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Spring semester opens with ‘MLK Week’

Institute for Inclusion and Equity launch caps week of programming

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The Ursinus community celebrated the opening of the Institute for Inclusion and Equity (IIE) with an inaugural series of events last week that also marked Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday on Jan. 15.

“MLK Week” included three days of programming that cultivated conversations of “inquiry, reflection and service” across campus leading up to the official launch of the IIE on Jan. 22.

Dean Terrence Williams, director of the IIE, and Patrick Robinson, assistant director of Inclusion and Equity, organized the MLK Week with Meredith Goldsmith, associate dean of student affairs.

City Year’s MLK Day of Service kickstarted the week’s

events with more than 100 Ursinus students volunteering at Frankford High School and Awbury Arboretum in Germantown on Jan. 15. Some students, including Bonner Leader Sophy Gamber ‘18, painted educational murals on the walls of Frankford High School.

“It was incredibly rewarding to see many volunteers come together with such energy and love,” Gamber said.

However, Gamber added, “I was left wondering how much this service actually meant, how well it honored the legacy of Dr. King. Could the effort have been put towards more meaningful action? [Or] does this just make privileged people feel good for doing it? I carry [this question] when doing service, especially because I always carry my whiteness

with me.”

Shifting the conversation

Throughout the week, student and faculty speakers led short bursts of ‘lightning talks’ that reflected interdisciplinary research on campus related to inclusivity and equity.

Many of the speakers engaged with an emerging vein of awareness in campus conversation: the need to identify and openly discuss issues of discrimination across disciplines.

Tricia Lott, assistant professor in Africana and African American studies, read excerpts from Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letters from Birmingham Jail and illustrated Malcolm X’s claim that “the Mason Dixon line starts at the Canadian border.”

Roger Florka, a philosophy professor who has previously

taught Philosophy of Race as well as Race and Ethnicity in Philadelphia, spoke about teaching race in the classroom.

“A lot of what goes on with racist attitudes is hidden. People don’t want to talk about race. It makes them uncomfortable,” he said, in an interview with staff writer Sophia DiBattista.

“I’m not focused on guilting people, but I want them to recognize their ignorance.”

Kelly Sorensen, associate dean and philosophy professor, spoke about the horrific mistreatment of African Americans in the Tuskegee Experiments.

In the 40 year study conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service, 399 of 600 black men participating in the study were denied treatment for syphilis -- despite penicil-

lin being known as an effective treatment since the 1940s -- because researchers wanted to “observe the natural progression of the disease in black men.”

The talks concluded with a panel discussion on teaching diversity-related texts in CIE, led by Abigail Kluchin, director of the Teaching and Learning Institute.

Diversity in performance

A screening of the 2014 film “Selma,” directed by Ava Duvernay, took place in the IIE on Jan 18. In her talk, Alice Leppert, assistant professor of media and communication studies, spoke about how Hollywood profits from but fails to recognize the work of black films like

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Ursinus community questions response to bias incident

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In the last week of fall semester, a racial epithet used to disparage African-Americans was found spelled out in the snow behind New residence hall in the early morning of Dec. 14, 2017.

After being reported to Campus Safety, the epithet was photographed as evidence and then destroyed.

Within hours, Dean Debbie Nolan sent out a campus-wide email to inform the community of the incident and to ask for support in the subsequent investigation carried out by Student Affairs and Campus Safety.

In a follow-up email sent out to the community on Jan.

12, Dean Nolan confirmed that a student “came forward and took full responsibility for the action,” adding that “following official college policy” the student “was adjudicated and received disciplinary sanctions.”

According to the Student Handbook, violations of student conduct policy are addressed in either an administrative hearing or a private hearing held by the student conduct panel. The panel consists of two students and three faculty members chosen by the student government and faculty election, respectively.

“There are no administrators -- the student conduct panel represents diversity across race, gender and department and is elected by the campus

community,” Dean Nolan said.

The five members of the student conduct panel review the case, determine for which violations the student will be held responsible, and then deliberate disciplinary sanctions in a private setting, Dean Nolan explained.

In a recent interview, Dean Nolan acknowledged a “heartwarming response of outrage and support” from the campus community in the wake of the bias incident. However, many students and faculty members expressed confusion and concern over the usage of the term “bias incident” to describe what had happened.

Mya Flood ‘18 said, “It should have been specified that [the incident] was racially-charged to alert the people of

color on campus of concerns of their safety in the community.”

“[The N-word] has a hurtful history,” said Oriah Lopez ‘18. “It shows a blatant choice to be hateful.”

In a public reply to Dean Nolan’s email, visiting assistant professor of African dance Jeannine Osayande questioned whether “the incident is considered ‘bias’ or racist?”

