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## The Grizzly, April 19, 2018

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## U-Imagine Center announces winners of Innovation Competition

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On April 8, the U-Imagine center awarded five groups of students cash prizes to pursue their original entrepreneurial endeavors.

According to the Ursinus website, The Be Entrepreneurial and ROAR (BEAR) Innovation Competition hosted by Ursinus' U-Imagine Center is a "big idea" competition for students from any major or in any year of study at Ursinus. Winning teams receive cash prizes and the opportunity to apply for acceptance to Avenue V, a summer program that will support continued venture development.

This was the competitions fifth year. Thirteen teams made it to the final stage of the competition, according to an email announcement by U-Imagine, making for a competitive race. The top three teams were awarded \$3,500, \$2,500, and \$1,500. Other teams were awarded cash for the Ready, Set, Go prize and Best Oral Presentation.

The first place prize went to seniors Allie Cook and Heath Hilday for their "WERS Food Forest", an initiative to implement a three-acre food forest at The Robert and Shurley Knaefler Whittaker Environmental Research Station (WERS), an eleven-acre facility used for experimental approaches to sustainable agriculture. Once in place, the food forest will give people the ability to harvest local fruits, nuts, and herbs in WERS while learning about these various plant species in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to visit the outdoor classroom and local landowners can learn about different forms of natural and native landscaping.

Cook noted that the parts of the project her team struggled with the most was the financial and marketing aspects.

"Market analysis and the financial analysis, we struggled with the language at first. But after the dress rehearsal on Friday we got some good feedback from the judges and were able to strengthen our business pitch for the actual competition," said Allie.

Second place went to sophomore Tommy Armstrong for his narrative film project, "High Education". This satirical film series will be comprised of 16 episodes that follow a neuroscience student, Constance Penn. The series will explore college student culture, social practices, and drugs. Armstrong was also a participant in last year's competition, where he won the prize for most prepared for his comedy-musical film, "Tune Out." Armstrong felt that this time, the competition allowed him to refocus his project and build on his presentation skills.

"The presentation part of the project taught me how to sell the project. Why is this worthwhile? What will I do with it? Why do it? I was watching the film of the competition from last year and boy, was I a nervous beanstalk. I tried to have a lot more personality and presence during this competition and sell the project," said Armstrong.

Third place went to senior Robin Gow for "Trans-cendent Connections". Gow's non-profit organization hopes to pair transgender adults and college students with trans teens in order to provide participants with support. This support would not focus so much on mentoring but would provide a sense of community outside of school spaces, spaces which can often feel isolating. These "sibling-

See **Innovation** on pg. 2



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

Winners of the U-Imagine Center's BEAR Innovation Competition show off their prize money. The money will help fund their entrepreneurial ideas.

## Ursinus receives grant for IDC

*The George I. Alden Trust awarded the college \$175,000 to go towards finishing the Innovation and Discovery Center*

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Ursinus received a \$175,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust in late March for the Innovation and Discovery Center (IDC), which is scheduled to open Fall of 2018. According to the Alden Trust's website, one of the Trust's main focus is on supporting undergraduate education. The Ursinus website describes the aim of the Alden Trust as "the promotion of education in schools, colleges, or other educational institutions."

Jill Leuber Marsteller, who is Ursinus' Senior Vice President for Advancement commented, "Ursinus has had a long partnership with George I. Alden Trust and they are staunch supporters of the mission of our college."

She added, "This generous grant demonstrated the depth of their belief in our direction and Ursinus is grateful for their continued support."

Will Caverly, who is Director of Corporate, Foundation and

Government Relations here at Ursinus described the grant as "A gift of money to be used for particular purposes in accordance with the college's mission."

In compliance with that mission, the grant that was given to Ursinus from the Alden Trust is to "fund the ongoing construction of the IDC," explained Caverly.

According to President Brock Blomberg, "the Innovation and Discovery Center will lead the way in how a new generation of liberal arts undergraduates pursue scientific knowledge."

Caverly expanded on the purpose of the Alden Trust, which according to their website, was established by George I. Alden, a mechanical engineer and academic innovator, in 1912.

"George I. Alden was a man driven to help society through nurturing an independent mind and spirit. The Trust recognized how we contribute to that educational philosophy here at [Ursinus]," said Caverly.

"The Alden Trust gives primarily to higher education and

has a particular interest in the sciences," added Caverly. "Its founder, George I. Alden, whose fortune fund[s] the foundation, was an entrepreneur, an engineer, and inventor, a teacher, and later a philanthropist. He believed strongly in the value of education. Nearly [a] hundred years after it was established, the Trust creates opportunit[ies] using his fortune."

Caverly also explained that the Trust will only fund "independent colleges and universities," and those schools must be in the New England, New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania area. Caverly added that these grants from the Trust only focus on schools that have "more than 1,000 and less than 5,000 students."

This grant is not the first that Ursinus has received from the Trust. Caverly explained that the last grant Ursinus received from the Alden Trust was for "renovations of the labs in the basement of Thomas."

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Ursinus is eligible to “propose a new project [to the Alden Trust] every three years,” according to Caverly. The college takes advantage of this, proposing projects whenever eligible in order to “maintain a long term relationship between [Ursinus College] and the Alden Trust,” said Caverly.

