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Ursinus administrators hold info session to discuss sexual misconduct allegations

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Following allegations of sexual misconduct reportedly involving a Sodexo employee, the Student Affairs Office held a brief information session Feb. 21 in Pfahler Hall.

Title IX coordinator Dean Debbie Nolan and Jessica Oros, deputy Title IX coordinator, led the session along with the crisis response team, Sexual Misconduct and Advocacy Resource Team (SMART) and other support staff members to a small turnout in Musser Auditorium last Wednesday.

Nolan explained that it is rare for the administration to notify the entire student body about particular Title IX complaints, as in President Blomberg's campus-wide e-mail sent out on Feb. 16. However, in this case, Nolan said that the administration saw a systemic issue possibly affecting more than one complainant.

"We felt that it was responsible to share a little bit more, but not a lot, for the sake of our students, for the sake of that power of making sure students feel there's a safe place where they can go [with their] information and to keep our community safe," Nolan said.

Although the information

session was advertised at the end of President Blomberg's Feb. 16 e-mail, few besides those obligated to be present attended the session.

Among the four students present was Juju Bonilla '19, who said she expected a larger turnout given the considerable chatter about the topic among students.

"There is a lot of talk," Bonilla said. "One of the people that [was] banned from campus is known by many students of color as a role model."

Nolan acknowledged that the employee was well-known among students, but the administration has declined to officially release the names of the employees banned from

campus.

"There is a distinction between giving the names to the media to publish broadly and [Ursinus] using the identity of the employees in conducting our investigation of wrongdoing on campus," said Ursinus special counsel Bob Clothier. "We are not keeping that information a secret."

The Grizzly is refraining from publishing the names of the Sodexo employees because no formal charges have been brought against them, according to the Collegeville Police Department.

Collegeville Police Chief Barton Bucher said his department had received two ban letters from the Ursinus Di-

rector of Campus Safety John Bera, but said it was up to the college to decide whether to release them publicly. On Friday, Bera said he was looking into whether the college would be willing or able to do so.

Ban letters allow property owners to ban individuals from their property — if an individual steps onto campus, the college may call the police for assistance and the individual will be arrested with the charge of criminal trespassing, Bucher explained.

While the College banned two employees from campus, it was unable to fire them due to

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Collegeville mayor reflects on career in political activism

SUN invites newly elected Aidsand "Ace" Wright-Riggins to speak



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The moment Collegeville mayor Aidsand "Ace" Wright-Riggins awoke politically, he was 14 years old.

The date was August 11, 1965. The Watts riots had just begun in southern Los Angeles, near his neighborhood of Compton. Tensions had been brewing because of residential segregation — Proposition 14 had nullified the work of the Rumford Fair Housing Act, passed in the state of California in 1964, which had prevented landowners from racially discriminating against potential buyers.

The LAPD Chief William Parker set down his "thin blue line" through pervasive police

brutality. More than 600 businesses burned and 34 people were killed, the mayor explained.

"But there was no burning or looting — it was that we as human beings, we have a right to housing, food, education and the dignity of the human spirit," Wright-Riggins said.

Mayor Wright-Riggins sat with several students discussing his experiences in the civil rights movement of the 1960s for a talk hosted by Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN) on Feb. 23 in the Institute of Inclusion and Equity.

In his talk Wright-Riggins, who was elected as mayor last November, drew parallels to emerging movements and the power of youth today.

SUN president Temi Olafun-

miloye '18 invited the mayor to speak on campus as part of Black History Month because of previous conversations where he had mentioned the civil rights work he did during the 1960s.

When a student asked Wright-Riggins how to start a movement, the mayor urged students to use "the particularity of youth voices" to make a difference.

"Get sick and tired of getting sick and tired. Figure out what your passion is and [how] you're going to do something about it," Wright-Riggins said. "Start in your own neighborhood and branch out. Look at Claudette Colvin, if you don't

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Photo courtesy of Mayor Wright-Riggins
Mayor Aidsand "Ace" Wright-Riggins spoke at a SUN event last Friday.

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their employment by Sodexo.

“Sodexo is a separate company,” Clothier explained. “Ultimately, we made the decision to ban the two employees from campus — [Sodexo] has its own decision as to whether they are going to fire them.”

Several faculty members present at the meeting asked questions about the college’s ongoing relationship with Sodexo. Chemistry professor Brian Pfennig, for example, asked whether Sodexo employees go through the similar periodic training required of faculty and staff members hired directly by the College.

Annette Smith Parker, Ursinus vice president of finance and administration, confirmed that Sodexo employees do receive annual training. No Sodexo representatives were present at the meeting.

WRITERS WANTED

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Join us for our weekly news meeting

Mondays,
6:00 p.m.
Ritter 141

Assistant Dean for International Studies conducts study abroad research

Dean Melissa Hardin met with study abroad returnees to gather information on their study abroad experience

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For students returning from studying abroad, it has been routine in the past for The Center for International Programs to send out evaluations gauging the students’ process: the ‘life cycle’ of study abroad. While overviewing past evaluations, Assistant Dean for International Studies, Melissa Hardin, realized that there seemed to be a lack of outlet for students to really talk about their study abroad experiences.