According to Teaching Tolerance, a project developed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a bias incident is “conduct, speech or expression motivated by bias or prejudice. It differs from a hate crime in that no criminal activity is involved. The difference between a bias incident and a hate crime is whether or not the activity was accompanied

by a criminal offense.

“While hate crimes, if charged and prosecuted, will be dealt with in the court system, schools must handle bias incidents through grievance procedures and educational programs,” according to the project.

In Pennsylvania law, a hate crime is defined as “a criminal act motivated by ill will or hatred towards a victim’s race, color, religion or national origin,” according to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Dean Nolan explained that Ursinus looked to common practice across other campuses in addressing what is consid-

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“Selma” in award shows.

Angela Bey '18, a theater major, also spoke about the first feature film directed by a black woman. “The Watermelon Woman” is a 1996 film starring and directed by Cheryl Dunye.

“Dunye attempts to excavate and reclaim a story--the life of Fae Richards--in the hopes of restoring truth into the queer black female narrative in the entertainment industry.”

Bey questioned why there are intentional gaps in the lives of black characters on screen:

“Why are we force fed cheapened stories of our residence in teh face of oppression?”

“[‘The]Watermelon Woman’ is important because it fills the erasure left by white supremacy and empowers black people to tell these stories as well.”

Holly Hubbs, professor of music, led a musical performance, Songs of Protest, Songs of Unity, Songs of the MLK Era, with Vice President Mark

Schneider and Sam Pope '18 in the Blackbox Studio Theater on Jan 19.

“About fifty people attended. Everyone was holding hands and singing. It’s just what people need,” Goldsmith reflected on the musical performance.

At the opening reception of the IIE, President Blomberg commented on the political relevance of the space, that it mirrors social dynamics playing across the country today.

“The next generation of students, faculty and staff will be diverse in heritage and other aspects of life.” President Blomberg said. “In reflection of events happening beyond campus - and a loss of confidence in the leadership vacuum at the national and global level - it is important to come together.”

Presence on campus

Over twenty banners spread across campus now display quotes from African American writers and thinkers including James Baldwin, Alice Walker and Cornel West.

“The goal was to make black writing visible and prominent so everyone can see the contributions of these great black artists and writers,” Goldsmith said. “The language

“Everyone was holding hands and singing. It’s just what people need.”

— Meredith Goldsmith, Associate Dean

allows us to see the campus in a new way.”

After sending out a campus-wide survey last November, Goldsmith collected quotes from over 50 submissions sent by students and faculty. The quotes will remain on display through late February.

“It is beautiful and important that we share these words, but we must follow them up with meaningful action that offers real support and affirmation to marginalized students and students of color on this campus.” Gamber said in response to the banners.

Robinson echoed Gamber’s

call for continuing the wave of action on campus.

“Although MLK week programming has ended, I urge students not to forget lessons or [the] legacy of Dr. King,” Robinson said. “Use this week as a stepping stone to further the mission he dedicated his life to: bringing positive change on campus. The work we do is impossible without students.”

IIE: The Heart of Campus

Dean Williams and Robinson run the IIE with a staff of student workers – they currently settling into the institute’s new location in Lower Wismer. The move from the former Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s previous location in Unity House is symbolic, and the legacy of Unity House remains significant in their work, Dean Williams said.

“Effort and intention transformed this space -- we had made a home out of Unity House. If you read into its history, it was driven here -- a river house from the Perkio-men,” Dean Williams said.

“Now we have the opportunity to be co-creators, to be more centered, to step out of what we are used to and dream. What kind of message [did] it send when we have that work on the periphery versus the center?”

Vice President Schneider echoed the importance of the IIE’s central location: “There is symbolism in this move to the heart of campus. Wismer is shared by everyone.”

The directors of IIE envision an open, safe space for student organization events. The institute will be open until 10 pm – and the directors hope that students will take advantage of using the space.

“I saw an empty bookstore become filled with student workers. [But now] I already see students coming to do their

homework here and use it as a study space,” Robinson said. “It’s going to take time for students to have that trust, to realize the impact this space [could have on campus].”

An idea exchange took place in the form of a brainstorming session for future programming at the IIE on Jan. 19. Goldsmith noted a desire for more LGBTQ programming as well as events celebrating multicultural and international diversity.

President Blomberg reiterated the Board of Trustees’ commitment to inclusion and diversity in noting that the board will hold its February meeting in the IIE space.

The IIE is open to the public from 9 am to 10 pm Monday through Friday and is located across from the C-Store in Lower Wismer.

If you have questions or suggestions for future pro-



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Dean Williams speaks at the opening of the Institute of Inclusion and Equity in lower Wismer.

WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice to The Grizzly

Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays, 6 p.m. Olin 101

THE GRIZZLY

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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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ered a bias incident.

President Brock Blomberg responded to additional criticism that the College was using vague, impassive language to protect its image.

