at a cable TV station in Philadelphia with the encouragement of my mentor, Dr. [Joyce] Henry ... So, the Dean at the time decided that perhaps internships were worthwhile and now we actually offer students the chance to do two in different fields."

"Students can always make a change."

— Dr. Rebecca Jaroff
Professor of English

Jaroff used her experience as an intern as an example of how Ursinus prepares students for life after college, and urged students to take advantage of the opportunity.

"[My internship] changed my life and got me a job after college ... That is my favorite story about Ursinus, because students can always make a change! Interestingly enough, I left TV

after ten years to get a Ph.D. and Ursinus prepared me for that as well," Jaroff said.

Student life at Ursinus was not all about academics for Jaroff, however. She was also president of proTheatre, a student drama organization, president of the Student Activities Board, and a member of the sorority, Kappa Delta Kappa.

Reminiscing about her favorite part of being a student at Ursinus, Jaroff said, "I loved the campus and learning to become independent. I loved my professors, especially Dr. Joyce Henry, who taught me how to become an independent woman and to think for myself. She gave me support but also made sure that I learned how to take responsibility for myself and my actions — to be an ethical person and a responsible citizen."

This connection between faculty and students is something Jaroff is happy to say has not changed over the years.

"We are so close. Wanting the students to succeed. Having a close, supportive, collaborative role between students and faculty. That is an Ursinus tradition that will never change and makes us distinctive."

Jaroff's least favorite part of Ursinus, then and now, is, "The 'Ursinus bubble.' I got frustrated with my peers who didn't want to discover the world outside of Ursinus."

Despite this "bubble," Jaroff has seen some positive changes to Ursinus over the years, citing the growing diversity and the greater variety of majors and minors.



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Dr. Rebecca Jaroff works closely with students and encourages them to get outside of the Ursinus bubble.

"We are growing and changing in ways that are positive and that respond to current challenges. I am always proud of my alma mater's ability to face difficult challenges and make changes," said Jaroff.

"We are growing and changing in ways that are positive and respond to the current challenges."

— Dr. Rebecca Jaroff
Professor of English

But to Jaroff, what hasn't changed is what is most important: "Ursinus is a special place

that helps you to discover the best you can be. I don't think I could be the professor, the partner, and the parent that I am without Ursinus, and I am proud of being all of those things."

Jaroff did not expect to return to Ursinus as a professor when she graduated in 1981, but she is happy that she has.

"To be completely honest, I thank all of the gods and goddesses every single day because I am blessed to be doing what I do where I do it. It's an honor and a privilege, plus I live really close by!"

As a student-turned-professor who paved the way for future


generations to experience internships, Jaroff offered some advice for current students, encouraging them to make the most out of their opportunities here.

"Get out of the bubble! Get on a bus, a train and/or a plane! But keep your roots here because this is such a special place and we should all cherish the privilege and pride we receive from being members of the Ursinus family."



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Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Local Election Panel 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium	Circuits of Blood and Stone: On Enslaved Test Subjects and the History of Gynecology 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Berman Museum	Fall Harvest Festival 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Organic Farm		Suicide in the Latinx World, 1880-1917 4 p.m. Berman Museum 016	Resume Rescue 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bomberger 110	How to Use Handshake 12 p.m. Olin 107

NFL players take a knee to stand up against injustice

Valerie Osborne
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I am not a sports fan and I am particularly not a football fan. I don't even watch the Super Bowl. However, football has recently been on my radar, capturing the attention of myself and the rest of the nation, fans or not. This is due to the recent protests that have been occurring during many sports related events across the nation, but most notably during National Football League (NFL) games.

These protests first started in 2016, when former San Francisco 49'ers player, Colin Kaepernick began sitting on the bench for the national anthem during preseason games. Kaepernick's actions were in response to the nation's ongoing problems with police brutality. By sitting during the national anthem, he was standing up for oppressed people of color and particularly for African Americans. Kaepernick later began to kneel for the anthem, a move that many players now

have copied. These "taking a knee" protests have spread, with over one hundred NFL players participating in these protests in the last month.