Instead of trying to assume how students felt upon their return to Ursinus, Hardin decided to take the guesswork out of it and get feedback from the students themselves. Hardin is now using the feedback she’s received from students for a research project to be presented later this month.

In the fall of 2017, Dean Hardin began to invite every student who had studied abroad for the past three semesters to a one-on-one interview with her.

Using a medley of questions, including the Ursinus’ core curriculum questions, Hardin wanted to listen and document how students felt about their experiences

abroad, hoping to understand patterns pertaining to how students change as a result of their experience abroad.

“The emotional power of listening to the students goes deeper than some annual office report.”

—Melissa Hardin
Dean

Hardin explained that the interviews are meant to serve as an internal review to find out student’s grievances or praises about the experience, particularly in acclimating again to campus life.

In conducting these one-on-one interviews, Hardin said she “began to realize the emotional power of listening to the students goes deeper than some annual office report, this is something I need to share.”

In an email sent out to interview participants, Hardin explained, “I am so excited about what I am learning from the exit interviews that I want to use the data collected for a new purpose – a study called ‘What difference does it make? Student perceptions of study abroad learning

outcomes.’”

She added later in the email, “I am interested in analyzing trends and anomalies in student experiences overall. The more students [who] grant me permission to use the data, the more meaningful the results will be.”

Dean Hardin had to go back to the students she had interviewed and get permission from them to share her findings as research. According to Hardin, she got very positive feedback on the idea from almost everyone she interviewed.

Alex Simpson, a junior who studied abroad in Australia last spring, noted, “The interview gave me a chance to look back on my time [studying abroad from] a different perspective than I had been.”

“The interview gave me a chance to look back on my time [studying abroad] from a different perspective than I had been.”

—Alex Simpson
Junior

“The questions were thought-provoking and I think it’s a great initiative for the study abroad program.”

Dean Hardin is still in the process of conducting interviews and has not yet finished analyzing her findings.

She originally intended to present her findings to faculty to enhance the overall process and understanding of study abroad. However, her plans for her research have expanded.

Towards the end of March Hardin plans to present her findings at a formal professional conference.

She would also like to eventually share her research with students, believing they would both benefit from and enjoy hearing her findings.

Students who studied abroad that wish to share their experiences for Hardin’s research are encouraged to reach out and schedule an exit interview with Dean Hardin at mhardin@ursinus.edu.

With additional reporting by Valerie Osborne.



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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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get to do what you were supposed to do, you may inspire those who do.”

Claudette Colvin was, in Wright-Riggin’s words, a 15 year old who sparked a movement. Nine months before Rosa Parks, Colin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955, the mayor explained.

Wright-Riggins compared this story of youth-led dissent to the current gun control movement, #NeverAgain, led by the young survivors of the recent Parkland High School shooting in Florida.

“People say ‘this is something we’ve never seen before.’ But we have seen this before, young people stepping up to make a change,” Mayor Wright-Riggins said. “This #NeverAgain movement makes me think of the lunch counters sit-ins of the ‘50s and ‘60s.”

Zev Bliss ‘18, referring to #NeverAgain, observed that “Young people are coming together, saying adults have failed

us and we need to take charge.”

The mayor also referred to Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X as a forces of inspiration in how they brought together a movement.

“You cannot have King’s Dream without Malcolm’s Nightmare,” Mayor Wright-Riggins continued.

“Figure out what your passion is and [how] you’re going to do something about it.

— Aidsand “Ace” Wright-Riggins
Collegeville mayor

“MLK’s dream was a tool to make America in terms of moral justice; but we also needed Malcolm X’s nightmare.”

Elaborating on Malcolm X’s nightmare, Wright-Riggins spoke of “a part of a population that moves in regards to political impetus, that does pose a viable threat through economic impact, political protest and shutting things down.”

Temi Olafunmiloye asked the mayor how he arrived at

his religious perspective, that “personal salvation is not social transformation”

One of the first churches Wright-Riggins served at as minister, on the corner of 114th Street in southern L.A., had an integrationist perspective: pull yourself up by your bootstraps and look the part.

“Unless I cut my hair, I wouldn’t have been able to speak at that church — be acceptable to white people,” Wright-Riggins elaborated. “This church had not a word of the Watts Riots in any of its literature — it was blinding itself to the social aspect.”

The mayor explained his long commitment to the ministry was revived through black liberation theology.

“I’ve preached in conservative churches, where I use language of those communities to move towards a different direction,” Wright-Riggins said. “For example, mass incarceration: Matthew 2:5, ‘When I was in prison, did you visit me?’”

Commenting on the recent passing of Reverend Billy Gra-

ham, the mayor noted that the late Reverend Billy Graham left a legacy of silence rather than engagement in social issues.

“Rev Billy Graham did not stand up for everyone — rather, he will be remembered for staying silent on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Reagan’s war on the poor, colonization, the treatment of indigenous peoples and the move to mass incarceration,” Wright-Riggins said.

