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## The Grizzly, March 30, 2017

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Photo Courtesy of Elias Olsen

Junior David Walters shared his monologue about living with hydrocephalus.

## Students share diverse experiences in UCARE sponsored Diversity Monologues

*Some students criticized the lack of racial, ethnic, and political diversity present in the talks*

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The Diversity Monologues celebrated Ursinus' diverse student community last Tuesday in its seventh annual performance in Lenfest Theater.

In the series, students wrote and performed monologues that explore minority perspectives on campus, to "share how it feels for different students to be themselves on campus and in the greater community," as advertised by the Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility and Engagement (UCARE).

Each spring, UCARE facilitates the event with the Bonner Leaders, a group of students committed to civic engagement and community service on campus.

"It takes [a] tremendous amount of courage [for students]

to go up there and do it—they are willing to risk something for the greater good of our community," said Dr. Christian Rice, assistant dean of civic engagement. Rice advised the Bonner Leaders in the organizing process.

First-year students have been required to attend the Diversity Monologues for the past three years, as result of a collaboration between UCARE and the CIE coordinators, according to Rice.

"Sharing individual, personal stories gets at the heart of CIE questions, such as 'What does it mean to be human?' and 'How should we live our lives?'"

Angela Upright '17, a Bonner Leader, explained in her introductory remarks.

"CIE is unique in that first-year students experience vulnerability in a classroom setting. The Diversity Monologues provide content that further informs those conversations," Rice said.

The monologues may take different forms—spoken word poetry, short stories and memoirs have been among its genres. The monologues are described by UCARE as "open, free and uncensored" because they contain "triggering material" related to these issues.

This year, topics included gender identity, sexual orientation, mental health, sexual assault, age-gap and online relationships, and disabilities. Of the 14 monologues given by students, only two monologues dealt with issues of racial diversity.

Susana Zelaya '19, a daughter of two immigrants and a first-generation college student, spoke about her experience with micro-aggressions as a Latina.

"I live in a society that tells

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## Ursinus to begin offering summer courses to students, community members

*SummerBurst will allow for students to get some extra credits this summer*

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Ursinus has recently introduced SummerBurst, a new program allowing students to take classes over the summer to either fulfill a requirement or for personal enrichment.

According to the Ursinus website, there are currently available courses in economics, geology, media and communication studies, politics, psychology, religion, sociology, Spanish, statistics, and theater. Classes will be held on weekdays from Monday, May 22, through Friday, June 9.

The courses, however, come with additional expenses: Tuition for students taking a course for credit comes in at around \$1,500 per course. According to the website, courses are also open for community members to take for \$250 per course without receiving credit.

Lisa Grossbauer, a statistics professor, is teaching Statistics 141Q over the summer. Grossbauer said that Statistics 141Q is "an introductory, simulation-based course."

"We'll go through the standard summary statistics, descriptive statistics, all the way through inference," she said.

Grossbauer is excited to teach this summer, and has told her advisees to sign up.

"I think it's a great opportunity for students," she said. "As I advise students, I recommend they take a summer course, to either catch up after changing a major, or adding a major, or adding a minor, or whatever the situation calls for. I often advise them to take a summer course

off-campus, but it doesn't go into the calculation of the GPA. So this is an opportunity for a student who has come late to a major to make up a course and also count it towards their GPA."

Grossbauer is also impressed by the initiative due to the variety of courses offered.

"I think they have a great, diverse selection of 10 courses in different areas, so students can really pick and choose," she said.

Grossbauer volunteered for the position early on in the process, and thought that introductory statistics would be the perfect class for rising freshmen to take.

According to Grossbauer, Statistics 141Q runs four hours a day, four days a week for three weeks. Because of the shorter time frame, Grossbauer claims that teaching is going to be a challenge. She'll be modifying the course to fit "within the four-hour three-week timeframe."

"I have already thought about designing the course around that environment, where we're sitting for four hours, and it's going to be aggressive," she said. "It's doable. It happens on other campuses, and I just need to have careful thought on how to design the course in that environment."

Jennifer VanGilder, professor of economics, is teaching a class called "Race and Gender in the American Economy."

She explained that it's an introductory course to "labor economics, which looks at gender wage differentials, discrimination, reasons for poverty, breaking it down by socioeconomics, [and] racial classifications. What we try to do is look at inequality mea-

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me every day that I'm not 'American' because I talk with my hands, I laugh with volume, I speak my mind, [I] recite Spanish songs," Zelaya said in her monologue.

"The monologues provide a channel for minorities that otherwise don't have a voice in the community," Zelaya said in an interview after the event.

Jordan Ostrum '17, who identifies as a queer femme, spoke about facing an atmosphere of toxic masculinity on campus. Ostrum also referred to three of seven transgender women of color killed in 2017 in the United States—Chyna Gibson, Ciara McElveen and Jojo Striker—throughout his monologue.