The protests have received heavy criticism from many football fans and most visibly from President Donald Trump, who on Sept. 23 tweeted: "If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!" On Sept. 26, Trump's twitter account even went as far as to suggest that the NFL should instate rules requiring players to stand for the anthem.

Many of the criticisms raised against the players have fallen under this category of "disrespect" that Trump mentions in his tweet. I saw many Facebook friends commenting that these protests were un-American, that they disrespected veterans, and that they disrespected the flag

and anthem. However, I find these arguments to be hypocritical, especially from a president who only a month earlier refused to criticize white supremacists after the Charlottesville protests. These kinds of arguments ignore the fact that the U.S. has, from its inception, not only disrespected the lives of people of color, but has continued to actively abuse and exploit those lives. Kneeling before a flag seems a petty offense compared to police brutality and the numerous offenses committed against people of color in this country.

The players who have decided to kneel during the national anthem are not in any way un-American. In fact, they are creating a great example of what every American should aspire to be by using their freedom of speech (in this case, symbolic speech). They are actively using their rights, as well as their privilege and visibility, to stand up for their fellow Americans. They must stand up because Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Philando Castile and countless

others were all Americans murdered by a corrupt system that refuses to be held accountable. The importance of freedom of speech is not that it allows people to say whatever they want, but that it allows Americans to freely criticize the government when there is corruption. It is every American's right and should be every American's duty to speak out against the corrupt systems in place. Silence is un-American.

Similarly, the people saying that these players are disrespecting veterans should take a moment to consider what those veterans were really fighting for. Were they fighting for a country that was interning Japanese Americans at the same time they were trying to liberate concentration camps? Were they fighting for a country that didn't allow black people to vote until 1964 but wanted to force democracy on other countries? Are they fighting now for a U.S. eager to destroy ISIS, but reluctant to give refuge to the people fleeing the terrorist group? Soldiers' lives and service should not be

wasted on a country that refuses to take a good look in the mirror every now and then. To allow corruption and violence to continue is an insult to the people who have given this country the opportunity to do better.

Disrespecting a flag and a song is just that. Yes, I know they're symbols, but symbols are only worth what meaning is assigned to them, and kneeling is a symbol, too. When football players kneel, they may be disrespecting some vague sense of patriotism, but they're defending people's right to live. Nothing the flag could ever symbolize is worth more than a human life.

I do not watch football and I'm going to continue not watching football, but not because I'm angry at the players for kneeling. I really just do not like football. On the contrary, the recent events in the NFL have given me a new respect for football players. I hope that by "taking a knee," these players will encourage more Americans to "stand up" against corruption and injustice.

Recent natural disasters demand more human decency

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The 2017 hurricane season has been one of the most relentless in recent history. Many of the hurricanes that formed in the Atlantic managed to reach a category 5, the strongest category of hurricane, before making landfall. Two hurricanes that stand out are Harvey, which struck southeast Texas on Aug. 25 before stalling over Houston from Aug. 26 to 30, and Maria, which battered the already cash-strapped island of Puerto Rico on Sept. 20. In each occasion, millions of dollars worth of destruction ensued and political figures failed to swiftly help American citizens.

Hurricane Harvey strengthened rapidly in the Gulf of Mexico, reaching and sustaining category 4, and made landfall in Rockport, Texas. It then slowly crept upwards along the coast before stalling over the Houston Metro Area for four days,

submerging 444 square miles (an area six times the size of D.C.) of the flood-prone area.

After the storm, the mayor of the city of Houston, Sylvester Turner, called on Texas Governor Greg Abbott to tap into State funds reserved for "rainy days." If there ever was a rainy day, the four days of Harvey pouring an average of 30 inches in Houston would be it. Abbott rejected allocating those funds to Houston for almost an entire month, before conceding.

