



2-16-2017

## The Grizzly, February 16, 2017

Brian Thomas

Courtney A. DuChene

Tommy Armstrong

Paige Szmodis

Katelyn King

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews>



Part of the [Cultural History Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Liberal Studies Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

---

---

**Authors**

Brian Thomas, Courtney A. DuChene, Tommy Armstrong, Paige Szmodis, Katelyn King, Sienna Coleman, Luke H. Schlegel, Erin McKinney, Leighnah L. Perkins, Nick Brough, and Johnny Cope

---



## First Semester of Philadelphia Experience a Success

*The Philadelphia Experience, which began in fall 2016, continues to allow students to live, study, and intern in the city for its second semester*

**Courtney DuChene**  
coduchene@ursinus.edu

The Philadelphia Experience has begun its second semester after a successful first run.

The program, which allows Ursinus students to take courses and gain internship experience in Philadelphia, had 15 students last semester and has plans to continue into next year.

After the first semester, the students took a survey to evaluate the program. After reviewing the feedback, coordinators found the program to be mostly successful.

"I think the only thing students were unhappy with was the meal plan, which we fixed," said assistant dean Kelly Sorensen, who heads the program.

One of the most successful components of the Philadelphia Experience is the internship opportunities it provides, according to Sorensen.

"Everyone loved their internships," said Sorensen. "That was true of both the students in the arts internships and the business internships."

Senior Mara Koren, who participated in the Philadelphia Experience last semester, said that for her, the internship opportunity made all the difference.

"My favorite experience was working at Broad Street Ministry," said Koren. "It was just so different from a normal school experience."

Both the Ursinus classes and the Drexel classes were another highlight of the program.

"The Ursinus-led classes that were using Philly as a classroom seemed to go well," Sorensen continued.

English professor Nzadi Keita, who taught a class titled "Memoir Writing in Philadel-

phia" last semester, also thought the experience was positive.

"I love being in the city and I got to be just moving around with the students and rethinking the city myself which, as a writer, was very rewarding," she said.

Keita also thought that using the city as a classroom provided unique challenges and learning opportunities for students.

"The program allows students to experience their sense of space and their sense of community," she said. "They have their sense of life reflected back at them on the street."

Koren also thought her classes were a good experience. She took a Drexel literature course as well as one of the Ursinus-offered courses.

"I took one Drexel course, Hemingway and Faulkner, which was cool because obviously Ursinus doesn't offer anything like that."

Koren also took Keita's memoir class, which she felt offered a unique experience in terms of creative writing courses.

"I thought it was a really good creative writing class and I don't exactly know why," Koren said. "It's probably my favorite one that I've taken. I think it was a really diverse group just because it had to be drawn from these 15 students and not the typical people who might take a creative writing course at Ursinus."

The course also provided students with an opportunity for interpersonal connections.

"One of the things that motivated me to create the course was the kind of interpersonal experiences I had on the civil rights trip with Reverend Rice," said Keita. "Those kinds of conversations

See **Philly** on pg. 2



Photo Courtesy of Brian Thomas

President Brock Blomberg presents the construction plans for the Commons at student senate meeting.

## College Unveils Construction Plans for The Commons

*President Brock Blomberg attended the student senate meeting last week to discuss the plans for a new student Commons center*

**Tom Armstrong**  
toarmstrong@ursinus.edu

Ursinus is going to see even more construction in the next few years, according to a recent presentation by President Brock Blomberg.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 8-9 p.m., President Blomberg attended one of the first student senate meetings of the semester to make several announcements, the highlight of which was the upcoming major construction project the Commons. Blomberg, vice president for finance and administration Annette Parker, and Dean Debbie Nolan were in attendance to speak about the plans.

Previously named "the Hub," the sleekly designed Commons will include a coffee house, ad-

missions offices, and bookstore to attract students, local residents, and prospective applicants alike.

The Commons will be constructed in the current locations of Unity House and Keigwin Hall, according to Blomberg in the presentation. Unity will move to the location of the bookstore and "may have a different name," said Blomberg at the meeting.

This means Hobson Hall, where the Hub was planned to be constructed and which was shut down during the planning process, will be returning as a residence hall next year.

The administration invited feedback from students to influence decision-making on the precise functions and details of the Commons.

Dean Nolan said roughly

120 students were invited to help conceptualize the Student Commons and about 30 students responded.

Where the Innovation and Discovery Center (IDC) provides resources to the sciences at Ursinus, the Commons will facilitate institutional goals. Blomberg hopes the Commons will help make Ursinus a "go-to location." Practically, its goal is to bring in more applications.

Ursinus hasn't seen a major construction project in over 10 years. The Kaleidoscope Center opened in April 2005. In one-and-a-half years, the school is projected to have two new centers—one for science, one for the institution.

Some in the humanities and arts worry they're being left

See **Commons** on pg. 2

**Commons** continued from pg. 1

behind.

"I am concerned that the school is valuing image over substance," said junior Zev Bliss, in an interview after the senate meeting. Bliss voiced concerns at the meeting as well. "Art students may never see a building that doesn't have a basketball court on the floor."

The Ritter center opened 37 years ago in 1980, Olin in 1990.

Proponents of the IDC and the Commons, including Blomberg himself, argue this: The last two major additions to the college (the Kaleidoscope in 2005 and the Berman's expansion in 2010) directly benefitted the arts; it's time not only to delegate resources to the sciences, but to the institution and the buildings that win the enrollment and tuition of prospective students.