"Chyna Gibson, Ciara McElveen, and Jojo Striker cannot be here today to share their monologues," Ostrum said. "I am able to stand here and share my story in no small part because of the color of the skin I was born in. I cannot hope to speak for them or anyone who isn't me. But I will speak in memory of those who can't, in order to share my truth as a queer femme."

David Walters '18, spoke about living with hydrocephalus, a rare condition in which there is buildup of excess cerebrospinal fluid in the brain. Walters said that he has a shunt implanted in his brain which controls the buildup of fluid by redirecting it to other parts of his body.

"This condition makes me different, but I embrace it," Walters said. "I am not exaggerating when I say that my shunt could be malfunctioning right now, could do so tomorrow, or in ten years, and I might not even know. It probably will malfunction again."

The Diversity Monologues have been popular in recent

years. Lenfest Theater was almost filled to capacity during the afternoon and evening performances—some students, faculty members and staff sat on the second level or brought out folding chairs for the event.

However, the Diversity Monologues drew criticism this year from students who thought there was not enough representation of racial diversity on stage. Additionally, other students criticized the lack of speakers with conservative views.

"Ideally it's nice to have a wide variety of perspectives: class, race, gender, sexual orientation and identity, ethnicity, religion and political affiliation, [for students] to understand these markers of identity," Rice said in response.

"When I had originally seen the email regarding the diversity monologues my first impression of it was that it would've been with people of color, and mainly people of color. But when I saw that almost 90 percent of the performers were white, I was a bit taken aback," said Amanda Turcios '20.

"The stories themselves were very diverse, meaning that they were about passionate yet thought provoking things, but I should've seen more minorities represented," Turcios said.

"Five people talking about mental health and they're all white—I don't consider that diversity," Zelaya said. "But [those students] were brave—issues surrounding mental health are not seen as acceptable in the PoC community."

Asuka Watanabe '18, a Bonner Leader who helped organized the event explained that they receive the most monologues about mental health issues. She said that they are "of course, important and we are not implying that we do not want monologues on that topic because it is defi-

nately something that has such a negative stigma around it and must be talked about. That being said, the simplest truth is that we did not receive any submissions (except Susie Zelaya's) on race, class, politics, and religion."

Ostrum added, "However it happened, not enough black, brown, Asian, and native people were on stage this year. This further emphasizes the point that these monologues cannot and should not serve as students' only exposure to life experiences dif-

**"I**t's incredibly crucial that we listen to others and let any oppressed people share their concerns."

— Asuka Watanabe  
Bonner Leader

ferent than their own."

Kevin Leon '20 acknowledged the lack of racial diversity but found the monologues were an eye-opening experience overall.

"Oftentimes it's easy at a school this small to see people as another face," Leon said. "The monologues provide a good platform for people to express a part of themselves you wouldn't normally get to see."

Due to lack of interest this year, the original date of the monologues was rescheduled and the deadline for submitting a Diversity Monologue was extended to give students additional time to write and submit monologues, according to Watanabe.

"[The monologues] push people to feel uncomfortable or challenged and I think we all

need to be willing to confront that experience, especially given the divide that the current political administration [and] climate is perpetuating. It's incredibly crucial that we listen to others and let any oppressed peoples share their concerns," Watanabe said.

Watanabe also encourages students to participate in the monologues in the future "because it is the perfect platform to speak freely to the greater Ursinus community and public."



Photo courtesy of David Pennabaker

Students and faculty discuss the immigrant experience at the Immigration Panel on Monday, March 27, organized by UCARE.

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# Is there declining student interest in the Philadelphia Experience?

*The Philadelphia Experience will be updated according to interest for next year after two successful semesters*

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The Philadelphia Experience is going through some changes.

According to Kelly Sorensen, interim associate dean and chair of the Philadelphia Experience working group, the program will not run next spring. This is because of a lower than anticipated amount of interest in the program, where Ursinus students live, study, and work in Philly for a semester.

Sorensen called the decision to nix the spring semester a “late game audible.” He said that there had originally only been about 10 applicants before the announcement went out that the spring option was off the table. After that, applications quickly rose, and the program had enough interest for the fall semester.

“We assumed we had the same level of interest for year two, but applications were down,” he said. “And as I looked at the pattern I saw a lot of underclassmen, a lot of first- and second- years applying, and they were only trickling in.”

Sorensen said that what will likely happen is that the program will morph from one that runs in the fall and spring into one

that runs in the fall and summer. The fall semester program would look similar to the program currently running, where students take classes and have an internship. The summer option, however, will likely not involve classes, and be more geared towards internship and networking opportunities, according to Sorensen.

Sorensen said that the changes don’t stem from a reduced interest in the program among students. Instead, he said that he thinks that it stems from students’ commitment to their on-campus activities and academic progress. In particular, he said that the program has had trouble attracting student athletes and students involved in Greek life, since they are often wary of being away from those activities for a whole semester.