"This is a racist act. It is not ok to be racist. When Debbie used 'bias incident' and 'racial epithet,' at the highest level it meant to say that this incident was racist," he said.

"Others questioned, 'Are you minimizing this awful event?' But 'bias' is used as a collective to accurately bracket prejudice against all groups. It is a challenge in communication -- to make sure [this event] is recognized as a serious grievance. We think this incident is a racist act and stand opposed against these incidents."

Simara Price Telesford, assistant professor of biology, asked Dean Nolan in another public email to "expand upon what the disciplinary sanctions are for these type of incidences."

When Dean Nolan did not publicly respond to Telesford's question via email it drew further concern from students.

"The fact that we don't know how this person is going to be punished makes other people in the community think, 'What happens if something happens to me?' Without people knowing what repercussions were put in place, people might still just do whatever," said Cameron Solomon '19.

However, the College is bound by federal law to respect the privacy of the student's case, Dean Nolan explained in an interview. The

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 protects student educational records -- including judicial records -- from being made public.

"This is a racist act. It is not ok to be racist."

—Brock Blomberg
President

The Clery Act of 1990 requires colleges to release publicly the final results of the student conduct process "in cases where the violation of a College policy is also determined to be a 'crime of violence,'" according to the Student Handbook.

In this case, the College

cannot disclose what disciplinary sanctions were given to the student because it was defined as bias incident, not a hate crime. However, "the range of penalties in these kinds of situations usually includes suspension or dismissal," Dean Nolan said.

President Blomberg said he understands why members of the community are concerned.

"People want to make sure that we are serious, and people are held accountable," he said. "Understand the student conduct policy. Have faith in the process, in the students and faculty elected onto these committees."

Although there is not yet a section on how Ursinus defines and addresses bias incidents in the Student Handbook, the Diversity Committee is currently working on policy specific to addressing bias incidents and

hate crimes, Dean Nolan said.

The new bias incident response policy is expected to be published before the start of the fall 2018 semester.

Dean Nolan is also proposing the assembly of a Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) that would directly handle bias incidents, including support and communication to the community.

To file a discrimination complaint based on religion, race, age, disability or sexual orientation, the Guide for Student Concerns suggests contacting the Dean's Office, Campus Safety or Human Resources.

If you have questions specific to the bias incident that occurred last semester, please email Dean Nolan at dnolan@ursinus.edu.

With additional reporting by Emily Shue.

Ursinus announces nursing affiliation with Villanova

M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing will accept at least five Ursinus students each year to new dual-degree nursing program

Julie Krasutsky
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Interested Ursinus students may now pursue a dual-degree in nursing thanks to the announcement of a five-year accelerated track in collaboration with Villanova University's nursing college, Vice President Mark Schneider announced Jan. 7.

The Villanova University M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing will allow Ursinus students who are interested in pursuing a nursing degree to easily transition to Villanova's 14-month second-degree program after graduation.

The Villanova's Accelerated BSN Program for College Graduates provides Ursinus students the ability to pursue the nursing track when they decide to attend Ursinus.

Students will have to choose this track as soon as possible and agree to apply after completing their degree at Ursinus. Villanova and Ursinus have agreed to accept at least five Ursinus graduates to the program every year.

According to the Ursinus website, in order to be eligible

for the program, Ursinus students will have to first finish four their four years of undergraduate studies at Ursinus.

During their time at Ursinus, students will also have to complete the undergraduate prerequisites courses mutually agreed upon by both Ursinus and Villanova. After completing these undergraduate requirements, students will then have Interested Ursinus students may now pursue a dual-degree in nursing thanks to the announcement of a five-year accelerated track in collaboration with Villanova University's nursing college, Vice President Mark Schneider announced Jan. 7.

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"Students interested in nursing now have a new way to obtain the credentials they need to launch their career."

—Sharon Hansen
Interim Director, CPD

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During their time at Ursinus, students will also have to complete the undergraduate prerequisites courses mutually agreed upon by both Ursinus and Villanova. After completing these undergraduate requirements, students will then have to successfully complete Villanova's admission requirements before beginning the transition into the second-

degree program.

Mark Schneider, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, was quoted on the Ursinus website stating that "Dual-degree programs like the Villanova partnership allow students to enjoy all the benefits of a full liberal education and still gain the skills and credentials that are such valuable preparation for a career."

Sharon Hansen, interim director of Career and Professional Development also shared her excitement about the program.

"Ursinus is pleased to offer this partnership with Villanova's Accelerated BSN Program for College Graduates. Students interested in nursing now have a new way to obtain the credentials they need [to] launch their career," said Hansen.

Freshman Molly Divis, who came to Ursinus wanting to pursue a nursing track, is especially excited for the new partnership.

"Villanova is a great nursing school with an amazing reputation. It's a really cool opportunity for Ursinus students who are interested in this path and provides connections that we

haven't had before," said Divis.