Wright-Riggins took the opportunity to elaborate on his social platform — citing a commitment in addressing homelessness; pro-choice: the right of women over their bodies; and protecting LGBTQ+ rights to fully participate without discrimination.

“After I won the election, a resident came up to me and said ‘I’m glad you won, but I’ve got a bone to pick with your campaign slogan, ‘Collegeville Matters.’ Wasn’t that your way of saying black lives matter?’” This troubled me, it meant that ‘I need you as a black person to distance yourself from a perspective that

black lives matter,’” Wright-Riggins said.

Biology professor Robert Dawley also attended the talk and urged students to register to vote and serve as canvassers before the upcoming May election. Dawley mentioned that student effort could keep things marginally better.

Mayor Wright-Riggins echoed Dawley’s call to vote, particularly in noting how quickly political change can happen, and change for the worse.

Zev Bliss ‘18, asked the mayor to comment on the rift between the Ursinus student body and the Collegeville community.

“My experience of UC and community is that in previous years, there has been a great gulf. But we are taking steps to bridge that — such as electing me, establishing dialogue with the administration, interaction with the community. My wife and I want to invite you for a social connection BBQ sometime this spring, outside of politics,” Wright-Riggins said.

Multiple yoga courses offered on campus

The Wellness Center and the UC Fitness Center offer weekly beginner and intermediate yoga classes free for all students

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The Ursinus community has been recently experiencing a wave of yoga classes on campus offered by the Wellness Center and the UC Fitness Center.

The Wellness Center began offering free yoga sessions to members of the Ursinus community this academic year. Yoga and meditation sessions are held on Mondays at 7-8 p.m. in the Bear’s Den. The sessions will run through April 9 and are taught by Sheila Keating, a local yoga instructor.

The Yoga and Meditation sessions are a new addition to Wellness’ offerings this year, thanks to an endowment bestowed by Harold C. Smith ‘55.

Jessica Parrillo, Director of

Counseling and Wellness, explained that this gift has given Ursinus the opportunity to offer more services to students that promote spiritual and intellectual growth.

It is through this collaboration that the Wellness Center has been able to enhance therapeutic services by providing the opportunity for spiritual wellness beyond the clinical setting, Parrillo said.

“Programs such as the weekly Yoga and Meditation session aim to foster spiritual wellness in our students by guiding them in the exploration of their inner selves, the meaning making process of life experiences, the practice and development of acceptance, and meditation,” Parrillo said.

Parrillo hopes that by offering these services, students will

be able to better manage stress, incorporate mindfulness, and develop a stronger relationship with themselves and the world around them. Other programming that coincides with these goals includes spiritual poetry workshops, and a speaker later in March.

“Yoga and Meditation sessions aim to foster spiritual wellness in our students.”

— Jessica Parrillo
Director of Counseling and Wellness

Vinyasa Yoga for Athletes is another yoga offering on campus for students on Wednesdays from 12-1p.m. in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center. These sessions are taught by Ursinus employee and certified yoga

instructor, Dana Roche.

Roche has been a registered yoga instructor at level 200 for 10 years through the yoga allegiance. Roche specializes in teaching yoga for athletes and has been leading sessions since the fall 2016 semester.

Vinyasa Yoga for Athletes is advertised as yoga sessions geared towards athletes, but all students are welcome.

“All students can attend, though the sessions are more fitness-based, and not just a stretching and relaxation session. This distinguishes Vinyasa from the Yoga and Meditation [sessions],” Roche said.

These sessions give students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to learn about yoga and see the immediate benefits of consistent practice.

Roche explained that some

of the benefits of the Vinyasa style of Yoga are the knowledge of breath and breathing correctly, an increase in core strength and flexibility, and a greater awareness of one’s own body, along with the rewards to one’s mental health and well-being.

Roche says she has had anywhere from 15-50 attendees at these sessions.

“The classes are a fun mix of students, coaches, faculty and staff. I think this is really a great opportunity for student athletes to see their coaches and mentors in a different light working on bettering themselves,” Roche said.

Interested students may borrow yoga mats from the UC Fitness Center. Mats for the Wellness Center sessions are provided at the class.

Say yes to positive sex education

Sex Toy Bingo continues STARS' promotion of positive environment around sex and consent

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The Campus Activities Board (CAB) held their annual Sex Toy Bingo event on Friday, Feb. 16 in Lower Wismer. The night contained fun, excitement, and various “naughty” prizes. It was also informative in promoting sexual education and awareness. While CAB sponsored the event alone this semester, in the past it has been co-sponsored with the now defunct student-run group Students Talk About Responsible Sex (STARS).

CAB Co-Presidents Nicole Kosar and Jessica Taddeo commented on the event: “Sex Toy Bingo started four years ago because one of our previous executive board members thought it was funny. It’s an event we do every year, and it is our second largest event of the entire school year.”

Regarding Sex Toy Bingo’s popularity, Kosar and Taddeo said, “Students get excited about it because they have the chance to win quality sex toys and it’s a fun, friendly, and unusual bingo event to go to with friends.”