This makes the summer option more accessible, he said. Because of these complications, he felt that the program had “tapped out” the interested and available population.

“What we realized was that a lot of students who want to go to Philly want to do it when they can do it, and that is often summer,” he said. “So what we are shifting to is fall and summer.”

Applications have decreased

from the first semester, though. In the fall of 2016, 34 students applied, 16 were accepted and 15 participated. This semester, 21 applied, 18 were accepted, and 16 participated. The final application count for next fall was 24 applicants, with 17 accepted. As of press time, it wasn’t confirmed how many of those 17 were going to participate.

The summer program also won’t require extra-tuition for students, according to Sorensen, since it most likely won’t offer classes. While it is still in the early stages of planning, Sorensen said that it will likely be more geared towards students who are already going to be in Philly for internships or work, and therefore won’t require housing.

The change in the program also impacts the housing options for students who enroll in the future fall semesters. Currently, UC students in Philly live in The Summit, a student housing complex owned by Drexel University in West Philly. Sorensen is still working on the details of the housing for next fall, but said that Drexel had offered accommodations.

One student who re-arranged their plans after the spring semester was cancelled was

Angela Bey. Bey, who lives in Philly when they’re not living on campus throughout the academic year, said that they had originally wanted to go in the spring, but decided to make it work in the fall because the opportunity was too good to pass up.

“Part of what drew me to the Philadelphia Experience was the ability I would have to expand [my connection to the city], particularly in the performing arts in Philadelphia,” said Bey. “I really wanted to get more involved, and this distance from Ursinus, this sort of two-hours-on-SEPTA kind of deal doesn’t really work for that.”

Still, Bey was worried about many of the things Sorensen suspected were preventing students from applying in the first place.

“I was kind of wary of missing the theater department on campus. I know we’re doing a musical in the fall, and that was part of the reason why I wanted to do it in the spring,” said Bey. “But then I quickly realized that I can always do musicals, and what is going to be more important for me to do is really develop the relationships in Philadelphia so after graduation I have something to go to.”

Another student who recently signed onto Philly X for next fall

is Emmett Cawley, a junior who was, up until the last minute, torn between Philadelphia and a similar study-away program in Washington D.C. called the Washington Internship Institute. He said that the newness of Philly X is ultimately what swayed him.

“Philly X is something that, because it is less established, you have a lot more flexibility,” he said.

Cawley also speculated that students likely were not applying as much because of a fear of missing out on campus.

“I think generally the problem that Ursinus runs into with students is that students don’t want to leave campus, and they get kind of into a bubble,” he said. “And I’ve been abroad already, so I guess you could say I’ve popped that bubble. I’ve never really cared too much about being on campus. Everyone is nice here, but I like to do new things and see new things.”

While it is too late to enroll in the Philadelphia Experience for next semester, interested students should be on the lookout for more details on the summer program and how to apply for it.



Photo Courtesy of Marcella McGill

Students participate in last year’s Relay for Life in Floy Lewis Bakes Center. This year’s Relay for Life will be this Saturday, April 1st from 7am-7pm.

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sures, something that happens in society that is wrong, [and] look at social construction to try to understand why these things exist in a land that has so much.”

VanGilder is looking forward to the introductory level course. She said, “It’s a better class when we don’t bring in [just] econ students and have a broader perspective.”

VanGilder also responded to the price of the summer program, and said that summer classes are typically on the more expensive side.

“When the school has summer classes, it’s typically not for students of the campus. It’s typically for students in that class plus the community,” she said. “So right now, because we’re at a launch that’s new, it’s looked at just our students because it’s our first run. But I think these classes are useful for the student who is

behind, or who wants to graduate early. I think that the cost-benefit is good, if you have the ability to pack it on so that you can delete a semester. If you’re going to do it and still graduate in four years, I think it’s kind of steep.”

Whether they wish to fulfill a requirement or learn more about an interesting subject, students are encouraged to participate in the new summer course program. Students can register online through the Ursinus website.



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Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

# “Stop Kiss” brings story of love and heartbreak to the stage

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“Love is sudden and it is also slow at times. You do not get to choose who you fall for.” This is how sophomore Juju Bonilla explains Diana Son’s complex and moving love story “Stop Kiss.”

The play will be performed at Ursinus in the Blackbox Theater April 6, 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and April 9 at 2 p.m.

The story opens in 1998 with a young teacher named Sara who wins a fellowship to teach at a school in the Bronx. She moves to New York City with hopes of changing the world. She meets Callie, who shows her around her new neighborhood. They both

struggle with their identities and finding themselves, and gradually come to realize that they love each other.