The Alden Trust wanted to have this year’s proposal by the end of 2017. According to Caverly, this year’s proposal contained “enrollment data and financial data,” while the rest was “a narrative description of the IDC project.”

Caverly explained that the proposal “came together with the help of many individuals around the college.”

Caverly expanded on the application process behind the grant. First Ursinus “scheduled a visit last fall for President Blomberg and I [Caverly] to go to the [Alden Trust’s] headquarters in Worcester, MA [in order to make sure] the foundations ongoing mission to promote educational institutions like ours fit[s] in with

our goals.” Caverly and Blomberg then met with the Board of the Alden Trust to discuss “the strategic plan for Ursinus, the positive direction of the college, and how the IDC fits into the [college’s] Keep the Promise sesquicentennial campaign.”

Said Caverly, “[The IDC] Is part of our faculty-led ‘Science 2020’ initiative, [which is] a grassroots, long term conversation about modernizing our science infrastructure on campus.”

Caverly explained that the school decided to propose the IDC project this year because “the Alden Trust has an emphasis on science education and they had supported our science capital projects in the past.”

“[The IDC] is one of our most ambitious building projects to date,” Caverly added.

The awarded money will go towards the IDC’s \$29 million-dollar budget. Caverly explained that the college has raised over \$16 million dollars for the 29 million dollar IDC so far and added that the school is “incredibly grateful” to receive the additional funding through the Alden Trust.



Photo courtesy of Paige Szmodis

Students pose with intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis after signing banner demanding justice for intersex children.

**Innovation** continued from pg. 1

ships” would focus on helping trans teen find local resources, self-advocate, and transition to college and the professional world.

Explained Gow on the difficulties in presenting his idea, “The hardest part [doesn’t have] anything to do with running the organization but more so communicating the need to people who aren’t trans or LGBTQ. I had to do research to illustrate the urgent need for more resources for trans youth. The national study done by GLSEN in 2015 was really helpful [in] conveying the obstacles trans youth face in public schools.”

The competition also featured two smaller prizes: the Ready, Set, Go Prize, awarded to the team most prepared to start their venture, and the Best Oral Presentation Prize.

First-year student Erickson

Hirn was awarded the Ready, Set, Go Prize for his start-up action photography business.

Seniors Saloni Parikh and Michael Esposito won Best Oral Presentation for “Health Alliance for Migrant Laborers (HAML)”. HAML aims to provide comprehensive health services to migrant laborers working in the United States. It is an alternative pathway for migrant laborers to receive accessible, affordable, and culturally-appropriate health-care services.

The Be Entrepreneurial and ROAR (BEAR) Innovation Competition only happens once a year, but any student interested in jumpstarting an original idea or curious about the entrepreneurial world is free to contact or schedule an appointment with the U-Imagine Center at [ulmage@ursinus.edu](mailto:ulmage@ursinus.edu) or the Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Maureen Cumpstone at [mcumpstone@ursinus.edu](mailto:mcumpstone@ursinus.edu).

## Intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis screens short film

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On Thursday, Apr. 12, intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis screened their short film, “The Son I Never Had.” A Q&A session in Musser Auditorium followed the screening. The event was sponsored by the Institute for Inclusion and Equity, Peer Advocates, the Rainbow Resource Center (RRC), the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), and Feminists in Action.

Dr. Edward Onaci introduced Pagonis’ work, which has been featured in publications such as *Everyday Feminism* and *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dig-*

nity. Pagonis has also appeared on the Amazon show *Transparent* and was one of nine LGBT people honored as a Champion of Change in 2015 by the Obama Administration.

Before the film, Pagonis gave a short presentation about what it means to be intersex, an umbrella term that refers to people who are born with any range of sex characteristics that may not fit traditional conceptions about male or female bodies. Intersex can refer to dozens of different variations in chromosomes, genitals, secondary sex characteristics, and internal organs like testes and ovaries.

Pagonis’s presentation emphasized that intersex people are

more common than you think: 0.5-1.7% of people are born with intersex traits—about the same amount of people born with red hair. In addition to increasing the visibility of intersex people, Pagonis’s activist work also resists unnecessary and non-consensual surgeries that up to 1/2000 children undergo to make their bodies conform to traditional notions of male or female sexes.

Pagonis also clarified that intersex is not the same as being transgender, and that intersex people can identify as a range of gender identities that aren’t

See Pagonis on pg. 3

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Photo courtesy of Pamela Panarella

Parents and alumni meet for Professor Domenick Scudera's Philadelphia (Theater) Experience.

## Class offers alumni and parents a taste of the Philadelphia (Theater) Experience

**Sarah Hojsak**  
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This spring, Ursinus alumni and parents have the opportunity to explore Philadelphia's rich theater scene thanks to a unique program being offered by the College.

The Philadelphia (Theater) Experience, now in its second year, is organized by the Office of Alumni Relations and hosted by theater professor Domenick Scudera. The program was inspired by the semester-long Philadelphia Experience program offered to students, which will enter its third year this coming fall.

While the Philadelphia Experience program, known colloquially as PhillyX, allows students the opportunity to live, study and intern in the city, it also encourages them to immerse themselves in the arts and culture Philadelphia has to offer, using the city as a textbook.