Abbott was partly convinced to use the funds by Turner's proposed tax hike. The other pressure came from the federal government. The government would match the funds that Texas used for hurricane relief as long as they were used within 30 days of the hurricane. For a while it looked as though Abbott would stand firm and leave the city of Houston, the largest city in the state, to repair itself unaided, but as the Houston Chronicle reported, he wrote the check a few days before the deadline.

Turner consequently took the tax hike off the table. It's great that Abbott changed his stance, but it's blatant that he did so to halt a tax increase and because he knew he would be reimbursed by the federal government.

Puerto Rico had been on the brink of an economic collapse and the succession of Irma and Maria only intensified the situation. After Irma, Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency and aid was allocated. Irma did not directly strike the island, so much of the faltering infrastructure was spared. However, Maria was not as merciful. Maria made landfall two weeks after Irma and crippled the power grid.

On average, Puerto Rico's electrical stations are over 40 years old. The power authority had accumulated \$9 billion in debt and declared bankruptcy prior to Maria. The island's inhabitants were left without power during Maria. Even now, much of the island is still without electricity. Not only does this cut communication with the island, it

cuts access to clean water. Most of the water pumps were connected to the same power grid that went down.

President Trump bragged about how Texas and Florida made strides in the aftermath of their respective storms while Puerto Rico was struggling. It took longer than it should have for Trump to temporarily lift the Jones Act for aid to reach them promptly. The Jones Act is a piece of legislation that requires that any ship carrying commercial cargo from one port to another within the U.S. must be an American-made ship, owned and crewed by U.S. citizens.

After seeing the island in financial struggle, loan firms that Puerto Rico owed money to generally kept quiet. A few banks offered to waive certain fees for customers. Prepa Bondholders saw an opportunity for financial gain and offered the indebted island a chance to accrue even more debt—aid in the form of a loan. The government of Puerto Rico rejected the offer, but it's

still worth highlighting the repulsive act of the financial group when people's well beings were at risk.

In either case, both political figures and companies show that they will try to put their interests before the lives of others. Abbott exemplified what's wrong with a conservative government and how it affects people who have lost their homes to natural disasters. Trump and Prepa Bondholders showed how little respect they have for an island of American citizens. Offering aid in the form of a loan, knowing that they are already in a debt crisis, is tantamount to spitting in their face.

Even though they may no longer be in the news, people are still suffering. Many suffer without homes; many without electricity. The incompetent government we currently have isn't going to provide all the assistance needed. People should consider donating if it is within their means.

Swimming continued from pg. 8

do] really well! The girls show no sign of slowing down and should repeat [their] win this year. Us men went from sixth to third in one year, so we are looking to get even better!"

Expectations have never been something from which this team has shied away. The women have won back to back Centennial Conference Championships while the men came

in third place last year.

A big reason for this success is a result of the hard work put in by Coach Feinburg, who has won a whopping six consecutive Centennial Conference Coach of the Year awards and has lead the Bears to breaking all thirty-eight combined team records, as well as eleven Centennial Conference records.

Coach Feinburg takes no credit for these accomplishments, citing his coaching staff and the resources available to

him on campus as the reasons for his success.

Said Feinburg, "No other swimming program in our conference has such enthusiastic support from their school and athletic department. Coach Moliken has brought a culture of TEAM and winning here to Ursinus. I love coming to work for her every day."

The Bears' first meet takes place Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.

man hours to study the science of chainsology."

"Being a part of the group takes effort, patience, and vigor. Even though this seems arduous, these gents prove that teamwork is key and grit provides outstanding outcomes.

Drea realizes how much entertainment his group brings to the field, but feels little pressure.

Drea joked, "We are well aware that we are a highly-anticipated source of entertainment at halftime and we do our best to showcase our skills. We have already received offers from the NFL to perform at halftime at the Super Bowl, but we graciously declined due to scheduling conflicts. We will continue to entertain and perform at a high-level as long as there is an audience as large and as fun as the one in the Patterson stands every Saturday.