*“I think anybody, no matter their gender or sexuality, could find something that resonates with them in it.”*

— Skye Gailing  
Ursinus junior

According to theater professor Dr. Meghan Brodie, the show’s director, “they are brave enough to reveal their feelings about each other,” but tragically, the moment in which they do this is interrupted by a violent attack on the two women.

Bonilla, who plays Callie, said that “throughout the play, they’re battling their feelings until someone gets the courage to actually kiss the other person, [but] that kiss leads to a brutal hate crime.”

“[The show] premiered in 1998, the same year in which Matthew Shepard was beaten and tied to a fence, left to die in Laramie, Wyoming,” said Brodie. “Last year, nearly two decades after the Matthew Shepard murder, the New York Times reported that LGBTQ people are more likely to be targets of hate crime than any other group.”

Brodie said that the play exposes the struggle that marginal-

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Juju Bonilla (left) as Callie and Skye Gailing (right) as Sara in rehearsal for “Stop Kiss.” The play is directed by theater professor Meghan Brodie and opens April 6 in the Blackbox Theater.

## Professor finds a new approach to academics with Brooklyn Institute for Social Research

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Ursinus’ own Abby Kluchin, professor of philosophy, religious studies, and gender and women’s studies, has been pioneering a program to increase the availability of a liberal arts education.

While pursuing a Ph.D. at Columbia University, Kluchin and her peers recognized the need for a non-traditional space of higher education that could be easily accessed by a broader public than those who might attend a more traditional college or university.

Kluchin couldn’t help but wonder, “If we actually care about the so-called life of the mind, why should it end at age 22?”

This led her, along with colleagues Ajay Singh Chaudhary and Suzanne Schneider, to con-

sider a way to fill this void. What resulted was the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, a completely new kind of learning experience.

Kluchin, Chaudhary, and Schneider now make up the Institute’s executive team, and are joined by several dozen core and associate faculty members.

According to Kluchin, “the Brooklyn Institute is a non-profit interdisciplinary teaching and research institute ... which teaches courses in alternative spaces all over New York City.”

The Institute offers alternative, community-based education in the humanities and social sciences directed at non-traditional students with a strong desire to learn.

As their website states, the Institute’s initiatives are “centered around the conviction that in-

formed conversation and learning are vital to American social life and democracy.”

The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of their first non-traditional class, a course on Plato and Aristotle held in the back room of a Brooklyn bar.

*“If we actually care about the so-called life of the mind, why should it end at age 22?”*

— Abby Kluchin  
Ursinus professor

Kluchin recalls this first class. “I remember us toting this giant portable whiteboard back and forth down the street from Ajay’s apartment to and from the bar,” she said.

Despite their humble beginnings, the BISR now teaches more than 70 courses a year to over a thousand New Yorkers.

The name is a fitting nod to the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, Germany, another group of scholars who are often most noted for the work they created while “in exile” in New York.

Of the many notable qualities of the Brooklyn Institute is what Kluchin describes as its “labor forward model,” which is a model not frequently pursued in traditional higher education. With national trends in higher education of exponentially increasing tuition and reliance on untenured faculty in mind, the Brooklyn Institute hoped to make liberal arts education both more accessible to students and more supportive of academics.

By offering courses at an affordable rate with proceeds that directly benefit the instructors and other aspects of the Institute, the BISR recognizes and values what Kluchin calls the “intellectual labor” of its members.

This is due in part to the fact that all of the administrators are also faculty members, which can be important to understanding the actual operations of a project like the Institute.

“[The] character and values of an institution come from those on the front lines, which in this case means in the classrooms,” said Kluchin.

Partnerships with various other cultural institutions in New York as well as a membership program to generate additional funds also