Before the game began, CAB members passed out condoms with bingo cards. Kosar and Taddeo said, “We ordered 150 condoms to give out to each person who played, and we invited the Peer Advocates to come promote safe sex and awareness.”

“The idea was to promote sex positivity in an engaging and fun way.”

— Megan Burns
Former Co-president of STARS

The message CAB pushed with the event promotes both responsible gameplay and safe sex, and the co-presidents claimed the event “breaks the taboo of talking about sex at a liberal arts college level,” which was part of the mission of the

former co-sponsor STARS.

According to Megan Burns ’18, previous co-president of STARS, “STARS would partner with CAB for Sex Toy Bingo to create a positive environment in which sexual health was at the forefront. The idea was to promote sex positivity in an engaging and fun way without making anyone feel uncomfortable or inferior. Events such as these help to get students thinking about sexual health practices.”

Robin Gow, former member of STARS, explained that “STARS started as ‘Students Together Against Rape’ and changed its name in 2014 to ‘Students Talk About Responsible Sex,’ [making it] STARS. [The group] focused on sex education from a sex positive perspective. The original STARS served the purpose that Peer Advocates serve now.”

“I felt very liberated to have a space to talk about sex so openly.”

— Robin Gow
Former Member of STARS

STARS started as a group that “would run discussions based on certain topics about sex and we would just talk about it ... then a lot of members graduated and we didn’t really get new members so the discussions didn’t happen anymore,” said Burns.

According to Burns, Anna Kozitzky ’16 was the former president of the organization. When she left she was replaced by Carter Timon, ’17 until Burns and Ryan Vega ’18 took over as co-presidents. Eventually the organization died out.

“Students like me who were supposed to help take it over were too involved in other groups. Ultimately, there were too few of us running the group, and it died off as a club,” said Gow.

“STARS focused on intimate conversations. I felt very liberated to have a space to talk about



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

Free condoms were handed out at Sex Toy Bingo and are available in the Wellness Center.

sex so openly,” stated Gow. Gow wishes that a new “sex positive group” that “celebrates and explores sexuality” would become part of the campus.

Said Gow, “While sex is related to GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) and Feminists in Action topics, I think specifically a sex positive group is crucial as a space to promote sexual curiosity as well as taking steps to better understand consent. We can’t understand consent if we don’t talk about the nitty gritty of sex acts.”

Gow added, “Not talking about sex (the act and the specifics) does not help the cause of assault education.”

“The hope is that [STARS will] come back when there is a greater interest in sexual health discourse on campus,” said Burns.

“The hope is that [STARS will] come back when there is a greater interest in sexual health discourse on campus.”

— Megan Burns
Former co-president of STARS

While STARS is no longer a part of campus life, the college still has resources to assist in sexual education, according to Jessica Oros, Prevention and Advocacy Educator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator. Oros said, “The Wellness Center is currently the primary office for conversations around sex education. Peer Advocates provide workshops and programs focusing on the importance of consent when engaging in sexual activity.”

“Students should reach out

to the Wellness Center if they have any questions about sex education,” said Oros.

Students are encouraged to ask questions about sexual education and take advantage of the resources on campus to learn more about the topic by contacting Jessica Oros at joros@ursinus.edu or the Wellness Center at wellness@ursinus.edu. If a student would like to bring back STARS or create a new club about sexual education, they should contact the Student Activities office via email at studentactivities@ursinus.edu or call 610-409-3608.



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Digitizing the past, present and future

The Ursinus Digital Commons provides an abundance of resources for faculty and students

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While the college works on its plans for the upcoming physical Commons, the Ursinus College Digital Commons continues to grow, entering its fourth year of operations. According to its page on the Ursinus website, the Ursinus Digital Commons is a permanent digital archive that provides access to Ursinus research, publications, historical materials, and special collections. It is home to over 2,400 works that have amassed over 105,000 downloads and attract scholars and readers from all over the world.

Andy Prock, Scholarly Communications and Metadata Librarian for Ursinus College, manages the Digital Commons and has high hopes for it as it continues into the future.

The development of the Digital Commons has been a long-term collaboration between faculty and staff.

“The Library of the Future working group spent a year exploring open access and repository

options and we went live with the Digital Commons platform in the Fall 2014 semester,” explained Prock.

Dr. Nicholas Scoville, the Chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science department, emphasized the importance of the digitization: “[The] Digital Commons was proposed as an online repository whose content was found in Google searches, thereby making it accessible to anyone in the world with an internet connection.”

Scoville continued to explain that it is an “excellent solution to the question of how to disseminate the work of Summer Fellows.”

Scoville is involved in the TRIUMPHS project, which has created a collection of mathematical content developed using historical sources. Along with TRIUMPHS papers, the repository also includes materials dealing with all aspects of the college’s history, important literary papers of John Updike’s mother Linda Grace Hoyer, historic documents from Nazi Germany and the U.S. State Department, and other

items with an international focus such as the Kenneth Grundy South African collection.

The Ursinus College Postcard collection, which includes cards portraying the now non-existent Collegeville Mill Dam, the Yost History of Ursinus College, and the Pennsylvania Folklife Society Collection at Ursinus are listed as notable regional and historical collections in the Pennsylvania Research Commons.