With that model of experiential learning in mind, the idea to create a similar program for parents and alumni emerged. The result is PhillyX's theatrical counterpart: the four week long Philadelphia (Theater) Experience.

"We believed with the success of the student Philadelphia Experience we could duplicate a similar mini-experience for alumni and parents," said Executive Director of Alumni and Par-

ent Relations, Pamela Panarella.

Professor Scudera serves as a guide for the program's participants; his expertise allows for a rare "insider's" look into the theater world.

Scudera taught Intro to Theater in the PhillyX program when it first began. Although Ursinus typically offers the same course on campus, being in Philadelphia allowed Scudera to take students to a different theatrical production each week.

"It was exciting and I posted pictures on Facebook," Scudera said. "A number of alums who are my Facebook friends commented that they wished they [had been] able to take a course like that when they were in college. That got me thinking: why not offer a mini-version of the experience for alumni?"

That's how the Philadelphia (Theater) Experience got its start. The program was expanded to include parents as well as alumni in order to broaden the scope of people who could attend.

Once the idea arose, Scudera said it was actually pretty easy to get the program implemented. "I have been part of the Philadelphia theater community since 1992, so I have lots of friends working in theater in the city. Philadelphia's theater community is welcoming and supportive and [the community has] been kind in accommodating our group's needs," Scudera said.

"There is nothing better than

[experiencing] a live performance and to talk with the artists afterward. We are fortunate to live so close to a supportive and welcoming theater community that has had a long and varied history," added Scudera.

The first week of the program takes the form of an introductory, CIE-style class session titled "Philadelphia Theater in Context." The next three weeks bring participants to three diverse plays at different theaters throughout the city.

According to Panarella, Scudera "is making all the magic happen by selecting the shows, leading the CIE-like lecture and coordinating the group's visits to three different Philadelphia theaters, including special director's talks and back-stage tours."

The first play of this year's program was Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Lantern Theater Company. On April 19, participants will see Michael Frayn's *Noises Off* at the Walnut Street Theater, and the following week will bring them to 1812 Productions for a performance of Michael Hollinger's *Hope & Gravity*.

Panarella also explained that an unintended consequence of the program has been the relationships that have formed among the participants.

"They have enjoyed spending time together so much that they are meeting before the theater performances for dinner, carpool-

Pagonis continued from pg. 2

dependent on their sex assigned at birth. They explained that not only gender is a social construct, but that sex is as well. Though most people think that "biological sex" is only male or female, the variety of sex classification methods complicate simplistic understandings of sex as an oppositional binary. Pagonis told the audience, "body parts are not inherently male or female, they're just parts."

Student coordinator of the RRC and president of the GSA, Robin Gow said that Pagonis' visit was important because it "[was] powerful to meet older LGBTQ and intersex people who have fought and whose work actively resists systems [like] the medicalization of intersex and trans bodies."

Pagonis' film, "The Son I Never Had," is a short video-diary documentary about their life growing up intersex. Although Pagonis was assigned female at birth and subjected to surgeries and hormone replacement therapy, they first realized that they were intersex after learning about androgen insensitivity syndrome in college at 19 years old. The film incorporates found footage, family photos, interviews with their parents, and recordings of their medical documents to reveal Pagonis' emotional journey of realizing the lies that doctors had told their parents about having Pagonis having ovarian cancer to justify surgeries such as removing internal testes and cliterodectomies.

Junior Chloe Sheradan reflected on Pagonis' overview on what it means to be intersex and the emotional components of the film.

"I didn't realize that so many doctors lied to parents. I just assumed that they told parents that their kids are intersex," she said. "I think [Pagonis'] work will have everlasting effects on the community . . . Even I just threw I in LGBTQIAP+ for the inclusion, but I was not formally educat[ed] on intersex people ever. I think this will have people

ing into the city and some have even gone on vacation together," she said.

According to Panarella, the Alumni Office is constantly searching for new ways to keep alumni feeling connected to Ursinus with more interesting programs than your average happy hour gathering.

"It's challenging to create unique opportunities and experiences that capture people's attention. This pushes our team to really think creatively about what

questioning their privileges and the ways in which we discuss sex and gender—that's something I'm really excited to see!" Sophomore Bri Voyton also said that "the screening was fantastic, really eye-opening and emotional to learn about Pidgeon's experiences."

"I knew gender was a social construct and a spectrum, but the film and talk taught me that sex is too. There is no black and white with sex and gender and sexuality, and Pidgeon does a really good job of explaining that," Voyton said. "They also put emphasis on sex and gender being a choice, and whether you're intersex or not, you should be able to choose how you identify, and you should especially be able to choose what is done to your body."

Voyton added that Pagonis' films can teach the Ursinus community because "We still have a lot of binary ways of thinking that needs to be broken down, and I don't think most of our community is even aware that intersex people exist on our campus and wider communities."

After showing a shorter clip from the new film they are working on, Pagonis answered a few questions from the audience about their creative process and then invited the audience to sign their banner from past protests and college visits to "demand justice for intersex children." Pagonis provided resources for more intersex education and advocacy programs and proposed ways that allies can contribute to raising awareness about intersex people and oppose non-consensual surgeries that intersex children face.

Gow concluded that "having such a prominent activist in the movement on campus is a hugely important event for visibility and education."