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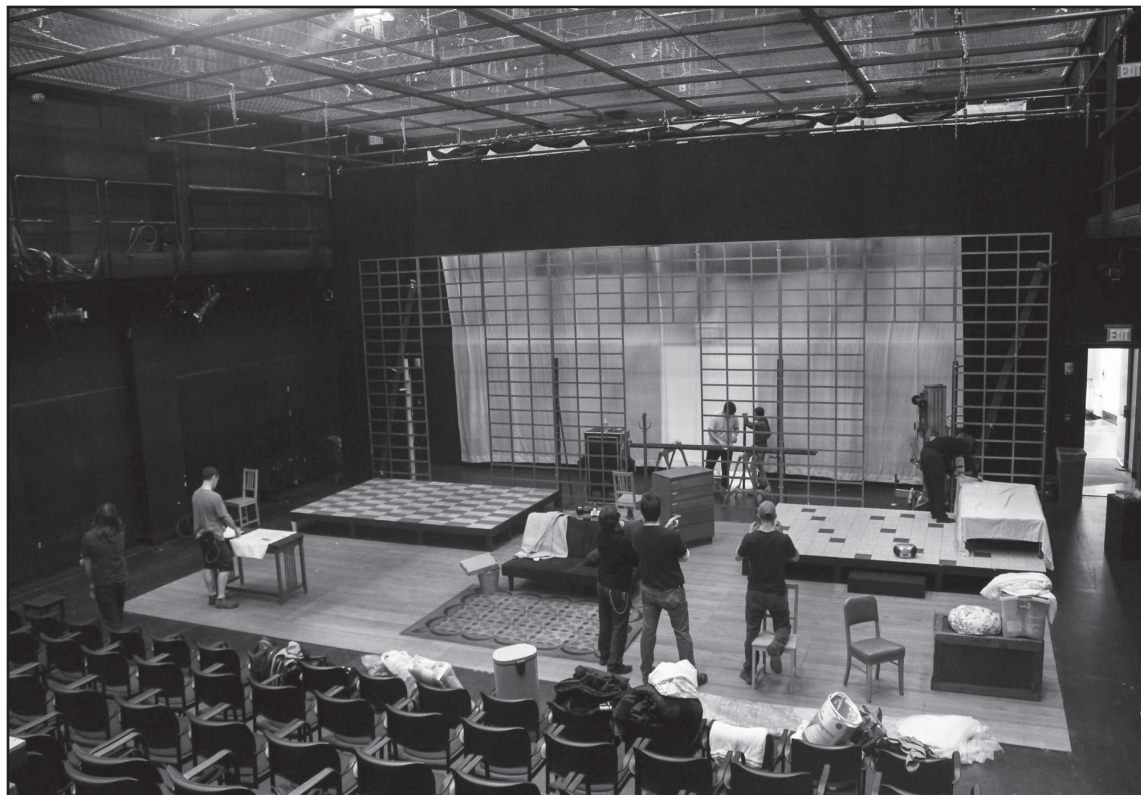


Photo courtesy of Henry Gustafson

The technical crew prepares the Blackbox stage for "Stop Kiss."

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ized groups still face.

"I think 'Stop Kiss' highlights the senselessness of hate crime and the horrible irony of responding to love with violence," she said.

"For me, the play is a reminder that we must work toward creating a world in which our shared humanity prevails over the ignorance and hate aimed at those whose sexuality, race, religion, ability, or gender expression are viewed as non-normative."

Tommy Armstrong, who plays Callie's best friend George, added that "hate crimes aren't about those who commit them; rather they are about those who are made victims of them."

In "Stop Kiss," after the play relays that the crime was reported widely in the news, the story of the victims – Sara and Callie – continues and the two women and those close to them have to live

and cope with the events as reality rather than just another news report.

Sara and Callie's story, while heartbreaking, is an honest and beautiful story of love. Even with its heavy themes, it manages to delicately portray the awkwardness and uncertainty of a new relationship and the wonderful sweetness of having someone love you.

According to Skye Gailing, who plays Sara, the story "transcends any lines of gender and sexuality ... because these characters are so realistic and so relatable."

"I think anybody, no matter their gender or sexual identity, could find something that resonates with them in it," she added.

As Claire Hughes, the production's stage manager, put it, Callie and Sara "don't know they're attracted to women in the beginning," but instead are "two average women who end up falling in

love."

"Stop Kiss" shows the sweetness of a love story but also shows real, deep pain as the characters deal with the attack and its consequences.

The play has a unique structure which "moves back and forth in time, switching between the weeks leading up to the attack on the two women and the weeks following the attack," explained Brodie.

"Stop Kiss" also aims to help the audience understand love and its significance on a personal yet universal level.

"In 'Stop Kiss,' romance is something that grows slowly and unexpectedly. 'Stop Kiss' is about how we navigate the often unfamiliar landscape of falling in love, complete with all of the struggles, embarrassments, and joys associated with new romance," Brodie noted.

The title of the play itself can have many interpretations. Cal-

**Brooklyn** continued from pg. 4

help to keep the financial burden low on BSIR participants.

The difference between the Brooklyn Institute and a more traditional place of higher education is not only the accessibility, but the low pressure atmosphere.

"Students are there because they want to be there—they do the reading and sometimes ask for more!" Kluchin said.

There are no grades, and no pressure to prove your intelligence, but rather open and honest discussion. According to Kluchin, those who did not pursue a traditional path of higher education or found the traditional route too elitist see this model as a welcome change.

The great strides towards accessibility being taken by the Brooklyn Institute extend even beyond the classroom.

"We [at the Institute] want to make a point that intellectual life happens and ought to happen outside of the university all of the time," said Kluchin.

Kluchin and her colleagues also offer screenings and public conversation series, as well as office hours and one-on-one discussion with instructors.

The Institute's newest venture is a second location—they now offer classes in Philadelphia. In the future, they hope to expand further and build similar programs across the United States, focusing particularly on "underserved areas in both the urban and exurban Midwest and beyond," according to their website.