Plans include continuing to digitize the college’s past and connecting with alumni, no matter where they live now. “There are so many things people will be able to discover that they maybe didn’t have the time or interest to find out about while they were studying here,” said Prock.

As for current students, the Bears Make History course co-taught by Dr. Susanna Throop and Dr. Kara McShane has encouraged participants to use these collections and the rest of the Digital Commons to create digital history projects.

Prock, who has worked with students with their search through the collections, said that

the course was a “wonderful experience” and that he hopes more departments will take advantage of the capabilities and convenience of the Digital Commons.

While faculty helped to launch the repository, as of May 2017 only approximately 11 percent of the faculty had contributed work, and not all departments had contributors. Prock explained that copyright and access policies may prevent some published work from being added, and that he has not noticed a significant increase in the interim.

However, Prock noted, “For faculty who are able to take advantage of it, it’s great to have more exposure and wider readership for scholarship.”

According to Scoville, the repository “provides an outlet for scholarly work which may not be appropriate for traditional outlets.”

Prock is excited to explore the potential of such an outlet. He “would love to see Ursinus make full use of the publishing capabilities of the repository. For instance, we could publish our own journal or open access text-

book. I’d like to see us hosting more open educational resources and research data sets.”

Prock added, “We’re also reaching out to the local community to form partnerships with digitizing and hosting materials. We have a project in the works with the Historical Society of Trappe, Collegeville and Perkiomen Valley to digitize and host the old Collegeville newspaper – ‘The Independent.’ My hope is that the Digital Commons can serve as a hub for local historic materials from many partners in the future.”

The future of the Digital Commons is linked to the future of the college. According to Prock, “The repository is a great way for Ursinus to get its name out into the wider world. Prospective students can easily see the types of research that students and faculty are engaged in.”

Prock stated that “I truly learn something new every day in my job and it’s fun working with students on these materials.”

Those interested in learning more about the Digital Commons are encouraged to reach out to Prock at aprock@ursinus.edu.



Photo courtesy of the Digital Commons home page

The Ursinus Digital Commons contains a myriad of resources on the history of the campus, as well as a general online repository, for faculty and students to access.

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Commemorate Lives of Disabled Filicide Victims 11:20 a.m. Olin Plaza	2018 Richard T. Schellhase Ethics Contest Deadline	Bear Innovation Registration Deadline		Spring Break	Spring Break	Video Creating and Editing Workshop 12 p.m. Olin 108



Respecting women requires questioning masculinity

Robin Gow
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I have to be honest, I didn't think anyone would come to an all-male workshop about respecting women. On Feb. 21, the Institution for Inclusion and Equity (IIE) brought speaker Tracy Jones to host his event "Keep it Simple Gents: Respect Women." The posters caught my attention because they specified that the event was "open to all male-identified students." I was skeptical that anyone would attend an event just for men.

Just from my own observations, events surrounding issues of gender and sexuality are mostly attended by women or LGBT+ people. We can barely get incoming freshman to show up to programs about sexual assault during orientation, so I figured a talk Wednesday night at 7 p.m. during the semester was a no-go. But I was really blown away at how many men came and I think that's something that should be celebrated.

One of the biggest struggles that not only our campus but campuses across the country face is how to engage people about issues regarding gender and sexuality—specifically sexual violence against women. The fact that men at Ursinus engaged with the topic to begin with is progress.

Jones started his presentation by discussing the importance of men unpacking their own understanding of their gender and their privilege before they could ever be able to help women. I think this is extremely important and a great jumping off point. As a transgender man who thinks about his gender nearly every day, I had really forgotten that most people don't think about and question their gender constantly. Not only did this prompt men in the group to think about their own actions, but also permitted the group to be vulnerable. That is something that's really rare. Sure, there are masculine spaces, but "men's" spaces are usually com-

petitive due to the toxic nature of masculinity. Whether in a fraternity or sports team, these male groups stress the importance of how other men see you, rather than allowing for vulnerability.

Jones did an astounding job at being vulnerable and permitting men to be "wrong" and imperfect. I was at first skeptical about creating a space for only men because obviously women and gender non-conforming people can be perpetrators of sexual violence too and could provide valuable talking points. At the same time, if we're going to move forward with the #MeToo movement, creating spaces for men to truthfully hold themselves accountable is also important. I don't think most men are typically able to admit when they've been sexist or allowed friends to make sexist jokes in a group with women. More importantly, I don't think women should have to hear men say problematic things about them or do all the

work of educating men.

That being said, I struggled with some of the tactics Jones used to prompt the group to contemplate how they treat women. He explained that he likes to say "Support our women" not to claim ownership but to say "all women are our women." Personally, I still think "our" denotes ownership and that language has power to shape perspectives and practices. In addition, promoting the idea of "supporting our women" does gloss over the other half of the work that he established at the beginning of the workshop. Sometimes "the work" is not being valiant and "saving" women: "The work" is seeing where you yourself have demeaned or belittled women whether you know them or not.