"I also learned just better new ways to approach talking about gender and sex as a social construct," Gow said. "We're so lucky to have had them come."

innovative and unique programs we provide that offer value," Panarella said.

The Philadelphia (Theater) Experience saw a significant increase in interest between last year's 10 participants and this year. All 20 available spots were quickly filled this semester. Will it return for a third year? According to Panarella, the participant increase is "a great indicator of how popular [the program's] become, and we would love to continue offering it."



# Ursinus LGBTQ athletes speak out

*A panel discussion from LGBTQ Ursinus athletes will be held by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance*

**Xichang Wu**  
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The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) will be holding an hour-long panel discussion in the Institute for Inclusion and Equity (IIE) this Wednesday, April 18 at 8 p.m. The panel will feature four openly gay Ursinus athletes: Emily Reeve, Craig Lauer, Kevin Fraser, and Faith Carson.

“The Olympics had a lot of LGBT visibility this year with figure skater Adam Rippon,” said Robin Gow, the president of GSA, explaining the inspirations for this panel.

Gow added, “EJ Madarasz [Assistant Director of Residence Life], was at the out faculty panel last semester, she shared her interesting experience as an out athlete, and also [told us that]

for her master thesis, she focused on studying queer athletes.”

After talking more with Madarasz on the subject, Gow thought it was a good time to discuss topics surrounding gay athletes on campus on a larger scale.

Gow admitted that as he started to plan for the event it was initially difficult to pull the panel together, but the process became easier after he talked to some of the gay athletes.

“Everyone was so supportive,” said Gow.

Gow was very conscious of the potential for tokenizing the out athletes. He didn’t want athletes to feel obligated to speak just because of their identity and sexuality. Yet, Gow explained that almost everyone he spoke to was very approachable and

enthusiastic about this panel.

Madarasz, who helped to inspire Gow to organize the event, said, “There are so many stereotypes surrounding the athletic world. Some gay people may not [want] to come out because they think their team is going to stereotype them, but maybe the team won’t . . . a lot of time it’s a leap of faith on both sides.”

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*“Some gay people may not [want] to come out because they think their team is going to stereotype them.”*

— EJ Madarasz  
Assistant Director of Residence Life

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Emily Reeve, a junior rugby player, opened up about her

high school experience as a gay athlete. She explained that not many athletes were out in her high school, and “if you tapped [someone] on the shoulder in a wrong way or look[ed] at people in a wrong way” you could stir a certain level of discomfort or awkwardness.

In high school, Reeve explained that she was afraid that if she missed a goal or made a mistake in the field, people might use her queer identity against her. She also felt a lot of social pressure to “act straight,” which in one way or another influenced her athletic performance, because she wanted to fit in with everyone else.

Reeve believes the lack of gay role models also played a part in this psychology, and she is really appreciative of the professional athletes who have come out in recent years. She thinks that these professional players can be role models for later generations of gay athletes. Reeve believes Ursinus is a much safer environment than her high school, however, and now enjoys the accepting environment that college provides. She even suggested that gay athletes who are not yet open about their identity come out to the community.

Craig Lauer supported this picture of Ursinus as a safe environment for gay athletes. “The most loveable weirdos in the world” are the words Lauer, a sophomore distance runner, used to describe his fellow teammates on the Ursinus cross-country team.

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*“The track team here at Ursinus was a group of the most supportive people I’ve ever met.”*

— Craig Lauer  
Sophomore Runner

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Lauer considers himself lucky to have never been asked to conform to a stereotypes of masculinity for his sport.

Said Lauer, “The track team here at Ursinus was a group of the most supportive people I’ve ever met, they are so kind and make me feel welcomed and accepted.”

Similar to Reeve, Lauer’s high school experience was not as free and accepting as college. He talked about a time when his teammate overheard another teams’ coach tell a student to “not let the gay kids beat you.”

Lauer won that race but was upset that teachers and coaches would impose a problematic and homophobic masculinity on young teenagers. He was worried that the student the coach spoke to could be a closeted member of the queer community.

Lauer believes gay stereotypes are not healthy for athletic environments. Said Lauer, “I know I shouldn’t, but I’m always worried that people might not assume that I’m a serious competitor if they find out that I’m gay.”

This is one of the concerns that EJ Madarasz addresses in her master’s thesis. According to Madarasz, “Sports are very gendered.”

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*“I’m always worried that people might not assume that I’m a serious competitor if they find out that I’m gay.”*

— Craig Lauer  
Sophomore Runner

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Madarasz thinks that it’s very important to have systems in place to help queer athletes. She created a program that teaches coaches to be more inclusive of gay athletes. For example, Madarasz suggests that instead of talking to students about girlfriends or boyfriends, coaches should use inclusive terms like partners or significant other to describe athlete’s partners. The same method should also apply to teammates, by avoiding saying things like “everyone brings a girl to the party” in order to make out and closeted gay teammates feel really welcomed.



Photo courtesy of Ursinus Communications

The panel discussion on LGBTQ athletes will be held in the Institute for Inclusion and Equity.