More information on the institute and how to get involved as a student or member can be found on their website: <https://thebrooklyninstitute.com/>.

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Mondays, 6 p.m. Ritter 141

**Happening on Campus**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Faculty Baden Lecture: Patrick Hurley 4:15 p.m. Pfahler Auditorium	Nerd Camp: Post-College Life Hacks 2 p.m. Kaleidoscope 215	American Cancer Society's Relay for Life 7 p.m. Floy Lewis Bakes Center	U-Imagine BEAR Innovation Competition 11 a.m. Pfahler Auditorium	How to Make Your Vote Count: Redistricting in PA 7 p.m. Olin Auditorium		



## Students need to start contacting their representatives

Kevin Leon

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An all too obvious consequence of the recent presidential election is the uptick in politically charged conversations. It has become commonplace, if not overwhelming, to see political messages in all sorts of media from a variety of people. Whether conservative or liberal, politically focused videos have gone from the fringes to the mainstream. Alongside these partisan messages come the ideas of acting and voicing individual political concerns.

Even attempting to get in contact with representatives in person has proven more difficult than it should be because of increased political engagement.

On Feb. 26, 2017, Politico, an online political-journalism outlet, reported that Marco Rubio, a senator from Florida, had been skipping town hall meetings be-

cause he claimed that liberals had been instructed to attend town hall meetings to yell at and boo him. Rubio stated that liberal protesters had been using town halls to voice concerns and disdain for his policies.

In the same Politico coverage of Rubio, both Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and Governor Chris Christie pushed back against the statements made by him and other civil servants. Christie strongly responded, "Welcome to the real world of responsibility."

Despite this negative feedback, Rubio has opted to skip town halls entirely, leaving his Republican constituents out in the dark.

This decision should be concerning to both liberals and conservatives. Someone elected by the people should have to answer to the people instead of running away.

However, Rubio is not the only politician to skip town hall meetings. The Houston Chronicle re-

ported that another congressman, Joedy Arrington, faced criticism about being absent, when his constituents made a cardboard cut-out to fill the void of his absence.

Brandon Carey, a junior, shares the same belief that politics should be more direct. He argued that politics have been in a state of "cruise control" since the 1980s, where people cast a vote and then just waited for the next election.

In addition to his statements, Carey has personally attempted to contact his representatives in Washington on multiple occasions. He has left voicemails and even sent a few written letters.

"Making calls creates pressure, and sometimes that's better than nothing," Carey said.

A recent instance in which people's contact with their representatives proved fruitful was with the attempt by Democrats to block Trump's nominees.

At first, Democrats were complacent with many of Trump's cab-

inet picks and were intending to vote in favor of them. After liberal Americans heard of this, a large effort was undertaken to contact their respective representatives to express their disdain for this move.

"We're going to vet these nominees thoroughly, New York Senator Charles Schumer told the Chicago Tribune. "We're not being dilatory, but we're not going to just rush them through."

Schumer also acknowledged that their efforts would not stop the picks from being appointed, but it would result in shining light onto who the picks are and what they might potentially do in office.

This ultimately led to many members of Congress changing their positions and voting against Trump's picks. Though this itself was a fruitless gesture, since the Democrats were soundly outnumbered, it still sent the message that people's voices will be considered if they reach out and push their representatives to fully represent

them. It showed that the voices of the people do have weight and that political actions have concrete effects.

What this means for students is simple: We can no longer be complacent with the way government is currently run. We must voice our concerns to our local and state representatives whenever we have any.

Otherwise, they will not be raised at all, especially when some politicians choose to actively avoid meeting in-person with their constituents. Their hesitancy and avoidance requires voters to step up. Calls, emails, letters, et cetera are all ways for you to contact your representatives.

"Don't let a 'no response' discourage you," Carey said.

I, too, echo this statement and as the atmosphere around us gets more and more politically charged, we have to take responsibility and make our government work for us.

## Here's why I Relay for Life at Ursinus College

Rachel Glick

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Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Relay is a team fundraising event where team members take turns walking around a track. Each event is six to 24 hours in length and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps. And for one night, neither do we. Volunteers like me give their time and effort because we believe it's time to take action against cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society's website, "Relay is staged and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer."

While we may not have volunteers from as many communities and countries, we still have the same dedication. At Ursinus College, the Event Leadership Team for Relay and the American Cancer Society begin planning events when we come back to campus in the fall. These plans build for

months before students, survivors, families, and friends even step foot into the Floy Lewis Bakes Center in April.

The build-up to Relay includes a variety of small fundraisers like events hosted at food establishments like Elevation Burger.

Regardless of the format, each event seeks to bring the community together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the ACS make a global impact on cancer.

And on an individual level, Relay has taught me that one person can make a difference. When I first arrived at Ursinus College in 2013, I was a scared freshman who felt out of her element and didn't know where to turn.