The other device that made me feel conflicted was Jones's point about how we should treat all women in the same way that we respect our mothers. I think we should respect women because

they're human. Using respect for mothers to apply to all women is an entry point for understanding gender-based oppression and inequality that might be imperfect or flawed, but if it leads to more reflection, then I think that benefits can still come from it.

We need to create more places where these conversations can continue and push towards an understanding beyond the initial moment of recognizing privilege or injustice.

For me the workshop made me reflect more on how I need to find more ways to unpack my own privilege. I think as a queer man I can lose sight of how I too can perpetuate toxic masculinity and need to actively reflect and take action to advocate for women and femme individuals.

I hope we can work towards creating more moments like this where men can ask themselves: What does it really mean to be a man?

Lysistrata is more than just a Greek sex comedy

Paige Szmodis
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As part of the theater department's resistance-themed plays for the 2017-18 season, a production of *Lysistrata* was performed in the Lenfest Theater from Thursday, Feb. 22 to Sunday, Feb. 25. According to the program notes, Ellen McLaughlin's adaptation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, first performed in 411 BCE, offers a modern retelling of the Athenian and Spartan women's sex strike to end the Peloponnesian War, a strike led by the titular character Lysistrata. Under the direction of Dr. Meghan Brodie, Ursinus' production of *Lysistrata* was more than just a Greek sex comedy. It reflected the difficulty and power of collective feminist movements and represented how personal sexuality is also political.

The beginning of the play didn't shy away from penis jokes as the Chorus Leaders, Mya Flood and Charlotte Torres '18, blew up balloons to represent erections and explained the mature content and plot with direct addresses to the audience. I

particularly enjoyed how the play took advantage of opportunities to break the fourth wall by poking fun at overdone Greek allusions.

This meta humor was also enhanced by the set. Though the overall set was relatively simple with a marble platform and Greek pillars and some trees, the Athenian storefronts displayed contemporary puns with names such as "Sapphoro." One of my favorite elements was the "Acropolis" sign with a lit-up blinking red arrow pointing to the building. The sign mixed Greek typography with contemporary aesthetics to mock hackneyed Greek allusions while still informing the audience of the setting change. The costumes also consistently blurred Greek and contemporary aesthetics with the female characters' bright blue, pink, yellow, and orange dresses that contributed to their distinct personalities.

If the humor wasn't enough to catch the audience's attention, I also immediately related to Lysistrata's frustrations when the other women show up late and start complaining rather than immediately listening to her political strategy. As the president of a

feminist club, I can attest to the difficulty of just getting people to show up to political discussions. The tension between Lysistrata and other Athenian and Spartan women in the beginning provided a realistic look at the struggle to form any collective action. Lysistrata's experience warns feminist activists in particular that shared identities are not enough to get women to agree on a common political strategy. Bella Ragomo '21 portrayed Lysistrata as an inspiring and likeable character who is flawed, but reluctantly admits to her errors in order to further her collective goal.

Due to the play's description, I was initially worried that the women would be portrayed as asexual in contrast to the men's insatiable lust, but I was pleasantly surprised when women like Myrrhine and Belphragia desired sex just as much as the men. Similarly, I wondered about the absence of homosexuality as a solution to the men's and women's lust in the beginning. However, the ending not only joked about straight male characters considering homosexuality, it also included lesbianism with Lampito

and Lysistrata getting together as the only two characters left on stage after other heterosexual couples paired off.

This quick resolution made me a little skeptical, providing an overly simple solution to complex issues of sexual politics. I'm not sure if I was more surprised when the Magistrate ends the war because of how easy the resolution seemed or because of the show's short length. However, the ending did accurately portray the power of peer pressure when the Magistrate gives in after all the other male characters agree to end the war and sex strike.

Despite its short 45-minute run time, *Lysistrata* packed in a lot of anti-war and anti-patriarchal themes for a contemporary college audience to think about. In light of the recent #MeToo movement, *Lysistrata* celebrated consensual sex and women's agency to use their sexuality as a political tool. Though the adaptation's omission of references to rape may not have been realistic for Aristophanes' or our own time periods, the lack of sexual violence illustrated a utopian ideal of the power that women can hold in

both political and personal sexual spheres.

The play's core message extended beyond the anti-war theme during *Lysistrata*'s lengthy debate with the Magistrate, during which she also defends women's political abilities against male ego and entitlement. When the Magistrate devalues the women's political potential due to their subordinate position in the private sphere, his ranting about women's emotions and lack of rationality is eerily similar to recent comments directed at women and victims of sexual violence. Meanwhile, *Lysistrata* and the other women's actions speak for themselves. They prove their worth in a way that contrasts the men's obvious incompetence and dependence. As a result, the contemporary feminist political messages in *Lysistrata* make the ancient Greek comedy a great addition to the theater department's resistance-themed productions this year.



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Tennis continued from pg. 8

Men's basketball downed in CC semifinal

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Coming off the high of this victory, the Bears will now be heading down to Florida for their annual spring trip.

The Ursinus College women's tennis team was also picked to finish seventh in the Centennial Conference pre-season poll.