# Ursinus College Dance Company welcomes spring

*Ursinus' spring UCDC performance will feature guest artists and an African Dance Residency*

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The Ursinus College Dance Company (UCDC) will be performing their annual spring concert from Thursday, April 19 to Saturday, April 21 in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center. UCDC and the Dunya Performing Arts Company will be teaming up for the performance to bring "It's All About Dat Beat: Dancing Resonance" to Ursinus.

Produced by dance professor Karen Clemente, UCDC is well prepared for their long-awaited recital, which they have been practicing for since January 2018. Clemente said, "There are approximately 40 students involved in UCDC this year, [with] 24 dancers and 16 technical crew members."

Other performers will be performing as well, including hip-hop artist Josh Polk and professional choreographer Dana Powers-Klooster, who have both lectured at Ursinus.

Josh Polk, also known as "J Peazy" is a theatre director, performer, and choreographer. According to the Ursinus website and PhiladelphiaDANCE.org, he specializes in hip-hop and funk-style dance, and he has lectured at multiple college campuses, including Ursinus, teaching students about the importance of choreography and the hip-hop community. He currently teaches dance in Philadelphia. Dana Powers-Klooster is the Adjunct Professor of Theater and Dance at Ursinus, and her Ursinus page explains her specialties in jazz and ballet.

According to the Ursinus website, the event will consist of dances from a variety of genres, including transatlantic rhythms and various African-based dances, which will be performed by UCDC and the other featured artists. Powers-Klooster plans on performing her "Roots Unfolding" piece, which examines themes such as nature, family, love, and loss. Polk is dancing his "Fight the Power" piece, focused on how hip-hop brings diversity and unity together as a celebration of cultures.

Powers-Klooster's piece will include Brooke Moses '18. Moses said that she has been involved with numerous types of dance styles and that this is her fourth appearance in a UCDC show. Moses and Powers-Klooster "have been rehearsing for this piece since early March," according to Moses.

*"The pieces, I believe, are going to have a fun and upbeat feeling and hopefully make it an enjoyable night for [their] viewers."*

— Brooke Moses  
Senior Dancer

The African Dance Residency, a special class for Ursinus students, will be performing in the concert as well. Kelsey Jean-Baptiste, a senior media and communication studies and dance major, has been a part of UCDC since her freshman year. She will be performing in the African Dance Residency this year and explained that "the



Photo courtesy of Matthew Wright Fig Tree Photography

The UCDC performances will begin Thursday, April 19 in the Lenfest Theater in the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center.

African Dance Residency is an opportunity that comes every spring semester [when] Jeanine Osayande and Ira Bond teach [participants] different African dances and rhythms."

Moses said, "[The African Dance Residency] have been performing in UCDC [for] the past four years with us. I believe it will be a fun performance especially since this is the first semester they have accepted two student pieces to be a part of the show. The pieces, I believe, are going to have a fun and upbeat feeling and hopefully make it an enjoyable night for its viewers."

"Caravan," one of the accepted pieces in the African Dance Residency, is a collaborative piece with seniors James Darling, Kelsey Jean-Baptiste, and Danielle Jordan. Jean-Baptiste said that "[she] is very excited to perform [the piece] because it deals with a lot of polyrhythms within the beats."

Jean-Baptiste is looking forward to the concert and being able to perform with both UCDC and the African Dance Residency. She said, "I am very excited! It's been really hard because a dancer has to sacrifice so many hours to practice, and that's hard

when you have classes and other extracurriculars. People don't realize the time commitment and the pain that a dancer's body goes through sometimes."

Jean-Baptiste advises audience members to "come in open-minded and leave inspired. Don't take the moment for granted."

Be sure to check out the annual concert for a night of rhythm, dancing, and fun! Students can buy tickets for \$5, and non-Ursinus members can buy them for \$8 either online at ursinus.edu/tickets or at the box office before the concert.

## Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<i>Celebration of Student Achievement All Day</i>	<i>UCDC Spring Concert</i> 7:30 - 9 p.m. Lenfest Theater	<i>Grocery Store Bingo</i> 8 p.m. Lower Wismer	<i>String Ensemble Concert</i> 4 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium		<i>Michael Eric Dyson Lecture</i> 6 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium	<i>"Out" in the Workplace</i> 7 p.m. Institute for Inclusion and Equity





## Ursinus needs more diverse speakers like Reyna Grande

**Kim Corona**  
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Last week, the Latin American Studies Program and Arts & Lectures series presented a talk with Reyna Grande, an award-winning Latina writer, which discussed the topic of undocumented immigration and the current political and societal issues surrounding immigrants, such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Grande also discussed her memoir, “The Distance Between Us,” about her life before and after traveling to the United States from Mexico as an undocumented immigrant.

I attended, not only because she was the first Mexican speaker that I know of to speak at Ursinus during my time here, but because the event would provide an open discussion on the debates surrounding immigration that are currently happening in the United States. Sponsoring these open discussions is important and Ursinus should bring more diverse speakers like Grande to

campus to help promote visibility and educate students about social and political issues affecting people of color.

Grande read an excerpt from her piece “The Displaced” in which she questions the lines between what an “official” refugee is versus an “illegal” immigrant. When Grande described the suffering faced when her family was forced to leave her behind in the U.S., her story reminded me that Grande is just one face out of the millions of immigrants that live in this country.