Abby Goldstein, a junior tour guide, spoke about how the new program will help recruit students to Ursinus. "As a tour guide, I've given tours to prospective students [wanting] to go into nursing.

In the past, I've had to explain to them that most students who attend Ursinus will major in a biological science and go on to apply to a nursing school of their choice. Now I'll have the opportunity to boast about this amazing program that Ursinus and Villanova have put together. It's promising, and should definitely bring in more students to the college."

The program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and is also fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. This Villanova Nursing Program is only affiliated with Ursinus and University of the Sciences.

Students who are interested in this program should the Career and Professional Development Office at career@ursinus.edu to receive more information on the requirements.

Tune in to “Tune Out”

Ursinus student Tommy Armstrong premieres his movie at the Colonial Theatre

Kevin Leon
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Sophomore student Tommy Armstrong is set to premiere his movie, “Tune Out,” at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, PA. Admission is free.

“Tune Out” is a musical comedy about depression. It is the final product of a project Armstrong set out to complete last spring. “Tune Out” was an idea pitched at last year’s Be Entrepreneurial and ROAR (BEAR) Innovation Competition hosted by Ursinus’ U-imagine Center. Armstrong received funding for the project when he was awarded the “Ready, Set, Go!” prize, an award handed to the team most prepared to start their venture.

In “Tune Out,” a college senior begins to imagine the people she dislikes breaking into song and dance. It is a satirical portrayal of the issues

the protagonist, who suffers from depression, faces, and because of that, the genre oscillates between comedy and drama.

The idea for the film came out of works Armstrong wrote concerning his own experiences with depression and anxiety for his intro to creative writing class with Dr. Jon Volkmer. These writings turned into conversations with himself, the highlights of which were funny and meaningful moments.

“I typed up the journal transcripts and made a story out of it, which was pretty well received by the class, and then I thought, ‘what’s a funny way to talk about dissociation, depression, and death?’” said Armstrong.

Simultaneously, Armstrong discovered the memoirs of his grandfather, Ken Johnson, which cataloged his experience with depression. Ken detailed how his household played a huge role in the emotional trauma he

inherited. A notable aspect of the memoirs was Johnson’s focus on people who loved to laugh. He never laughed much as a child, so in his memoirs, the people he met who loved to laugh left the strongest impressions. These memoirs inspired Armstrong’s production of “Tune Out.”

“What’s a funny way to talk about dissociation, depression, and death?”

— Tommy Armstrong
Student

At the time, Armstrong felt that his movie would help approach the subject of depression in an empowering way. He admits that depression plays an important role in his life – it affects him daily. Consequently, writing became a way for him to cope.

Armstrong paid close attention to how he chose to write

about depression. He wanted to be as fair and conscientious as possible. He went through drafts of the script, figuring out which tone would most adeptly reflect each character. He discovered that it’s easy to make a frustrated, depressed character unlikable.

“A lot of films that tackle depression face that problem with little success. They either create an honest film whose protagonist you don’t root for, or a film with a likable character that trivializes depression,” Armstrong said.

Since “Tune Out” is a musical, it threw another learning curve into the mix. Armstrong had to learn everything about musicals and their moving parts in just over twelve months.

Andrew McSwiggan 20’ and Morgan Dickerman, a friend of Tommy, came on board for the musical composition. The film’s cast is a collection of Ursinus students and faculty. Some of the featured cast members are Claire

Hughes 20’ as ‘Ken,’ Dr. Meghan Brodie as the therapist ‘Joan Portnoy,’ Dr. Rebecca Roberts as Ken’s mom ‘Carol,’ Mya Flood 18’ as ‘Morgan,’ Codi Yhap 20’ as ‘Scot,’ and Prof. Dominick Scudera as ‘Prof. Rubin.’

Students will be able to leave a donation at the movie’s premiere. All proceeds will go to the Treatment Advocacy Center. It is an organization that provides mental health resources for those who lack access.

Armstrong is currently planning his next project, a miniseries called High Education. It is a satire about the role of education today, with focuses on student culture, social practices, and drugs. Anyone is invited to contact him at toarmstrong@ursinus.edu if they would like to get involved.



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Photo courtesy of Tommy Armstrong

A screenshot from Tommy Armstrong’s “Tune Out” featuring the film’s protagonist Ken, played by sophomore Claire Hughes.

A thank you to Facilities Services

As the creators of the Fall ‘17 installation, *Scene/Unseen*, we would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues in Facilities Services for their tireless work in installing and maintaining the exhibition. Facilities Services not only exceeded our expectations in terms of the logistics of the project; they were also kind, funny and enthusiastic co-workers. Their generosity in supporting this project was a great service to the Ursinus family. Thank you: Jamie Thompson, Ted Geigus, Jeff Williams, Bob Stillman, Kyle Heimer, James Shaw, Liz Robb.