The Lady Bears anticipate the return of their top four players, including a pair of former all-conference performers in seniors Aileen BeVard and Ariel Danziger, from a team that finished 12-7 overall and 4-6 in CC competition.

Senior Ashley Nguyen is back at number three singles after a bounce-back season that culminated in a 10-8 mark. She was 9-8 at number one doubles with BeVard. The duo has combined for 31 victories together over the last three-plus seasons.

Nguyen shared the team's enthusiasm for the upcoming season.

"We are very excited . . . we've been able to make school history for the past three years with three consecutive winning seasons and a play-off appearance. We also have a new assistant coach who has been nothing but supportive of our team, and I'm sure she will be a valuable asset during the season," said Nguyen.

Nguyen continued, "[Our] goals are to finish with another winning season and to make a second appearance in play-offs."

The team's slogan as they enter the 2018 season is "all in, all the time." Keeping this positivity in mind will carry the Bears through their season.

The Lady Bears open on March 5 against Otterbein, the first of five matches during its annual spring trip to Florida.

The Bears lost to No. 11 Swarthmore College in the semifinal round of the Centennial Conference (CC) playoffs on Friday, 68-49.

Before facing the top-seeded Garnett, the Bears earned a home playoff game against Dickinson, a matchup that they won 80-76.

Relating Ursinus' preparation in the square-off against Dickinson, sophomore forward Shane Stark said, "We prepared for Dickinson by going through our regular routine which includes going over the [scouting report] and looking over film to see what they like to do. Our main point was to just go out there and have fun playing basketball."

Ursinus went 16-9 overall, with a 12-6 record against the CC, to earn the fourth seed in the tournament to set up the matchup against fifth-seeded Dickinson.

The Bears were helped all season with contributions from all over the lineup. They regularly went 10 players deep down the stretch and nine players averaged over 10 minutes per game.

Senior forward Zach Quattro led the Bears' scoring barrage with 14.6 ppg. He also led the team in a three-point percentage (41.2 percent) among players who attempted at least one three-pointer per game.

Stark's emergence was also a major key for Ursinus all season. The Collegeville native led the team in rebounding, notching exactly 200 rebounds for the season (7.4 per game). The budding star also led the squad in shooting percentage for the second time in as many seasons among players with over 90 shot attempts.

Freshman George Gordon technically led the team in shoot-

ing percentage, but Gordon had 57 shot attempts compared to Stark's 203.

A huge factor for the Bears was not only Stark's emergence as a prolific rebounder and efficient scorer, but his distributing. Stark was third on the team with 2.3 assists per game behind point guards Brian Rafferty (4.4 per game) and Zack Muredda (2.5 apg), a remarkable stat for a 6-6 forward.

Stark's distributing was on full display in the win over Dickinson. His six assists against the Red Devils paired well with his 17 points and 8 rebounds.

Said Stark, "The coaches have trusted me more and more in my abilities which has given me more opportunity to show what I can do. I love being able to hit the open man and make the extra pass in order to get a basket."

The match against Dickinson was close for the entire game. The largest leads of the game were 13 and 9 by Ursinus and Dickinson, respectively, and there were four ties and five lead changes throughout the contest.

Dickinson turned to an obscure strategy during the game. They elected to give Stark the 'Shaquille O'Neal' treatment by intentionally fouling him several times in "one-and-one" situations. This strategy is typically reserved for NBA centers like the aforementioned O'Neal or DeAndre Jordan; it's not often seen at the Division III level.

The efficacy of this strategy is debatable. Stark went 5-9 from the charity stripe on the night but has shot just 45.2 percent from the free throw line this season, so if there was somebody the Red Devils should have tried it on, it was Stark.

Stark stepped up, however,

by playing a fantastic all-around game, and shooting very competently from the line when they needed him to in the playoff showdown. Stark is motivated to improve his free-throw percentages for next year to avoid getting the "Hack-a-Shaq" (or rather, "Hack-a-Stark") treatment again.

"It made me want to go to the line and show the other team that I can make [free throws], rather than be scared and lose confidence," said Stark.

Stark was the biggest player in the game for the Bears and his stat line tells that story. He also made the biggest individual play of the game. With 8:13 left in the game, Dickinson was on a big run. They had cut the Bears' 13-point lead to just five points when Stark weaved through the Dickinson defense for a thunderous slam dunk to put the Bears back up by seven and give them a much-needed energy boost to finish out the game.

"It felt great, I saw an open lane and tried to make the most of it. I knew if I was able to finish the dunk, my teammates would be fired up and the momentum would be back in our hands," Stark said.

It ultimately came down to free throws at the end of the game and the Bears kept it interesting. Up 79-76 with just five seconds left, junior Eric Williams Jr. was sent to the free throw line with the chance to clinch the game for Ursinus with just one bucket. Williams uncharacteristically missed both free throws. Dickinson air-balled their next attempt and fouled senior co-captain Brian Rafferty. Rafferty was sent to the line and missed the first of the two attempts, but was finally able to ice the game in the Bears' favor on the second shot to move up by four points with virtually no time left in the game.