The project will be funded by donations collected from the Keep the Promise campaign, which is also funding the IDC (a \$29 million project).

The goal of the entire Keep the Promise campaign is to raise \$100 million. With 10,373 donors to date, \$56.9 million of that has been collected. The IDC and the Commons are scheduled to be completed around the same time in fall 2018.

Another concern that students brought up at the meeting lies in the historical integrity of Unity and Keigwin. President Blomberg suggested rather substantial renovations would have to take place for the buildings to serve their new purpose.

Miss Marion Spangler owned Unity House, which was originally down by the Perkiomen Creek, according to Ursinus archives. She was the daughter of President Henry Thomas Spangler, who was the president of Ursinus from 1893-1904. Today, Unity is home to the office of

diversity and inclusion.

Ursinus purchased Keigwin Hall in 1963. Its name comes from Rev. Albert Edwin Keigwin, who served as Ursinus' president from 1907 to 1912, according to [www.historictrappe.org](http://www.historictrappe.org).

Students currently living in Keigwin made their presence known at the meeting, and expressed concern that the residents of the house had formed an attachment to the space.

The Grizzly live tweeted the meeting, and students can see in depth coverage of the exchanges between students and administration on the feed (@UrsinusGrizzly).

Blomberg stressed throughout the meeting that the project is far from its final stages, and that the renderings are just a first step. Blomberg and Nolan encouraged students to get involved in the project going forward, and also to make their concerns heard.

Blomberg will be regularly hosting open forums in the faculty and staff dining room in Wismer in the near future. He encouraged people to come talk with him about this project and find out how they can help shape it. Additionally, Nolan encouraged students to email her with suggestions and concerns.

To voice thoughts and become more informed on these issues, students can attend bimonthly student senate meetings and Blomberg's regular open forum in Wismer, reach out to administrative authorities, and keep an eye out for school-wide messages and surveys.



Follow us on  
Twitter!  
[@ursinusgrizzly](https://twitter.com/ursinusgrizzly)

**Philly** continued from pg. 1

you have, you can't recreate that."

Koren also thought the connections she made in Philadelphia were worthwhile.

"The people I worked with at Broad Street Ministry were really cool and the guests who came there, I really loved talking to them," she said.

*"Everyone loved their internships. That was true of both the students in the arts internships and the business internships."*

— Kelly Sorensen

Fifteen students are in Philadelphia again this semester. While Ursinus is only offering two courses in Philadelphia: "Documenting Philadelphia,"

taught by Jay Miller and "Introduction to Museum Studies," taught by Deborah Barkun, the students will still have the opportunity to work at internships and take Drexel courses.

The students will also be encouraged to explore the city through a new program requirement, since one critique student had in the fall was that the program did not push them to get out into the city enough. The coordinators plan to change that by including excursions in the required Philly 101 course.

"In the spring, students have to go to an opera, a ballet, a 76ers game, things like that," Sorensen said.

In fall 2017, Ursinus will be offering "Moneydelphia," taught by Scott Deacle; "Race and Ethnicity" in Philadelphia, taught by Roger Florka; and "Philly on Film," taught by Jennifer Fleeger.

Fleeger ran her class as a series of films shown at a local library last summer. She is excited to transition the series into a class.

"There's a mythology associated with different cities and films and other narrative set in those places tend to produce certain kinds of characters and types of stories," she said. "I want to explore the kinds of stories Philadelphia produces."

She plans to screen both fictional and documentary films for the course including "The Philadelphia Story," "High School," "Young Philadelphians," "Silver Linings Playbook," and, of course, "Rocky."

Students who are interested in applying to the program can do so now through the Ursinus website. The applications are due March 3.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Sorensen

A group of Ursinus students participating in the Philadelphia Experience program during Spring 2017.

## THE GRIZZLY

VOLUME 41 ISSUE 14

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

**Ursinus Grizzly**  
601 E. Main Street  
Collegeville, PA 19426

## EDITORIAL STAFF

<b>BRIAN THOMAS</b>	Editor in Chief
<b>PAIGE SZMODIS</b>	News Editor
<b>SARAH HOJSK</b>	Features Editor
<b>JORDAN SCHARAGA</b>	Opinion Editor
<b>HUNTER GELLMAN</b>	Sports Editor
<b>HENRY GUSTAFSON</b>	Photo Editor
<b>SYDNEY COPE</b>	Deputy Photo Editor
<b>TOMMY ARMSTRONG</b>	Online/Variety Editor
<b>LISA ABRAHAM</b>	Copy Editor
<b>JOE IULIUCCI</b>	Copy Editor
<b>LEIGHNAH PERKINS</b>	Social Media Editor
<b>NICHOLAS GILEWICZ</b>	Adviser

Letters to the Editor ([grizzly@ursinus.edu](mailto:grizzly@ursinus.edu))

All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

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

All content Copyright © 2017 The Grizzly.



Photo courtesy of Ursinus College Communications

Jennifer Finney Boylan, who served as a visiting writer at Ursinus in 2010, will be hosting an evening talk next week.

## Q&A with author and activist

**Paige Szmodis**  
paszmodis@ursinus.edu

A best-selling author and activist will be on campus this week to discuss gender, activism, and politics.