From Profs. Julin Everett (French) and Cari Freno (Art)

Campus safety welcomes a new family member

William McCoy joins the Ursinus community as the newest campus safety officer

Xichang Wu
xiwu@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus family welcomed a new member this winter when William McCoy joined Campus Safety as its newest safety officer on Jan. 9.

McCoy grew up in Norristown and visited Ursinus many times before being hired. As an avid football fan from an early age, McCoy has often enjoyed watching the Ursinus football team play over the years.

Said McCoy, “The first time I visited Ursinus College was for the homecoming football game thirteen years ago through the Big Brother Big Sister program.” Twelve years later, in 2017, McCoy worked at a security company, Advanced Security, but was happy to come back to Ursinus during the homecoming football game to lend “an extra hand” for Campus Safety.

McCoy has a long professional history of working in the security business. He worked in security in the King of Prussia Mall, the Sheraton Hotel, and for Perkiomen High School. He was excited to start his new job at Ursinus.

“The staff is very family oriented.”

— William McCoy
Campus Safety Officer

“I love Ursinus,” McCoy said, adding that “the staff is very family oriented.”

Along with the enthusiasm



Photo courtesy of Amelia Goldstein

Newest campus safety officer, William McCoy, looks right at home in his new position in the campus safety office.

McCoy holds for this new job, he appreciates the free education opportunity that Ursinus provides for him to complete his bachelor’s degree.

Said McCoy, “This job will influence my life in a positive way... I say that for the simple fact that I will be able to attain a degree free [of] charge and at my own pace.”

McCoy previously attended Lincoln University, the United States’ first historically black college, where he pursued a degree in Sociology, but fell short of completion. He is looking forward to finishing his needed-

courses by enrolling in Ursinus’ summer programs. After college, he wants to continue his academics in the discipline of school psychology.

“I want to guide [young] students [in] the right direction,” said McCoy.

McCoy believes that environment plays a big factor in shaping young students psychologically. McCoy was the only kid that went to college on his neighborhood block besides his sister, a history that shaped his passion for guiding young students. Said McCoy, “I want other kids to know that there are other

options.”

He is particularly interested in studying ADHD among young children. “I want to [learn more about how] kids are diagnosed [with ADHD] and misdiagnosed” said McCoy.

“I want to guide [young] students [in] the right direction.”

— William McCoy
Campus Safety Officer

McCoy also spoke about his predecessor, Gary Hodgson,

who unexpectedly passed away earlier this month after serving the Campus Safety Office for 27 years.

Said McCoy, “I’m not here to fill his shoes . . . I’m here to add some love to that void space in [the staff’s] hearts. So, I think it’s my goal to . . . learn from the teachings that [Hodgson] taught them and [use those teachings to] become a great asset to the team. [So far, they’ve shown] me nothing but positivity and love.”

As to some added advice to campus in the next few weeks, McCoy encouraged the community to “stay warm!”

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Free Introductory LSAT Prep Course 7 p.m. Olin 101	“Traversing the African Diaspora: Slavery and Brazilian-African Return Migration 4:30 p.m. Bear’s Den	Late Night Pancakes 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. Upper Wismer	Hubbs and Friends Faculty Recital 4 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium	Founders Day All Day	Faculty Retirement Celebration 4 - 5:30 p.m. Black Box Theater	



Student calls for change regarding racial bias incident

Kim Corona

kicorona@ursinus.edu

On Dec. 14, during final weeks of the Fall 2017 semester, a student wrote a racial slur in the snow on campus. Debbie Nolan, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, sent out an email later that day to notify students and faculty about the incident. Although I was enraged when I found out, I wasn't surprised. This incident is just one of many on this campus, though they may not all be officially reported. Many students of color have been verbally attacked by their white peers. As a Mexican female, I'm frightened not only for my own safety but for the safety of every other minority student on campus. My experience at Ursinus for the past year and a half has taught me that racism and ignorance occur every day and often go unnoticed by the administration. However, the incident itself was not the

worst part.

In the email Nolan sent out, she titled the subject as "bias incident." According to Georgetown University, a bias incident is an act that is motivated by racism and other forms of prejudice. This includes, but isn't limited to: religion, ethnicity, gender and more. It is different from a hate crime in that it doesn't involve criminal activity. However, the fact that the incident did not physically harm someone does not erase the harm the assailant committed against minority students on campus through fear. The act was a form of hate speech that was motivated by racism. The administration should reconsider the rhetoric used to identify the incident as hate speech rather than a bias.

When incidents of racism occur on campus, justice is never served. Yes, the assailant came forward and received "disciplinary sanctions." But because these sanctions are confidential, we

have no way of knowing what the typical punishment would be. Nevertheless, the disciplinary sanctions do not fully resolve the situation, but only continue to cause speculation surrounding the identity of the student and the administration's disciplinary process.