Thankfully, a few weeks into school, I found myself at the activities fair. A table with a bright purple sign and two women with giant smiles on their faces caught my eye. I immediately approached the Relay for Life table with intrigue and excitement.

Four years later I can say that I've found my home within Relay for Life and within the ACS. What I didn't know then was that I would be involved in one of the

most passionate organizations on campus that is motivated by individuals coming together to make a difference.

While the American Cancer Society's website provides an endless amount of information and stories, I'd like to take the time to tell one of the most important ones. In May 1985, Dr. Gordon "Gordy" Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, raising money to help the ACS.

Klatt spent 24 hours walking the track at the University of Puget Sound. Friends, family, and patients watched and supported him as he walked more than 83 miles and raised \$27,000 through pledges. This action inspired a new tradition the following year, where 19 different teams took part in the first-ever Relay for Life and raised \$33,000.

In 2014, Gordy passed away after a battle against stomach cancer. His legacy lives on as he helped shape an idea that started as one person walking a track and turned it into a global event which has raised over \$5 billion.

One of the phrases used by people involved with Relay and ACS is "As cancer never sleeps,

neither do we," which motivates me as a volunteer every day, especially when the number of people impacted by cancer is too high.

The ACS's website stated that this year about 564,300 Americans are expected to die of cancer, which is more than 1,500 people per day.

The American Cancer Society's website also stated that over 75 percent of funds go to program services such as research, patient support, prevention, information, education, detection and treatment.

One of the most crucial care programs they provide is the Hope Lodge which offers patients and their caregivers a free place to stay when treatment is far from home.

Since 2006, Ursinus has raised \$369,000, which does not include money raised in the 2017 season. This may cause you to ask yourself: "Exactly how much can it do?"

\$369,000 can provide 15,409 rides to and from treatment for a cancer patient through our Road to Recovery Program; it can help guide, comfort, and support 14,125 women facing breast cancer through ACS's Reach To Recovery program; and it can provide 4,084 nights of free lodging to a survi-

vor and their caregiver when having to travel away from home for treatment at one of the ACS Hope Lodge facilities.

By becoming a volunteer at Ursinus, you become a vital part of the American Cancer Society: a volunteer. As a community of individuals, we all have different reasons for relaying.

For me, on June 30, I lost an influential figure in my life due to pancreatic cancer. Marilyn "Nanny" Fox was a loving wife, caring mother, and supportive grandmother to my close friend and a grandmother figure to me. She was always everyone's biggest cheerleader. Her smile and presence always lit up a room.

Marilyn's unconditional love and weekly phone calls kept me motivated throughout my freshman year of college. And I can happily assure you that I am not the only who had been affected by her kind soul.

With Relay, we are fighting for every birthday threatened by cancer. Therefore, I am asking for your assistance to join me in the fight back. I fight every day in loving memory of Marilyn ... Who will you Relay for?



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score of 9-0, receiving victories from junior Max Oberholtzer and sophomore Paul Vecchio. Seniors Jordan Hodess and Henry Burke and first-year players Connor DeFaber-Schumacher and Devin Paulison also were victors in the match. This landed the Bears a 6-1 record going into conference play. This season, Burke, Hodess, Oberholtzer and senior Chanton Phan are captains for the Bears.

Hodess attributes his success to the coaching ability of Smith.

**“100** wins is such a great milestone, and I think it is a testament to his ability as a coach to get the best out of his players.”

— Jordan Hodess  
UC Tennis Athlete

“One hundred wins is such a great milestone, and I think it is a testament to his ability as a coach to get the best out of his players,” Hodess said.

Going into conference play, the Bears were ranked 19th nationally according to the ITA Atlantic South rankings. This past weekend the Bears faced off against the 12th-ranked Diplomats of Franklin & Marshall. Though their efforts were valiant, the Bears fell to the Diplomats with a score of 8-1. However, rebounding the next day at home, the Bears blanked the Grey Hounds of Moravian with a score of 9-0.

As head coach of the women’s team, Smith also received coach of the year honors from the Philadelphia Area Tennis District, a local section of the United States Tennis Association, for his efforts during the 2016 women’s season.

During his time as the women’s head coach, Smith has compiled a record of 31-15, and led the team to their own playoff berth in


school history in 2015. Smith relies heavily on this wealth of talent in junior captains Aileen Bevard and Ariel Danziger as well as senior captains Robin Alsher and Christine Palazzolo.

Alsher had nothing but praise for Smith when asked about his accomplishments as a head coach.

“I think the impact he has made on this team goes beyond that; he’s improved both the morale of the entire team as well as my personal appreciation for the game,” she said. “I think it’s a great accomplishment for Coach himself and really speaks to how the program as a whole has improved over the years.”

The women have done as well as the men this season. They have compiled an impressive 7-2 record, only falling to Franklin & Marshall and Oglethorpe University. At the time, both teams were ranked nationally.