On Thursday, Feb. 23, Ursinus will host “Gender and Resistance: An Evening with Jennifer Finney Boylan” at 7 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium. Boylan is an author and activist who served as the Updike-Hoyer Writer in Residence at Ursinus in 2010. She is the author of 15 books, and her 2003 autobiography, “She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders,” was the first book to become a bestseller by an openly transgender American.

According to her website, Boylan is now the inaugural Anna Quindlen Writer in Residence at Barnard College of Columbia University. She has also been a contributor for the New York Times’ opinion page since 2007.

In addition to her writing, Boylan serves as the national co-chair of the Board of Directors of GLAAD, a major LGBT media advocacy group. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and Reproduction. She has appeared on “I Am Cait,” the reality television series starring Caitlyn Jenner, and worked as a consultant for the award-winning Amazon series “Transparent.”

According to the Ursinus website event page, Boylan will discuss issues of gender and the current national climate during

her evening talk. The Grizzly reached out to her to hear more about her experiences at Ursinus and her plans for the event.

### What was your experience like as the Updike-Hoyer Writer in Residence at Ursinus in 2010?

“I truly adored being part of Ursinus in 2010. I have rarely been in such a distinguished English department, full of great teachers and scholars. I loved Ursinus’ students, especially the creative writers, who struck me as some of the most talented writers I’ve worked with anywhere. It was a special time: your former president, John Strassburger, just kind of up and decided that I should come and work there for a semester— he had a way of making magical things happen. And so the next thing I knew, I’d taken a leave of absence from my home college at the time, Colby, and set up shop at Ursinus. I got to live with my mother, down in Devon, Pa., in the house in which I grew up in, in the room which had been mine as a child, and it was very cool. It turned out to be the last year of my mother’s life, although I didn’t know that at the time. But at the very end of her life— her 94th year— she got to have her daughter back in the house. Each evening I’d come home from Ursinus and make her pork chops and we’d drink gin and tonics and watch Jeopardy! After a lifetime of turmoil— and gender not the least of it— we found a sweet peace at the very end.

## Peer Advocates prepare for the Vagina Monologues

**Katelyn King**  
kaking@ursinus.edu

“My vagina’s angry. It is. It’s pissed off. My vagina’s furious and it needs to talk,” read the advertisement for this year’s “Vagina Monologues” performance.

The monologues will be held on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in Bomberger Auditorium.

The event is hosted by the Peer Advocates, a student group dedicated to educating the campus about issues of sexual misconduct.

“The Vagina Monologues” is an emotional and comedic play written by Eve Ensler. Ensler originally authored the monologues based on interviews in 1996 and has made many updates since to keep up with gender equality movements. The monologues have been performed annually in February at Ursinus on the Thursday after Valentine’s Day.

Junior Sarah Gow organized the event with Jess Oros, Ursinus’ sexual assault education coordinator. The Peer Advocate advisors, Dean Debbie Nolan, Dean Kim Taylor, and Professor Brenda Lederach have also helped organize the event.

Gow, who uses they/them pronouns, discussed the importance of seeing the monologues performed.

“You really have to witness the ‘Vagina Monologues,’” they said. “They range from hilarious to absolutely crushing—everything from birth to prostitution. Eve Ensler based the monologues on real interviews which is what I think gives each monologue such a strong voice.”

Prior to this year’s monologues, Gow helped organize the event last year and performed the “Lists” poem during their fresh-

man year. They are happy to help make the show more inclusive as well.

While Gow encourages students to attend, they also want to warn the audience that there are discussions of rape and violence in some of the monologues.

Another “Vagina Monologues” veteran, Courtney DuChene, performed “My Vagina, My Village” last year and will now be performing “The Flood” this year. DuChene also encourages everyone to attend.

“The experience of seeing other monologues was so moving last year,” she reflected. “Afterwards, I had discussions with so many people about the different monologues and their importance.”

Performer Samantha Hageman reported that the initial auditions felt like a “safe place, free of judgment,” and an area where people could express themselves.

Meghan Nolt, a new performer in the monologues, had not heard of the show before this year, but was compelled to audition after reading the pieces.

Nolt is going to perform the piece “Because He Liked to Look at It.”

“It is about a woman who learns to love her vagina after an encounter with a man who loved vaginas. It’s about self-love,” said Nolt. “I like it because it’s refreshing to hear about someone who sees the beauty of the vagina. And I think my monologue is a good fit for me because it is not as intense performance-wise, since this is my first time performing.”

Nolt also encouraged people to come, even if they are unsure of what to expect.

“Come!” Nolt said. “I think it will be fun, moving, and uncomfortable; the three elements of a good learning experience.”

Taahira Davis is another

repeat cast member who will be performing the monologue “The Little Coochi Snorcher that Could.”

She describes her monologue as about a woman growing up and looking back on her life.

It’s about “a woman whose experiences with her vagina are explored through memories starting at the age of five,” said Davis. “Though these are not happy memories, she meets a woman who shows her that her vagina is beautiful and can produce pleasant experiences.”

Davis reports that each cast member has been rehearsing for the monologues with various techniques such as “practicing contrasting mannerisms, facial expressions and voice inflections in order to see what works and what doesn’t.”

Although “Vagina Monologues” is an annual event, this year’s monologues have new changes. Two new monologues have been added, including one titled “They Beat The Girl Out of My Body Or So They Tried,” to be performed by Duncan McLeod.

“This monologue captures for the first time the voice of trans-women which have so unjustly been not included in the monologues,” Gow said. “This is extremely important to the cause of the monologues in general. Our production this year will also likely feature some original music to accompany this particular monologue.”