"As for pressure, we are the most elite Chain Gang in the country. Therefore, we apply the pressure; we don't feel it. There are only two requirements to be

in the Chain Gang: never feel pressure and always play to win. Mike Shelton approved. Our dedication to perfection, poise, focus, and handsomeness is why we are undefeated since 1869 and are continuously regarded as the top Chain Gang in all of college football. Our motto is 'Often imitated, never duplicated,'" Drea continued.

The Chain Gang takes pride in their work and for good reason. They solidify the structure of the Ursinus College football team. Clever wit, skillful discipline and humorous performance characterize the organization. Ursinus College is an honored owner of such a tight team and robust community, and everyone anticipates a successful season for the Bears and the Chain Gang alike.

Follow the Chain Gang on Instagram @ucbearsballsandchains.



Follow us on Instagram!
@ursinusgrizzly

Moving the chains: an inside look at the UC Chain Gang

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This semester, the Ursinus football team has dominated the scoreboard four games in a row, starting the season off strong. The players have been an active part of the college's community and, of course, its sports community as well. There are many influences that impact their performance on the field. Alongside pure determination and hard work, they have a major support system in fans, coaches, alumni and a group often overlooked: the Chain Gang.

The Chain Gang is a group of students who are responsible for a few things that take place on game day. As the name indicates, they work the chains, meaning they hold the first down and line of scrimmage markers on the sidelines, but they also hold the extra footballs for the referees that are not presently in use.

Junior David Drea is the home-side ball boy for the Chain Gang. According to Drea, he is responsible for "monitoring the balls in play, catching extra-point attempts and providing referees

with a friendly face when coaches, players and fans get heated about certain calls."

Drea is an enthusiastic member of the organization. He described the group as "a collection of extraordinary gentlemen who perform the game day duties of our Ursinus football team."

He explained further, "We work on 'the chains,' which are the orange posts seen on the sidelines, being ball boys, and most importantly, ensuring the sidelines are fully equipped with functioning headsets, thirst-quenching Gatorade, and the high-quality H2O provided by our friends in the [Sports Medicine Clinic]. Every year, we have one goal and one goal only: to be undefeated. Our goal is to outperform all other chain gangs in the nation and do so by helping refs run the game more smoothly."

Drea continued, "We start every morning with a hearty breakfast with our fearless leader Sean Lacy, followed by prepping the field. We conclude our setup by ceremoniously bringing out the balls and chains to the sidelines. Afterwards we congregate, join

hands, and bow our heads as Aidan Rogers leads us in a long, convoluted, and poorly worded pregame speech which is largely plagiarized [from] every football movie ever."

Junior Aidan Rogers, a proud member of the Chain Gang, corroborated the one goal: to be undefeated. The team carries force and raw energy, which keeps them hyped up for practice and games. Rogers admitted that there are always ups and downs with mistakes being made, but said that overall the season is kicking off well. He hopes to make it to the championship, possibly winning a national title. With how the Bears have been competing so far, victory is likely in their future.

When asked if the duties of the Chain Gang are difficult, Drea replied, "The Chain Gang is a demanding job that requires the focus of a samurai, the agility of a jungle cat and the tenacity of a grizzly bear. When the dust settles after a long day on the gridiron, the Chain Gang remains on the field, as the legendary Dale Doback once said, 'putting in the



Photo Courtesy of Aidan Rogers

The Ursinus College Chain Gang is an integral aspect of Saturday games at Patterson field, providing humor and entertainment.

Scores as of Monday, October 2, 2017

Football (5-0)	Volleyball (5-11)	Field Hockey (5-4)	M. Soccer (2-7)	W. Soccer (0-7-1)	Cross Country	M. Golf
	September 26:		September 27:		September 29:	September 26:
September 30:	Penn St.-Berks: 3 Ursinus: 2	September 30:	Swarthmore Coll: 3 Ursinus: 0	September 23 (OT):	Paul Short Run @Lehigh U (Bethlehem, Pa)	Ursinus Invitational @Raven's Claw G.C. (Pottstown, Pa.)
Johns Hopkins U:17 Ursinus: 21	September 30:	Ursinus: 3 Dickinson Coll: 1	September 30:	Ursinus: 2 Gettysburg Coll: 3	Men: 9th of 36 Women: 25th of 36	3rd of 9 Total Score: 317
	Lancaster Bible Coll: 2 Ursinus: 3		Ursinus: 0 Dickinson Coll: 4			



Photo Courtesy of Emily Jolly

Ursinus looks to maintain Centennial Conference success by being the first team into the pool at 12 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 25.