To be able to share a story that displays vulnerability and struggle is difficult. Grande’s story is able to educate those who can’t see how the ‘other side’ lives. Although I had assumed she was going to give more of a lecture than a reading, Grande’s story was still able to teach something new to the Ursinus community. Her story can serve as a reminder that immigrants, whether they’re undocumented or not, are still human beings. People often

forget that when talking about immigration issues.

*“To be able to share a story that displays vulnerability and struggle is difficult. Grande’s story is able to educate those who can’t see how the ‘other side’ lives.”*

— Kim Corona  
Sophomore

As a result, speakers such as Grande play a valuable role—especially when coming to institutions like Ursinus, where diversity doesn’t really exist. Because much of Collegeville’s surrounding area is conservative, it doesn’t come as a surprise when most, though not all, of the student population share conservative ideologies. Many students have never had their views challenged because they’ve been immersed in communities that believe the same things. For that reason, it is crucial that my peers get exposure to and learn how

other people live. As a young Mexican woman, it was refreshing to have someone that had a somewhat similar background shine light on those who are often voiceless within the political and societal scenes.

I also think that it’s vital for Ursinus to host more guest speakers of color with different backgrounds to come share their stories. To be in a predominately white institution, it definitely becomes tiring for the few minority students to have to explain their views and struggles when harmful rhetoric and wrongful assumptions are thrown around about political topics that many people aren’t educated enough about.

For me personally, such incidents include being mistaken for someone who wasn’t born in the United States, simply because Spanish was the first language I learned. These assumptions frustrate me in a way that people still don’t understand. These many incidents that minority

students face on campus, and the subsequent lack of understanding from peers and even administration, further proves that there’s a lack of understanding about how underrepresented students feel.

This ignorance will continue unless people put in the effort to educate themselves on said issues. People with marginalized identities should not be forced to educate them, but rather the people who need the education should go out of their way to learn more. The effort comes from listening and showing interest in wanting to be educated. To take the pressure off of minority students, who often feel like they must educate their peers on their diverse identities and experiences, Ursinus should invite more guest speakers like Grande to share personal experiences.



## Male toplessness exposes gender politics of body policing

**Robin Gow**  
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With temperatures finally in the 70s this past weekend, I could count at least ten men with their shirts off after stepping outside on campus for no more than thirty seconds. At first, I thought I was annoyed because I’m transgender, and I wish I could have a masculine chest that would allow me to take my shirt off in public. The more I thought about it, the more I realized my frustration was more due to the sheer amount of people who don’t have the ability to take off their shirts or show more skin when it’s hot out because of how much assigned female and gay/bisexual men’s bodies are policed.

I don’t necessarily think cisgender (non-transgender) men should not take off their shirts in public, but we should think about the different, more subtle degrees of privilege our specific bodies allow us. One of those privileges is about how much our bodies are policed, especially as the

weather gets warmer.

The next thing I thought to myself was “Well then why don’t you just take you shirt off—it doesn’t matter!” Nipples look essentially the same no matter your gender, so why do they have to be sexualized on my body and not on other people’s? Some people argue that women’s nipples are sexual organs, but if you’re using that logic then any area on your body that’s sensitive can be a “sexual organ.” Are feet sexual organs because some people use them sexually? These double standards about what counts as sexual parts reveal how we sexualize female bodies to regulate and police them in public.

I decided that if I was going to take my shirt off, I should check the state laws about toplessness. This step itself says a lot about regulations on assigned-female bodies. Cis-men don’t have to Google whether or not they’ll get in trouble with the law for removing their shirt. For the record, Pennsylvania does allow people with breasts to not

wear a shirt in public, but this doesn’t mean that police or other community members won’t give you a hard time.

I scanned Ursinus’s student conduct policy, and we don’t have any specific language regarding a dress code, but there are areas where I could see language that could potentially be used against a person with breasts who decides to take their shirt off in public. For example, Article IV of the “Community Expectations & College policies” states that any action “prohibiting or interfering with classroom instruction or College sponsored events” or “leading or inciting others to interrupt scheduled or normal activities within any campus building or area” is prohibited. Students and administration could use this ambiguous language to make the argument that class, coursework, or campus activities were disrupted by someone with breasts being topless.

Similar subtle language-based arguments have been made on the local high school

level. Recently, a trans man in Boyertown’s school district was accused of “violation of privacy” and even “sexual harassment” for removing his shirt in a locker room with cis-male students. People with assigned-female bodies are forced to think about these ambiguities in policies even if they feel comfortable enough to take off their shirts in public.

Even if going topless is “legal,” we can clearly see that our society doesn’t accept “free nipples.” Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter censor any images of bare breasts. Even when people with breasts wear “acceptable” covering like a bikini or even a low-cut shirt, they’re subject to ridicule and are inherently sexualized. Meanwhile, there are groups of guys parading around with nothing to cover their chests, and for the most part, they’re left alone.

However, I don’t want to overgeneralize. Because bodies come in a variety of shapes and identities, it’s also important to take into account that gay or bisexual

men might face different kinds of judgement or harassment for not wearing a shirt. People of color’s bodies are also often policed, sometimes just for existing in public. In addition, we also don’t talk much about how size-ism, or how discrimination based on size/weight, and body scars plays into the policing of bodies.