Students are also encouraged to bring donations to the monologues, including money and dried food such as cookies, crackers, and tea. The proceeds will go to Saint Mary’s Shelter, a Catholic group that helps people in need find permanent housing. Donations can be brought to the monologues or dropped off at UCARE.

\*\*\*

Boylan’s new novel, “Long Black Veil,” is a literary thriller forthcoming in April 2017, according to her website. Her other current projects include “The Bitch is Back,” an anthology of older women’s experiences, and “Falcon Quinn and the Bullies of Greenblud,” which is an anti-bullying YA novel.

You can learn more about Boylan and her work at <http://jenniferboylan.net/>.

John Strassburger—along with help from your great professor Jon Volkmer—made it all happen. It was the gift of a lifetime, and I’m still grateful.”

### What are you interested in discussing with the Ursinus community during your evening talk?

“I’ll talk about two things in two essays of mine. The first will be what philosopher Edmund Burke called the ‘moral imagination,’ the necessity of imagining what life is like for people who

are not ourselves. The second will be a slightly longer talk about gender and genre, teachers and writers, and the structure of dramatic action. It will all be a whole lot less boring than it sounds, promise. And I’m sure I’ll talk about the multiplicity of trans identities, and how to be an ally.”

### Do you have any advice for student artists and activists on campus?

“Yes, especially in these days, resist, persist, and prevail.”



Photo courtesy of Amelia Goldstein

“By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” cast members Blake Thomson ‘18 (left), Mya Flood ‘18 (center) and Charlotte Torres ‘18 (right) rehearse in the Kaleidoscope. The play opens Feb. 23 and runs through Feb 26.

## “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” Tackles Race in the Glamorous World of 1930s Hollywood

*Two of the play’s actors discuss the importance of African-American representation in the film industry, past and present*

**Sienna Coleman**  
sicoleman@ursinus.edu

The 1930s, the Golden Age of Hollywood, conjure the image of glamorous actors and actresses glittering with gold, scarlet lipstick and furs. This is the world into which Lynn Nottage’s comedy “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” transports the audience. However, something vile hides beneath that glamor: racism. Despite challenges due to this racism, African American actress Vera Stark is determined to get her big break.

“By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” premieres at Ursinus on Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kaleidoscope’s Lenfest Theater. There will also be performances at 7:30 on Feb. 24 and 25, as well as a 2 p.m. matinee on the 26th. The play is directed by Professor Domenick Scudera and stars theater majors Mya Flood ‘18 as

struggling actress Vera Stark and Charlotte Torres ‘18 as movie star Gloria Mitchell.

Vera Stark is an up-and-coming African-American actress who works tirelessly to be on the silver screen. While she is pursuing her big break, she also works as a maid for the white movie star Gloria Mitchell. By coincidence, the women land roles in the same southern epic.

*“I’m trying to convey hope, determination and the importance of hard work.”*

— Mya Flood  
Star of “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark”

Vera plays an enslaved woman, but she does it with hilarity and irony. Through this comedy, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Lynn Nottage shines a light on

racism in Hollywood.

The character of Vera is based on the 1930s African-American actress Theresa Harris, who was almost never included in the credits of her films. She was also paid less than white actors and her parts were usually limited to those of a slave or maid.

Racism and colorism in the movie industry persist even today, as Flood, who has done Summer Fellows research on the subject, explained.

“There is a divide in the industry between darker women and lighter women: Lighter women get more roles,” she said.

In addition to this, Flood noted that many black actresses are typecast. The second act of the play transports the audience to the 1970s where a panel of critics is looking back at Vera Stark’s films and her influence on the film industry. Unfortunately, Vera’s characters over the years are re-

ferred to as “sassy side characters.”

Flood said that this is still true in the industry today.

“There are a bunch of black women that are being put to the side for sassy comebacks,” she said.

Flood cited examples of stereotypes such as the singular black secondary characters in movies like “Clueless” and “Ten Things I Hate About You,” as well as the matriarch trope which often depicts black women as independent, unfeeling or emotionless.

*“We need black, female characters with dimension.”*

— Angela Bey  
“By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” actor

Flood feels that we need to recognize the stereotypes and write more creative characters for women of color.

She believes that when watching “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark,” we should realize the necessity of “giving black actors a chance and recognizing that there is an injustice, something that is not being recognized in American cinema, theater, and art.”

Sophomore Angela Bey, who plays Vera’s roommate and fellow actress Lottie, agrees.

“Representation isn’t enough anymore. It’s easy to place black women in the background of some passing shot, or as the best friend of the protagonist—if we’re lucky—and for audiences to shout ‘Diversity!’ and ‘Brava! Brava!’” said Bey. “We need black, female characters with dimension and stories that don’t pander to that white-washed conception of who [black women have] to be.”

Bey also explained how the play actively works against the norms surrounding how black women are cast and treated in the film industry.

“The black woman should not be boxed in; that is not the representation that I want or appreciate,” said Bey. “[With ‘Vera Stark’] Nottage is directly commenting on the double-reinforced glass ceiling that black women have been pressed against and clawing at for years and years and years. Characters and stories like Vera Stark’s are taking a baseball bat,

looking up and going: ‘I’m not playing games anymore!’ And we aren’t. I’m certainly not.”