The Bears did not fare as well in a rematch against Swarthmore on Friday night in the CC semifinals, despite their unwavering motivation and effort.

"Our team goal coming into the season was to win a Centennial Conference Championship," said Rafferty. "After the playoff game last year we all had a bad taste in our mouths."

They got the rematch they wanted, but ultimately were not able to overcome Swarthmore who defeated them twice in the regular season.

The Bears truly played as well as they could, but Swarthmore's elite defense still held them under 50 points.

Ursinus held the Garnett scoreless through nearly four minutes of play, but because Swarthmore is so well-coached and elite defensively, they had only amassed a two-point lead in that time.

Quattro led the Bears in points with 17. Williams Jr. and sophomore Ryan McTamney each dished out three assists in the game. McTamney's near double-double (12 points, 9 rebounds) was not enough to put Ursinus over reigning CC Player of the Year, Cam Wiley, and his 23 points.

The Bears' season ended at the hands of Swarthmore, a team that ultimately lost the CC Championship to Johns Hopkins University 61-57. Hopkins overcame a nine-point halftime deficit to take the CC crown.

The Bears will focus their attention on next season as they look for increased contributions from all of their returning players.



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Scores as of Monday, February 26, 2018

M. Lacrosse (0-2)	W. Lacrosse (0-2)	Gymnastics	M. B-Ball (17-10)	W. B-Ball (13-13)	M. Swimming (8-3)	W. Swimming (11-1)
February 17: Ursinus: 8 Frostburg St.: 9	February 20: Ursinus: 15 Cabrini: 17	February 24: @Rutgers (with Towson & Western Michigan)	February 20: CC First Round: Dickinson: 76 Ursinus: 80	February 20: CC First Round: Ursinus: 56 Johns Hopkins: 62	February 23-25: Centennial Conference Championships (@Lancaster, Pa.)	February 23-25: Centennial Conference Championships (@Lancaster, Pa.)
February 24: Mary Washington: 11 Ursinus: 6	February 24: Ursinus: 8 Albright: 7	4th of 4 (188.125)	February 23: CC Semifinals: Ursinus: 49 #11 Swarthmore: 68		5th of 7 (total points: 465)	1st of 7* (total points: 759.5)
						*5th consecutive championship



Photo courtesy of Amelia Goldstein

The tennis squads will travel to Florida over spring break. Their home openers will take place on March 17.

Both UC tennis teams ranked No. 7 in CC

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The Ursinus College men's tennis team was voted seventh in the Centennial Conference (CC) preseason poll. The Bears will be bringing back most of last season's lineup, including their top two players. Last season the team had finished 12-7 overall, just missing postseason play with a 4-5 record in conference play.

Senior player Max Oberholtzer had another standout season, earning second team All-CC singles honors and receiving all-conference honorable mention in doubles alongside junior Paul Vecchio. Oberholtzer is the only player in program history to be named All-CC in both singles and doubles in multiple seasons and ranks 6th in school history with 33 singles wins.

Oberholtzer and Vecchio

finished 13-6 last season and have had 24 doubles victories together over the last two years. Vecchio is one win shy of becoming the 14th Ursinus player to reach 50 for his career.

Vecchio commented on the team's mentality heading into the new season: "[Our] mindset is major hype because we have a huge opportunity this year to make it to playoffs and be a substantial team in the conference once again."

Junior Jake Lachowicz was 4-1 at number six singles last year.

"As the season is approaching, I am very hype. The team is looking very good this year and it should be a good season," said Lachowicz.


Lachowicz explained the team's goals for the 2018 season, "[We want] to secure a playoff spot in the Centennial Conference and get a 'Victory Royale.'"

Vecchio shared similar goals: "[We hope] to [beat] Dickinson and Washington, the teams that usually beat us."

On Feb. 24, the team swept Arcadia at Green Valley Country Club 9-0. Playing in February for the first time in program history, the Bears – ranked 19th in the Atlantic South Region – came out on top for the eighth straight year.

See Tennis on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>Women's Lacrosse: 4 p.m.: vs. Rowan U</p>	 <p>Gymnastics: 1 p.m.: vs. Rhode Island Coll.</p> <p>Men's Lacrosse: 1 p.m.: vs. Albright Coll.</p>	<p>Baseball: 1 p.m.: vs. Concordia (Wis.) (@Chapman, Calif.)</p> <p>5 p.m.: @Chapman</p>	<p>Baseball: 3 p.m.: @Redlands</p> <p>5:30 p.m.: @Redlands</p>	<p>M&W Tennis: 9 a.m.: vs. Otterbein (@Orlando, Fla.)</p> <p>Baseball: 3 p.m.: @Redlands</p> <p>5:30 p.m.: @Redlands</p>	<p>M&W Tennis: Time TBA: vs. Saint Anselm (@Orlando, Fla.)</p> <p>Baseball: 5:30 p.m.: @Whittier</p>	<p>M&W Tennis: Time TBA vs. King's Coll. (Pa.) vs. Ave Maria (@Orlando, Fla.)</p> <p>Women's Lacrosse: 4 p.m.: vs. Susquehanna U</p>