The end of Nolan's email stated, "It is an essential value of Ursinus that all should feel welcome, included and safe on our campus." Personally, it makes it difficult to believe the administration's statements about inclusivity and safe spaces for all students when I often feel like the way they handle these situations indicates that they don't care about students of minority races, genders, and sexual orientations.

The use of racial slurs and other incidents like this don't just occur on college campuses, but everywhere in society. These issues have always existed and if you refuse to believe it, you're a

part of the problem. When these incidents occur, I feel like I'm constantly reiterating the same arguments that say derogatory terms are never acceptable to say, that racism continues to be prevalent within society, that class systems exist, and that there's no such thing as "reverse racism." However, individuals continue to stay ignorant, ignoring these arguments made by marginalized groups who suffer from these problems. As a Mexican woman, I have become frustrated that certain individuals don't understand the concept of respecting basic human rights, but then I'm reminded that this country was founded on racism.

I hope the administration changes the ways in which they handle incidents involving racism. If the administration strives to truly be an inclusive campus that is safe for everyone, they should stand by that belief and fight for students who are targeted. I

understand that this incident had to be dealt with confidentially; however, the administration should seek ways to better prioritize the victims and all marginalized groups. This includes providing protection by having campus safety escort students on campus if they're scared. The school could also hold town hall discussions where students could provide their own points of view about how these issues should be handled between students and administration. The most important thing the administration can do is to listen to the student body, specifically minority students. Appropriate punishable consequences should be meted out to those who commit these crimes, and the administration should be transparent about this disciplinary process. The lives that have been targeted deserve to be protected, and it starts with the school taking full responsibility for their poor actions.

Ansari allegations can help colleges communicate about consent

Paige Szmodis

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After the Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 7 featured actors wearing #TimesUp pins for sexual assault awareness, a piece published by babe.net added a new layer of depth to current conversations about sexual assault and consent. The article, titled "I went on a date with Aziz Ansari. It turned into the worst night of my life," describes a woman under the pseudonym Grace and her experience of feeling violated and sexually coerced while on a date with actor and comedian Aziz Ansari. In response, Ansari, who expressed support for #TimesUp at the Golden Globes, officially stated his continued support of the #MeToo movement and his belief that his sexual activity with Grace was "completely consensual."

Since then, the breadth of controversy surrounding the piece has included criticism that the allegations are harming the entire #MeToo movement. Many of these critiques express concern that women are conflating Grace's experience of coercion with more severe

allegations of workplace sexual assault like the Harvey Weinstein case. For instance, a Vox.com article, titled "If Aziz Ansari were a college student, he would likely be expelled. That should alarm us," suggests that the Ansari allegations are detrimental to how college campuses handle cases of sexual assault by treating harassment or coercion as the same punishable offense as assault. However, I think that these allegations actually promote a necessary step toward new approaches to conversations regarding assault and consent, especially on college campuses.

The issue with most criticism of the Ansari allegations is that they misinterpret the true motive behind the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements. Rather than trying to radically change what constitutes sexual assault legally, the purpose of the babe.net piece was to validate Grace's and other women's feelings of violation. The criticisms imply that women and survivors of assault do not understand the differences between sexual harassment, coercion, and assault. But we do understand the differences

between workplace harassment and assault in the film industry by powerful men like Weinstein and a night of coercive behavior in private by a supposed male feminist ally like Ansari. Despite the differences, we should no longer put up with or remain silent about either experiences.

The #MeToo movement should not be solely concerned with ending careers and bringing about legal punishment for men in the Hollywood industry: It must also be able to address and validate all women's experiences of violation. On college campuses, many cases of sexual violence go unreported with only 20% of female student victims reporting to law enforcement according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Grace's report will help more female college students to recognize and report their experiences of sexual violence as well.

However, relegating social, legal, or professional punishment to men like Weinstein or Ansari or even college students is not the end-goal of the #MeToo movement—it is just the beginning. Punishment does not promote

substantive change if we do not seek to understand how we can all do better to communicate about consent.

The babe.net piece sheds light on more common experiences that everyday people and college students can relate to. Therefore, the piece and the controversy surrounding serves as a good resource for college campuses to start changing how we communicate about consent. Certainly colleges must have standards for judging and punishing perpetrators of sexual harassment, coercion, and assault. However, we must also start having conversations that are not about how to defend ourselves from being convicted of sexual misconduct, but rather about how to create healthy, communicative, and consensual relationships.