“By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” is about the story behind the cameras—the story that the audience has likely never seen. It is about the African-American men and women behind the roles that we see in movies and how these actors are much more than the stereotypes. Nottage tells Vera’s story for all the people having worked in the movie business whose stories are untold and for all of the women of color who have never gotten a chance to be recognized.

It does all of this with laughter too. The play contains serious themes, but at the same time is a farcical comedy. Overall, Vera’s story is one of hope, according to Flood, because through hard work she is able to grace the silver screen. With her fame, she is able to advocate for political change.

Flood explained that through Vera’s character, she hopes to instill a positive message in the audience.

“[I’m] trying to convey hope, determination and the importance of hard work,” said Flood. “Nothing is ever given to you in life, you have to go out and take it. I think that what I really try and convey when I’m playing Vera is the fact that I am always working, always trying to push my counterpart, Gloria Mitchell, to do better and to put herself out there.”

Tickets for “By the Way, Meet Vera Stark” are available online at [ursinus.edu/tickets](http://ursinus.edu/tickets).

### WRITERS WANTED

Lend your voice  
to The Grizzly

Join us for our  
weekly news  
meeting

Mondays,  
6 p.m.  
Ritter 141

# History Professor Hugh Clark Reflects on Time at Ursinus

**Luke Schlegel**  
luschlegel@ursinus.edu

Dr. Hugh Clark has worked in the history department for 35 years: twice as long as some of the freshmen at Ursinus have been alive. He had plans to retire after last year, but ended up coming back for one more. When he retires at the end of this semester, he will be leaving behind quite the legacy.

Clark came to Ursinus in the early 1980s. He was finishing graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and had a full-time job as an administrator for Penn's study abroad program, yet he always knew that he wanted to be a professor. The academic market was bad at the time, but Ursinus was holding interviews for a part-time position as an East-Asian historian. Clark applied, thinking the interview would at least be a good learning experience, but then Ursinus offered him the job.

He told UC that he already had a full-time position, so they changed their offer to a one-year position with the promise that if things went well, he would be given a full-time job. The trial year went well, and Clark has been here since.

Clark describes himself as a "socio-cultural historian of middle-period China with a focus on the south-east coast." Why so specific? Because you have to be in the broad field of history. But his experience has given him an appreciation for having to teach at a more holistic level. He recognizes that the hardest material to teach is what you know best.

Miles Holtzman, a junior history major who took historiography with Clark last year, found Clark's teaching style refreshing and unique.

"Dr. Clark is great about interjecting [lectures] with interesting remarks or jokes to keep the class fresh," said Holtzman.

Clark expressed similar ideas in his approach to how he teaches.

"I like to use a lot of personal anecdotes when I teach," he said. "By and large on my evaluations, students have always appreciated that."

**"[Clark] always has something thoughtful, witty, provocative and challenging to say."**

— Dr. Edward Onaci  
History department

He wants his students to have an appreciation for the material he covers and the richness of other cultures. Not many students are invested in East Asian studies, but Clark does his best to help them recognize that people anywhere in the world all go through the same struggles and are not very different from who we are.

Clark is proud of what he has done during his time here. He said that, when he first came to Ursinus, "there was almost no tradition of faculty scholarship." Over time, Clark has certainly helped change that: He has quite a few publications to his name, and has worked for three years with four other faculty members to rewrite the entire faculty handbook.

He also takes pride in the transformation that takes place

for Ursinus students from freshman to senior year.

According to Clark, "you come in [to Ursinus], you're 18, you're insecure, and you're still a high school student trying to make the stretch into being a college student. You [leave Ursinus as] a young adult."

Ed Onaci, a colleague of Clark's in the history department in his fourth year, spoke of Clark with high regard.

"[Clark] always has something thoughtful, witty, provocative and challenging to say," said Onaci, laughing. "Usually all at the same time."

Onaci summed up Clark in one word: genuine. In our culture where most people are experts at changing their persona, Dr. Clark is a rare gem.

"He is just himself," said Onaci. "No matter what."

After the end of this academic year, Clark and his wife will move to a cottage they own on the Maine coast. He will take advantage of the wilderness up north and looks forward to hiking, biking, and kayaking.

He sees retirement "as a time when you can still be yourself at a more relaxed pace." Rest assured, Clark will still be his genuine self.

He plans on continuing his life as a scholar, but with the professor aspect on hold. There is, however, a college nearby specifically for senior citizens where he may do some teaching on the side to keep the spark alive. There is also the possibility of another publication, as he has been in talks with a publisher that has expressed interest in a particular topic in Dr. Clark's area of expertise.



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Angermeier

Dr. Hugh Clark, who specializes in East Asian history, has been a part of the history department since the 1980s. He will retire this spring.

**Have a feedback on anything we covered?**

We welcome your letters to the editor!

Send us your thoughts to:  
[grizzly@ursinus.edu](mailto:grizzly@ursinus.edu)

## Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Vagina Monologues 7 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium	Sex Toy Bingo 6 p.m. Lower Wismer	Scholars Day for Admitted Students All day	Alan Morrison: Organ Recital 4 p.m. Bomberger Auditorium			Book signing: Lisa Minardi '04, "Images of America: Trappe and Colledgeville" 4 p.m. Myrin Library



# “La La Land” delivers on promise of nostalgia

*Here’s a student review of the award-winning musical and its place in film history*

**Erin McKinney**  
ermckinney@ursinus.edu

This awards season has churned out a large amount of beautifully designed films created to tell true stories and tall tales alike. This year’s theme seems to be nostalgia, with other nominees including “Hidden Figures,” about the genius mathematicians working to overcome both gravity and racism, “Fences,” a new interpretation of a classic stage production, and “Hacksaw Ridge,” a film portraying a conscientious objector to WWII.