UC Swimming dives in for midnight madness

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Most swim team practices happen very early in the morning, but here at Ursinus, the swim team likes to change that once a year. Each year the swim team has a late-night practice to kick off the preseason. This practice is referred to as “Mid-

night Madness” by the team and coaches.

This year, that night took place as the date turned from Sunday, Sept. 24 to Monday, Sept. 25. The Ursinus College Men’s and Women’s Swim Teams dove into the pool precisely at midnight, with a sizable crowd on hand to watch.

“[Midnight Madness began in] Fall 2013, we were really excited about our team that year and the date the conference let us begin on was a Sunday. Since it was a Saturday night, and Sunday begins our week for NCAA purposes, we decided we wanted to be the first team in our conference

to start practices,” said Head Coach Mark Feinburg. A video of that historic night can be found on YouTube under the title “Ursinus Bears Swimming-Midnight Madness.”

When Midnight Madness started, Coach Feinburg was initially unsure how the athletes would feel about it.

“I thought they would resist, but they seemed to love it!” said Feinburg.

After taking a two-year break from the late night swim session, Feinburg stated, “We had no plans to do it this year, but the team asked if we could bring back the tradition. Swimming can be repetitive, but special events like this can be memorable for a college athlete.”

It was senior Captain Colin McNamara who pushed for the return of midnight madness this year.

“It’s a fun way for the campus to get involved in the beginning of our season and for us to introduce ourselves to the campus . . . Besides the red marks on my face and stomach from the belly flop contest, I get a sense of excitement about the upcoming season,” said McNamara.

Junior James Callaghan was excited to participate in the special practice.

“Midnight Madness gives me a real start to the season. Having a defined start helps me get into the right mindset for the rest of the season,” said Callaghan.

Of course, Midnight Madness isn’t all fun and games for the swimmers.

McNamara expressed some concerns for the day after such an event, “8 AM classes the day after Midnight Madness

can be rough, but hey, that’s why Wismer has Red Eye coffee all day.”

Callaghan corroborated, “The midnight part isn’t great, but it shows dedication to what we are doing here at Ursinus.”

Coach Feinburg has placed some lofty expectations on his swimmers this year.

Said Feinburg, “We’ve had individual meetings with everyone. They seem like they did the right things this summer and are fired up to get started. That’s usually a recipe for improvement. If we can stay focused and stay healthy, I expect dramatic improvement. I think we can re-write our record board. If we do that, the places will take care of themselves. We have tremendous leadership and contributing talent in all four classes. [This season] should be a lot of fun!”

McNamara and Callaghan have plenty of goals that they have set for themselves and for the team this season as well.

Said McNamara, “I want to end my swimming career with a bang. I know I’ve been putting in the work, so I’m hoping to see some good performances . . . I think we have a lot of great returners that are ready to step up even more than last year, and the incoming swimmers are excited to keep the momentum going. I think if we do what we do best and stay hungry and stay foolish, we’ll keep our spot towards the top of the conference.”

Added Callaghan, “I really want to repeat my first place victory in the 200 fly and go after first in the 4IM. I’m excited for the whole team to start winning. . . [I expect the team to

See **Swimming** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Wed. Cont.	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.
Field Hockey: 7p.m.: @Haverford U	Women’s Soccer: 7:30p.m.: vs. Haverford U		Field Hockey: 12p.m.: vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.	Football: 1p.m.: @Muhlenberg Coll.	Women’s Soccer: 3p.m.: vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.	Volleyball: 4p.m.: vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.
Volleyball: 7p.m.: vs. Haverford U			Men’s Soccer: 12p.m.: vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.			