The Ansari allegations prove that we have much more work to do on college campuses in not only acknowledging consent as a legal issue but also as a gender issue. In conversations about healthy relationships, we must acknowledge how men are socialized to pursue and beg for sex and expect women to eventu-

ally concede and grant them sex. These gendered roles which we embody, often unknowingly, prevent us from communicating effectively, as they assume a person's level of comfort and desire based on gender expectations. Instead of invalidating Grace's story as "not that bad," we must question why women should accept coercive sex as normalized and ask why the responsibility for communicating consent is often placed on women in heterosexual relationships. Encouraging affirmative consent is something we can practice in our everyday relations, whether sexual or not.

When we begin to have conversations about how to have healthy, consensual relations rather than just about how to punish a perpetrator of sexual violence, we also provide the space to re-evaluate past relationships and to grow, learn, and change. After all, in Grace's private text messages to Ansari, she writes that the purpose of her speaking out about her discomfort that night was "to make sure you're aware so maybe the next girl doesn't have to cry on the ride home."

Basketball continued from pg. 8

get when you step on that floor never changes. No better feeling, especially if you grew up going to games there and you have been educated on the history of it. [It] makes you appreciate it that much more!"

As the team continues to power through their season's schedule, they have not been allowing their winning streak to distract them from the task at hand. Each game is played with the same intensity and focus.

Said Janicot, "We really focus

on the present and the game that is ahead of us. Yes, it is great to be doing well and having a streak, but the streak will not matter if we lose in the playoffs. We want to win the conference, and to do that we cannot let ourselves be distracted by the winning streak we are having. We just need to keep getting better and focusing on our next opponent."

The Bears look forward to their playoff push. Janicot remarked, "The exciting part about our team is that we can still get better. There is still room for improvement, and

that is what we need to focus on. We want to play our best basketball as we enter the playoffs so that we can beat the better teams in the conference. As I previously said, we are in a tough conference, with Franklin and Marshall and Swarthmore both nationally ranked, but we belong with them and we will have a chance to demonstrate that when we face them again."

The team hopes to start a new winning streak on Wednesday, Jan. 31 against Franklin and Marshall College.

pating in the training trip for first-year swimmer, Katie Kurzinsky. Said Kurzinsky, "The Florida training trip was a unique experience. It allowed me to strictly focus on swimming with my teammates for 10 days and it showed me what I can handle and what I am capable of. It challenged me to be a better person and swimmer."

Kurzinsky continued, "[The trip] taught me a lot about myself and what I'm capable of doing, and I got the chance to bond with my teammates . . . Coach [Mark Feinberg] really pushed us and I think the team got a lot out of the experience."

The Bears returned to campus from their trip ready to take on the rest of their season, their zeal clearly evident through their most recent performances. The victories against Cabrini and Albright improved the men's record to 6-2, while the women's record moved to 8-0.

The men and women truly stepped up to the challenge when they faced Villanova on Jan. 20, an elite program at the Division I level.

Kurzinsky loved the challenge of facing the Wildcats.

"I enjoyed going up against Villanova. It was cool, and slightly intimidating, to see some really fast swimmers and watch them do their thing, and getting the opportunity to swim against them was awesome," said Kurzinsky.

Added Porter, "Villanova was a great experience and meet . . . It allowed the women's swim team to really engage in races and experience Division I swimming."

Ursinus was able to learn a lot from facing Villanova, despite losing the meet.

"Going up against a challenging team puts you in a good mindset for heading towards a championship meet. You know it's going to be hard but you tell yourself you can do it and perform the best you can," said Kurzinsky.

The women's dual-meet winning streak was snapped at 56

by Villanova, but they put up impressive performances despite the 178-81 loss.

Junior Peyton Lyons finished in first place in the 100 back while senior co-captain Meggie Leitz and first-year swimmer Becca Warren each had second place finishes. The ladies also had several third-place finishes throughout a multitude of events.

In the men's meet against Villanova, sophomore Dan Powell finished first in the 1000 freestyle with the team's second-best time of the season in that event (10:09.61).

Freshman Mikey Prior also took home a first-place finish in the 200 back.

Prior, junior Devin Nielsen, senior Colin McNamara, and junior Travis Venables took home a third-place finish in the 200-medley relay against Villanova.

Sophomore Jake Menzer came in second in the 500 freestyle. A couple more third-place finishes for the Bears rounded out an impressive day for the men and women as they begin to turn their focus towards the Centennial Conference Championships in late February.

Said Kurzinsky, "I'm really excited to see what the rest of the season brings. We have a few dual meets left to practice our events before championships. I'm especially excited to see what our team will do at champs. I think we are really going to do something special there."

"The team is training in rigorous swim practices and is attacking each practice. I believe that the team will be very competitive at the conference championships. I believe this year will be one of the best swim seasons in Ursinus College women's swimming history," said Porter.

The Bears take on Washington College at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center.



Photo courtesy of Dave Morgan/Stylish Images

The men and women combined for three first-place finishes in losses to Division-I Villanova

Swim team travels to Florida impresses against Villanova

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The Ursinus College swim teams kept active over their winter break, taking advantage of the time off from classes by training on campus and in Florida.