In the midst of these we find “La La Land.” This film, written and directed by Damien Chazelle, provides viewers a familiar glimpse into a Hollywood gone by with a throwback to the classic American musical. The film has won high acclaim and multiple

awards this season, sweeping all of the Golden Globe categories for which it was nominated, including best screenplay, best motion picture musical or comedy, best director, and best original score.

Director Damien Chazelle, known for his previous work on “Whiplash,” had long “[fought] to get this made, to get this in front of screens,” as he stated in his Golden Globe acceptance speech for best screenplay. Though I find it hard to believe it was difficult to sell a film about Hollywood to Hollywood itself, his speeches constantly refer back to the struggle to find a producer willing to “take the gamble” on this film.

Post-Golden Globe hype, I went into this film expecting a revolutionary take on the American musical, seeing things through the lens of a film course rather than an average viewer.

However, this is not a film designed to pioneer a new style. It makes no claims that it’s anything but a fun throwback to classic Hollywood. Taking that into consideration, “La La Land” delivers beautifully.

---

*“‘La La Land’ manages to be self-aware without being self-conscious.”*

— Erin McKinney  
Senior

---

The heteronormative love story, though predictable, was beautifully told through the lighting and score as well as the performances of the actors. In fact, another one of the film’s eighty awards to date includes an honor from the Art Directors Guild for excellence in production design

for a contemporary film.

Once I got over my cynical expectations of a cut to a joke about the massive musical numbers occurring seemingly at random, suspension of belief finally set in (as much as it can in a musical) and the story began to unfold.

“La La Land” manages to be self-aware without being self-conscious. This is perhaps most apparent in its self-referential humor when Emma Stone’s character, Mia, shares her work with Gosling’s character, asking, “Is it too nostalgic?” He replies, “That’s the point.”

Self-referential humor coupled with the set design, costumes, and choreography, serve as a reminder of Hollywood’s glory days and its role in the history of film. This film fits in perfectly with the current mood of nostalgia, following the surge in popularity of vinyl records and other tokens of the

public past.

The film provides a light-hearted outlet for modern frustrations; it echoes the style of film produced in the golden age of American musicals while reminding audiences of something more. Sometimes a welcome distraction is found in a recreation of the past.

A comfortingly familiar narrative reminds us of what we love about going to the cinema: to settle in to a new story, to be transported to the fantastic world portrayed in films such as “La La Land.”

---

*Erin McKinney is a senior politics major and is minoring in media and communication studies. She is also a manager for Phonathon.*

# Graduating early should not translate to exclusion

*Student explains how age and health reasons limit participation in senior-year traditions*

**Leighnah Perkins**  
leperkins@ursinus.edu

When you picture your senior year here at Ursinus, aside from the idea of almost being done with college, you probably think of time-honored traditions like the senior Halloween party, the 100 Days until Graduation Open Bar, and the champagne toast. They’re something to look forward to during your three years leading up to the last. Now, imagine you don’t get to participate in any of those things, despite being a senior.

I’m graduating a year early (I originally was part of the class of 2018) and with a birthday in July I was already young for the class of 2018. I won’t be of legal drinking age until after graduation. As a result, I am missing out on all kinds of traditions that seniors normally get to attend due to them being in bars.

Obviously, for lack of better

words, this sucks.

The idea that I’m not able to attend any of these “milestones” of this last year makes me feel left out over something I can’t even control. My experience has led me to believe that Ursinus community and student body should introduce other traditions in addition to those that take place in bars in order to include everyone, whether they’re 21 or not.

Some of you might be thinking, “Well it was your choice to graduate early and part of doing so means sacrificing parts of the college experience.” Yet why should anyone have to miss out on traditions just because they’re finishing a year or a semester early? We all know that the costs of higher education are ridiculously high, with College Board reporting that the average private university costs \$33,480 for one year.

As a result, graduating early is just going to become increasingly more common. In fact, in a

USA Today College article, Rachel Rossenbaum reported that the number of students at Duke University that graduated early had gone up 30 percent between 2010 and 2014. Duke is not the only school where this could possibly be happening.

With Ursinus’ culture of forging your own path through the creation of your own major, pursuing double majors, and so on, the community should also begin being accommodating toward those students who graduate early. This involves making new traditions for those under 21.

Aside from being of age, I can’t help but wonder if the traditions UC currently has are alienating to those who don’t like to drink or even those who might have a health condition or an addiction to alcohol that could prevent them from being involved. In fact, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism revealed that around 20 percent of college students match the de-

scription of an alcoholic.

It’s really not fair to set every tradition around something people might not be able to enjoy or something that could be detrimental to their recovery. How is it okay to ask people with health issues to just isolate themselves from the goings on?

The idea of all of these alcohol-based events also says something about our culture here at Ursinus. Drinking has been a tradition on college campuses for ages. That’s nothing new and will likely never change—who doesn’t love a good party? That’s not the problem with this situation.

Yet it seems at Ursinus that there’s a clear emphasis put on drinking and its value in our social lives that is somewhat detrimental. On campus our alcohol policies facilitate a more inclusive environment, but once you go off campus if you’re under 21 you’re left out. If you don’t (or can’t) drink then you’re left out. This does not only include being

left out of parties or going out on Saturday nights, but also being left out of special traditions.