This issue might seem like a very small thing to a lot of people, even to people who do have breasts. But I think small things matter and add up to larger inequalities. The comfort required to be able to wear as much or as little clothing as we want reflects more broadly on how comfortable we are navigating this campus that we call home.

No, I didn’t end up taking my shirt off. I wasn’t ready to. But men who do take their shirts off in public should think about how that mundane act reflects the agency written into their bodies and should consider how to better support other people of all genders and sizes who may not have the same privilege.



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The women's team is on a hot stretch as well. On April 12, the team won the Muhlenberg invitational with a team score of 383 on the day. This comes just shortly after their previous tournament in which they came up just short of Alvernia University by only three strokes.

In another close battle in the same tournament, junior Rebecca Chiger fell just shy of the overall tournament victory by a single stroke. Nonetheless, it was a very impressive weekend of golf by Chiger and the entire women's team.

The recent bout of success for the women's team is a sigh of relief. Senior captain Sarah Thompson stated that "it has been an up and down season thus far."

Thompson said, "We are a talented group of golfers who have been playing well this year. We have just been playing some extremely tough competition."

Many of the teams they have squared up against recently have been Division II teams. Reaching up a level has proved to be challenging for the team, but Thompson is proud of the way her team has competed.

She stated, "We've played extremely tough against some bigger schools and for playing up a division... we're always right there with them and have even come close to a couple wins."

On top of the elevated competition, Thompson expressed that the recent weather conditions have also had an effect on their play. With less than ideal golfing conditions the team never lost their sense of optimism. Though it has been tough, the women have battled through it and plan to continue their wave of success to close out their season.



Photo courtesy of Amelia Goldstein

Major League Baseball's pace-of-play proposals have received mixed reviews from the Ursinus College pitching staff.

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posed was the pitch clock. A 20-second pitch clock was put in place in the lower levels of Minor League Baseball last year. The MLB Players Association has adamantly opposed the proposed pitch clock, but it is being implemented in all levels of the minor leagues in 2018. A 15-second clock will be implemented at the Double-A and Triple-A levels with no men on base, and that pitch clock expands to 20 seconds when there are any number of runners on the bases, according to mlb.com. The penalty for not beginning the wind-up in time is a ball awarded to the count on the batter.

There are presently no plans to institute a pitch clock at the collegiate, and especially the Division III level. However, there are mixed opinions among Ursinus College pitchers on the results if the proposed pitch clock hypothetically made its way to the Di-

vision III level.

Said Drea, "I think it is terrible and would be detrimental to a pitcher's ability to dictate the flow of the game. Baserunners would know a pitch is coming soon or a batter would be able to figure out count patterns more easily and effectively take away a pitcher's advantage. Also, one of the biggest keys to pitching is feeling comfortable on the mound, and I think a pitch clock makes pitchers unnecessarily uncomfortable. This pitch clock is stupid and I hope it never makes its way to the majors, along with some of the other ridiculous proposals that Manfred has considered."

Drea alluded to other proposals that have been brought up, and in some cases implemented since Manfred took over. The intentional walk (IBB) rule, where now the manager can just point to first base and say he wants to IBB an opposing player instead of the pitcher having to throw four balls, has been implemented at the ma-

ior league level.

Some other, even more radical, proposals that Drea alluded to include having a runner start on second base every extra inning. This rule was used in the 2017 World Baseball Classic and is being implemented in all levels of the minor leagues, but there are not yet plans to implement that rule into MLB play.

Graber seems to think the proposed pitch clock wouldn't be a big deal.

Said Graber, "I don't think it would be much of an issue because as a staff we all work at a quick pace so the 20 second clock would rarely cause issues for us."

LeDuc takes no issue with the rule, and would be fine with its implementation in the collegiate level.

"I wouldn't have an issue if a 20-second pitch clock were implemented in college. I think 20 seconds is plenty of time in between pitches. I understand

going over 20 sometimes, like if you just threw 3 balls and need to regroup or something. But most of the time, 20 seconds should be plenty," said LeDuc.

The pitch clock would change the nature of baseball, but a mandated quick pace could help keep everyone in the action, according to junior Matt Rapp.

"For our staff, I don't think the pitch clock would have much of an impact. For other teams, however, I think it would have a large impact on the game. A number of teams in our conference are slow, methodical, and tend to slow the game down in between pitches. It is also important to note that to pitch under that type of time constraint, especially as a starter, you would need to be in good physical shape. Personally, I would be ok with it, although I don't think that baseball needs to change at all," said Rapp.

Scores as of Monday, April 16, 2018

M. Lacrosse (2-9)	W. Lacrosse (2-9)	Track and Field	Baseball (9-13-1)	Softball (11-13)	M. Tennis (10-5)	W. Tennis (8-7)
April 6: Ursinus: 10 McDaniel: 7	April 7: Ursinus: 11 McDaniel: 14	March 31: Ursinus Outdoor Invitational	April 10 (14 innings): Ursinus: 6 F&M: 6	April 10: Ursinus: 4 Immaculata: 1	April 10: Haverford: 8 Ursinus: 1	April 10: Haverford: 9 Ursinus: 0
April 14: #11 Franklin and Marshall (F&M): 18 Ursinus: 9	April 14: #5 Franklin and Marshall (F&M): 20 Ursinus: 6	Men: 1st of 10 (146.5 total pts)  Women: 4th of 10 (73 total pts)	April 13: F&M: 26 Ursinus: 12  April 14: Ursinus: 15 Gettysburg: 1	April 14: Game 1: Ursinus: 2 Gettysburg: 4  Game 2 (6 innings): Ursinus: 1 Gettysburg: 9	April 14: Ursinus: 9 McDaniel: 0	April 11: Cabrini: 0 Ursinus: 9  April 14: Ursinus: 9 McDaniel: 0



# Golf squads dominating their spring schedules

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Both the men's and women's golf teams seasons are heating up as they both finished first overall all in their most recent tournaments.