This nonstop activity proved to be successful for the two aquatic teams. Upon their return to campus, both teams won two meets in

as many against Cabrini and Albright on Jan. 12 and 13, respectively, and they had an impressive performance against the Division I opponent, Villanova University, on Jan. 20.

Some of this success for the team could be attributed to their recent winter exploits. Senior co-captain Katherine Porter tremendously valued the teams trip to Florida, citing it as an opportu-

nity for the team to focus on team bonding and perfecting their craft for a week.

"The training trip in Florida was a great opportunity for the team to bond and get closer. In addition, we put a lot of hours of training in the pool and in the weight room despite the [uncharacteristically] cold weather that [we got] in Florida," said Porter.

This was the first time partici-

Scores as of Monday, January 29, 2018

Wrestling (5-5)	Track and Field	Gymnastics	M. B-Ball (13-6)	W. B-Ball (9-11)	M. Swimming (7-3)	W. Swimming (9-1)
January 21: Temple U: 18 Ursinus: 33	January 20: Collegeville Classic	January 21: West Chester U: 192 Ursinus: 187	January 20: McDaniel Coll: 65 Ursinus: 69	January 23: Ursinus: 55 #16 Muhlenberg: 89	January 12: Cabrini Coll: 73 Ursinus: 126	January 13: Ursinus: 135 Albright Coll: 70
January 23: Muhlenberg Coll: 24 Ursinus: 20	Men: 5th of 24 Women: 6th of 19	January 26: @Towson U: 4th of 4 (187.425)	January 25: Ursinus: 80 Haverford Coll: 72	January 25: Ursinus: 43 Haverford Coll: 65	January 20: Ursinus: 90 Villanova U: 170	January 20: Ursinus: 81 Villanova U: 178
January 28: Ursinus: 12 #17 Stevens: 35			January 27: Johns Hopkins U: 75 Ursinus: 56	January 27: Johns Hopkins U: 70 Ursinus: 51	January 27: Ursinus: 134.5 Franklin and Marshall Coll: 127.5	January 27: Ursinus: 173 Franklin and Marshall Coll: 89



Photo courtesy of Dave Morgan/Stylish Images

The Bears have an overall record of 13-6, shooting 48.1 percent from the field and 37.4 percent from 3-point land as a team.

Eight straight wins for men's hoops

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The Ursinus College men's basketball team's eight-game winning streak was snapped by Johns Hopkins on Saturday, Jan. 27. Following their 80-72 victory against Haverford on Jan. 25, this was the program's longest winning streak in a decade. Ursinus was at the top of the Centennial Conference (CC), but after the loss at John Hopkin's, they are now third in the CC.

Despite this slight setback, senior Remi Janicot is not surprised by the success the 13-6 Bears have been having this season.

"Being a senior, I know how much work we have put in the last three years, and it is finally starting to pay off. We play in a really tough conference, every game is hard to win, but I knew starting from preseason that we could have something special and [have] the potential of being a championship caliber team," said Janicot.

Senior co-captain Brian Rafferty agreed with Janicot.

Said Rafferty, "We [seniors] have been building towards this since we were freshmen. My freshman year we started our season 0-7. We have come so far and that is because we are the hardest working team in the league. All the workouts, pick-up games, two-a-days . . . have all been leading to what we are trying to achieve which is a Centennial Championship and we still have a lot of work to do . . . right

now we just take it day by day."

This season's success brings with it a different feeling than previous years.

Janicot explains, "I think we have a more mature team than what we [have] had [in] previous years. My freshman year, we started three freshmen and had no seniors. It was obviously tough to beat any team we faced. We have been rebuilding this program for a few years now and the results are showing."


The team played at the Palestra

at the University of Pennsylvania (U-Penn), often called the "Cathedral of College Basketball," during winter break. The players were excited for this opportunity to play on U-Penn's historic court.

Said Rafferty, "The coolest part about playing at the Palestra was the atmosphere. I have been lucky to be able to play there a couple times in my basketball career so far and honestly the feeling you

See **Basketball** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Wed. Cont.	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Monday	Tuesday
Women's Basketball: 7 p.m.: vs. Franklin and Marshall Coll.	Men's Basketball: 7 p.m.: @Franklin and Marshall Coll.		Wrestling: 11 a.m.: vs. McDaniel Coll. and Gettysburg Coll. (@McDaniel Coll.)	Track and Field: Frank Colden Invitational	Gymnastics: 7 p.m.: @West Chester U	Women's Basketball: 7:30 p.m.: vs. Swarthmore Coll.
			M&W Swimming: 1 p.m.: vs. Washington Coll.	Women's Basketball: 2 p.m.: @Washington Coll.	Men's Basketball: 4 p.m.: @Washington Coll.	