I want to make it clear that the issue here is not drinking, parties or having fun. The issue is that those who can’t or don’t drink are simply left out of some special events that make senior year, well, senior year.

Perhaps there could be two celebrations for each special event, including one that students of all ages and health statuses can attend and enjoy. The bottom line is that every Ursinus senior, regardless of their age, graduation year, or health condition, should be able to celebrate a really important milestone in their life with their classmates.

---

*Leighnah Perkins is a senior media and communication studies major and is minoring in creative writing. She is also the social media editor for The Grizzly.*



**Golf** continued from pg. 8

bers as they enter their spring season.

In each one of their invitationals and classics, the Bears never finished below fourth place. They finished third of eight in the McDaniel Invitational, first of eight at the Ursinus Invitational, second of five at the Revolutionary Collegiate Classic, and fourth of eight at the Eastern Fall Invitational.

The Bears have a solid group of golfers that have shown promise throughout the fall season. Entering the spring season, the lineup consists of juniors Sarah Thompson and Shelby Bryant, and sophomores Rebecca Chiger, Mattison Leand and Emily McGarrigle. The Bears are led by Coach Wes Hollis, who is in his third year as both the men's and women's golf coach.

Junior golfer Sarah Thompson had some positive words to say about the future.

"We are feeling very optimistic about the spring season," Thompson said. "We had a pretty solid fall season, breaking multiple school records and beating Millersville at our fall invitational. We're hoping to carry the momentum we had at the end of the fall season into the spring."

Thompson also explained the differences between playing in the spring and playing in the fall.

"The fall season obviously comes right after summer, which is usually when a golfer's game is at its peak for the year," she said. "The spring season comes after a few months of harsh temperatures. We have indoor practices starting in February and play golf in North Carolina during spring break, but this doesn't compare to the amount of practice and experience we get in the summer," stated Thompson.

Both the men and women will begin competition later in the semester, but they are both eager to get back on the green.

 Follow us on Twitter!  
@ursinusgrizzly

 Have feedback on this story? Visit The Grizzly on Facebook!



Photo Courtesy of Matan Peleg

Senior Derek Arnold during the conference championship this past weekend. Arnold took gold in the 157 pound weight class. As a team, Ursinus placed second overall behind host Stevens Institute of Technology.

easy by racking up the points in his first match (16-0) and then advancing to the final by pinning Erik Beshada. The final posed a stiffer challenge, as Stevens' Thomas Poklikuha is recognized as one of the top wrestlers in the country at 157 pounds.

Although not nearly as impressive as his first two victories, Arnold bested Poklikuha 7-1 and captured the gold. According to the Ursinus Athletics webpage, Arnold is the 25th three-time champion in conference history.

Alex Kramer made some history of his own on Saturday when he captured another gold medal for the Bears. Kramer came into the conference championships with an incredible regular season record of 32-5 and only one blemish on his conference record, which came at the hands of Zach Wilhelm of Stevens. Kramer easily won his first two matches, recording technical falls over both his first two opponents.

In the final, Kramer faced a familiar foe in Wilhelm. Much like Tan, Kramer got his revenge by felling Wilhelm in a close contest with

a score of 7-5—another gold medal for Collegeville.

Along with the trio of gold medal winners, the Bears saw plenty of other success throughout the tournament.

Junior Cody Richmond placed second in the 184-pound tournament to Merchant Marine's Patrick Rooney with a score of 11-6. This marked the junior's first loss to an in-conference foe; he had been perfect coming into the championship matches.

Senior Matan Peleg placed third in the 285-pound bracket. This was a bit of a surprise since Peleg came into the tournament ranked 10th in the nation and was the top seed in the conference. Peleg easily handled the third place match, defeating his opponent by a score of 8-1. Although Peleg fell short of his goal, he is confident he can bounce back and make it to the national stage once again.

"I feel the success I've had otherwise this year still means a lot in and of itself," said Peleg. "I have confidence in my ability to continue to improve and make my way to a third trip to the NCAA tournament."

The Bears rounded out their 2017 conference championships with a few respectable finishes.

Alfred Corradetti, Jarret DiGiantomasso, and Corey Markovitch came in fourth in the 141, 165, and 174-pound weight classes, respectively.

While the Bears expected to win the conference this year, there are still some very big matches left on their schedule. Up next for the Bears are the NCAA East Regional Championships, which will be contested over Feb. 24 and 25 at Ferrum College. The Bears can extend their season from there by finishing among the top three teams in the regional tournament and thus qualifying for nationals.

"Every wrestler on our team strives to be the best that they can be, and it really translates into our performance and rapport as a team," said Tan. "Nothing builds a close team better than a shared goal, the drive to achieve it, and support for one another."

With that talent on their roster, the next few weeks for Ursinus wrestling could be very exciting.

**Wrestling** continued from pg. 8

ecute my plan and to really focus on doing the small things right," said Tan. "Doing the little things right sets a habit for excellence and eventually translates into the big things like winning matches."

Tan began his title run with a bang, posting a 17-1 tech fall against Connor McGee. A tech fall is defeating an opponent by a margin of 15 or more. Tan then defeated Ricky Cavallo of Johns Hopkins 7-4 to advance to the championship match: a rematch with Rob Murray of Stevens Institute, who dealt

Tan his only regular season loss in conference matches. Tan got his revenge in a big way as he went on to blast Murray 11-3.