This past weekend, the men's team claimed their first victory of the season as they edged out Swarthmore in a closely contested weekend of play. Collectively, the men shot

a 691 over two days of play.

The team victory was further sweetened as a member of the Ursinus team took first place overall in the whole tournament. Senior captain Ryan Crawford bested the competition this past weekend, shooting an 84 on the first day and 82 on the second for his first overall individual victory of his career, and subsequently the season.

Crawford humbly described

his victory as "unexpected." He said, "I knew heading into the tournament I would have to play well against a talented group of golfers on my own team before I could even think about the additional competition."

However, the additional competition did arrive as Swarthmore proved to be the toughest opponent this weekend, challenging the men's team every step of the way on their path to victory.

Overcoming Swarthmore was a pivotal moment for the men's team this year. Not only was it satisfying to knock off a Centennial Conference opponent, but with the Conference tournament right around the corner, Crawford believes this victory could serve as a big confidence booster heading into the most important weekend of play of the season.

Crawford hopes the team can ride their recent streak of success into the conference tournament and emerge victorious. However, he did acknowledge that the competition will be stiff, as all seven teams from the conference will be competing.

Crawford said, "This is the tightest-knit group of guys that I have played with in my four years at Ursinus. I believe that we'll greatly play to our advantage come the conference tournament."



Photo courtesy of Taylor Schaeffer

Senior Ryan Crawford (pictured) notched his first career win on April 8.

# UC pitching staff weighs in on MLB's pace-of-play proposals

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Major League Baseball (MLB) has instituted new pace-of-play regulations in order to make the game more enticing to watch.

Since the new commissioner, Rob Manfred, took over in Jan. of 2015, he has made it clear that he wants to speed up the pace of play in baseball in order to entice a younger audience and maintain fan engagement.

Pacing has been a major emphasis in the big leagues, but Ursinus College pitchers report a variety of feelings about their pacing in games.

Junior Mark LeDuc says he thinks about his pacing regularly, because Ursinus head coach Stan Exeter emphasizes the importance of a quick pace for his pitching staff: "I definitely think about pace while I'm pitching. Coach Exeter is huge on it and always encourages us to take very little time in between pitches. It makes it a lot harder on hitters, they get uncomfortable and try to call time a lot to get their rhythm back."

Junior LHP (left-handed pitcher) David Drea talks about how important pacing is for a pitcher. "Whether it be to disrupt hitters' timing or to make yourself unpredictable against a baserunner, your pace is something you are continuously trying to use to your advantage and it's always on my

mind."

Sophomore LHP Ben Kerns disagreed with his fellow southpaw. Said Kerns, "I don't really think about it. I focus on making the pitch and identifying the situation when I'm on the mound, but after the play is done I'm focusing on the adjustments needed. We train constantly on keeping a quick pace that it feels already embodied when we go out to pitch."

Freshman righty Nolan Graber agreed with Kerns. "I would say I don't think about my pace while in the game because the way we practice is at a fast pace. . . It is just natural for us to work with a quick pace because coach emphasizes the importance of it."

According to mlb.com, MLB has instituted new rules, beginning in the 2018 season.

Among the big rules added this year was a limitation on mound visits. Each team gets six mound visits per game and one additional visit for every extra inning played. The biggest part of this rule is that mound visits don't just include visits from the manager or pitching coach, but also any visit from the catcher or other position players. The second time the mound is visited in an inning, the pitcher must be removed and a new pitcher must enter the game.

The most radical change pro-

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See **Pace** on pg. 7

## Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Monday
Baseball: 4 p.m.: vs. Penn St. Brandywine	Softball: 3 p.m.: Double Header vs. Elizabethtown	Track and Field: Widener Invitational (@Chester, Pa.)	Track and Field: Widener Invitational (@Chester, Pa.)	Women's Lacrosse: 12 p.m.: @ #25 Haverford	Baseball: 1:30 p.m.: Double Header @Johns Hopkins	Men's Tennis: 3:30 p.m.: @Wilkes
Tennis: 4 p.m.: vs. Washington Coll.	Women's Tennis: 4 p.m.: @Moravian	Larry Ellis Invitational (@Princeton, N.J.)	Larry Ellis Invitational (@Princeton, N.J.)	Softball: 1 p.m.: Double Header vs. Franklin and Marshall	Men's Lacrosse: 3 p.m.: @Haverford	Baseball: 4 p.m.: vs. DeSales
Women's Lacrosse: 4:30 p.m.: vs. Bryn Mawr		Baseball: 3:30 p.m.: vs. Swarthmore	Tennis: 12 p.m.: @Johns Hopkins			