"It does not help me to worry about who I may have to wrestle," said Tan. "Ultimately, every wrestler on our team has bigger goals to worry about than just a single competitor."

Like Tan, senior Derek Arnold is also looking to get back to the national tournament. Arnold easily worked his way through the 157-pound tournament, laying claim to his third Centennial Conference championship. In his first two matches, Arnold made it look

**Scores as of Monday, Feb. 6, 2017**


M. Basketball (13-10)	W. Basketball (13-11)	Wrestling (15-3)	M. Swimming (5-3)	W. Swimming (9-0)	M. & W. Track (0-0)	Gymnastics (0-0)
Feb. 8; Swarthmore 84 - Ursinus 74	Feb. 7; Ursinus 51 - Swarthmore 33	Feb. 11; Ursinus vs. Centennial Conference Championships 2nd place 79.5 points	Feb. 11; Ursinus vs. McGinness Invitational*		Feb. 11; Ursinus vs. Finn Pincus Invitational*	Feb. 12; Ursinus 189.675 - Cortland St. 185.975
Feb. 11; Dickinson 80 - Ursinus 78	Feb. 11; Dickinson 71 - Ursinus 63		*For full results please visit ursinusathletics.com		*For full results please visit ursinusathletics.com	



Photo Courtesy of Matan Peleg

Pictured from left to right: Senior Alex Kramer, junior Chris Tan, senior Derek Arnold. Each took gold in his respective weight classes during the conference championship this past weekend.

## Three Champions Crowned; Wrestling Advances to Regionals

*Junior Chris Tan, seniors Derek Arnold and Alex Kramer took gold. As a team, Ursinus placed second.*

**Jonny Cope**

[jcope@ursinus.edu](mailto:jcope@ursinus.edu)

After missing out on last year's Centennial Conference championship due to the dreaded norovirus, legendary head coach Bill Racich and his squad of feisty Bears had this weekend's championship bout circled on their calendar for months.

Although the Bears did not pin down their 12th Centennial Conference championship, the Bears showed why they are among the most talented teams in all of Divi-

sion III.

"We have a few guys who are ranked among the top wrestlers in the nation, which in of itself speaks to the quality of the wrestlers on our team," said junior Chris Tan.

Led by individual champions Chris Tan, Alexander Kramer and Derek Arnold, who all took first in their individual weight classes, the Bears racked up 79.5 points and finished second. Stevens Institute of Technology, their hosts, piled up 95.5 points—crushing the field in their third consecutive conference championship win.

The Bears came into the conference bout with high expectations, off of a 15-3 regular season that included a 6-1 mark in conference matches.

Tan, who qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championships last season, looks to be on track to make another appearance. The junior navigated through his bracket, capturing the title in the 125-pound weight class with ease.

"My expectations were to ex-

See **Wrestling** on pg. 7

## Golf Ready to Swing into Spring

*Both men's and women's teams are coming off a solid fall season and looking to dominate in the spring*

**Nick Brough**

[nibrough@ursinus.edu](mailto:nibrough@ursinus.edu)

### Men's Golf

With the spring season quickly approaching, the Ursinus men's golf team is looking to head into play with a strong mentality. The Bears did not have a particularly strong season this past fall, but the team hopes to turn things around and move up the leaderboards.

Out of the five invitational and classics the Bears participated in last fall season, their highest finish as a team was fifth place. This occurred twice, at the Swarthmore-Neumann Invitational and the Ursinus Fall Invitational.

The Bears are returning a solid group of golfers this spring. These players include First-year students Ryan Hodgdon, Brian Barrett and Jack Bagnell. Also returning are the two sophomores Bennett Collins and Noah Steiner; the three juniors Ryan Crawford, Max Schwartz, and Matthew Sherman; and senior captain Anthony Barbine.

"Things are looking quite well for the spring as we have many good freshmen who are ready to prove themselves on the course," said Barbine. "Also, we have seasoned upperclassmen who have proven themselves in the past, and are ready to begin tourna-

ment play with a bang."

When asked if what he thought about how the spring season was going to play out, Barbine said he expected a higher level of competition.

"The spring semester is a lot more intense than the fall golf season," he said. "This is when actual tournament play begins, where coaches are only able to have limited contact with their players, and players try to physically and mentally prepare themselves for the conference championships at the end of April."

Barbine also said a training trip is planned to help build team chemistry and improve their skill sets.

"The spring golf season starts with a major bonding experience: our yearly trip to Pinehurst, North Carolina," he said. "[There], we play a multitude of expertly-designed and extremely challenging courses, while relaxing with the entire team."

The men's golf team is set to take on spring play with confidence and winning attitudes as they begin practicing for the several tournament matches waiting for them.

### Women's Golf

After a very strong fall season, the women's golf team hopes to continue putting up strong num-

See **Golf** on pg. 7

## Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday	Monday
	M. & W. Swimming vs. Centennial Conference Championships	M. & W. Swimming vs. Centennial Conference Championships  M. & W. Track vs. Keogh Invitational	Wrestling vs. Williamson, Penn State - Mont Alto, & Penn College 11 a.m.  M. Lacrosse vs. Frostburg St. 1 p.m.	M. Basketball @ Gettysburg 2 p.m.  W. Basketball @ Gettysburg 4 p.m.	M. & W. Swimming vs. Centennial Conference Championships	