Both the men and the women have yet to get into the meat of their schedule; they face conference opponents in the near future. Smith and the Bears are looking to capitalize on recent success and make it to the top of the conference rankings at the conclusion of the season. You can catch the men and women at home against Gettysburg College on Saturday, April 1 at 1 p.m.

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Photo Courtesy of Grace Steel

Ursinus assistant professor and HEART lab director Dr. Deborah Fairheller. In addition to Fairheller being a professor, she is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do as well as a fitness instructor.

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“I’m not a big shopper anyways, I like to sweat more than anything,” she said.

It seems there is nothing that Fairheller has not done, and she notes that she is grateful for the opportunities she has received over the years.

“Life is short; embrace it. Recently I got a small tattoo and it says ‘dream it, believe it, achieve it.’ I got this quote because I have taught my kids this motto and I have lived this motto all my life. Dreams should be something we go for,” she said.

After working as a personal trainer, Fairheller worked at the ECRI Institute, a nonprofit that publishes research about improving patient care, for one and a half years as a full-time medical writer for health information technology. At this job she was required to investigate drug devices and medical procedures while studying FDA clinical trials. She also worked as a postdoctoral research

fellow at UCLA.

Her love for athletics and exercise in general shifted her focus to teaching in the health sciences.

It wasn’t until 2012 that Fairheller came to Ursinus. After Professor Randy Davidson retired, Fairheller was hired.

At Ursinus, she runs a clinical research lab called the HEART lab. HEART stands for the Hypertension and Endothelial function with Aerobic and Resistance Training lab.

The heart lab does research on cardiovascular and heart health, also specializing in heart health of firefighters. Fairheller took a particular interest in the health of firefighters because of her own experience at the local East Brandywine fire department.

When asked about her motivations, her answer was easy.

“My inspiration comes from the fact that my research can help others,” she said. “Each study we conduct, we see people embrace exercise or learn about their health.”

Students that work alongside Fairheller appreciate her love for

exercise. Senior Jeanie Jasinski has been working in the HEART lab for the past two and a half years.

“Dr. Fairheller is like a second mom,” she said. “She’s so down to earth and genuinely cares about all of [the student researchers]. She gives great advice, and knows so much about the field to share with all of us ... She shows us how to be professional and treat patients the correct way. She wants us to be at our full potential.”

The firefighting, kickboxing, and black-belted Ursinus professor is a very busy professional. Even with her packed schedule, Fairheller makes sure her students understand that they are her number one priority. Fairheller loves her profession, and that is quite evident, and as the HEART lab grows so does her passion.

“I feel that the HEART lab is one of my passions,” said Fairheller. “I really want to help others learn about cardiovascular health, how exercise and diet can improve health, and my research enables this.”

**Scores as of Monday, March 27, 2017**

M. Lax (5-2)	W. Lax (3-5)	M. & W. Track (0-0)	Baseball (10-4)	Softball (7-9)	M. & W. Tennis (7-2)	Gymnastics (1-4)
<b>March 25;</b> Gettysburg 10 - Ursinus 6	<b>March 21;</b> TCNJ 15 - Ursinus 3  <b>March 25;</b> Gettysburg 19 - Ursinus 4	<b>March 25:</b> Ursinus College Invitational*  *For full results please visit <a href="http://ursinusathletics.com">ursinusathletics.com</a>	<b>March 23;</b> TCNJ 12 - Ursinus 3  <b>March 25;</b> Ursinus 11 - SUNY - Canton 7	<b>March 23;</b> Ursinus 6 - Moravian 3  <b>March 24;</b> Ursinus 6 - Eastern 1	<b>March 26;</b> Men Ursinus 9 - Moravian 0  <b>March 26;</b> Women Ursinus 6 - Moravian 3	





Photo Courtesy of Ursinus Athletic Communications

Men's and women's tennis head coach Pete Smith receiving coach-of-the-year honors. Smith is in his 10th year coaching Ursinus. This is his second coach-of-the-year honor during his tenure.

## Ursinus tennis coach reaches 100 career victories, wins coach of the year award

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One hundred wins is not an easy milestone to achieve, but Ursinus men's and women's head coach Pete Smith has done just that. Smith is a 1991 alum of Ursinus, and has been the head coach for the Bears for the past decade.

"100 career wins is great because it brings another nice piece of recognition to the men's tennis program," Smith told Ursinus' athletic communications department. "[T]his group of guys has been a pleasure to coach, and they are having a great year so far ...

It's a nice milestone, but we are not done yet. We have a lot more to achieve this year."

As a player, Smith was in the Mid Atlantic Conference (MAC), the conference Ursinus formally belonged to, was a singles champion in 1990 and collected 50 singles wins that same year. He is a member of the Ursinus athletic hall of fame for his contributions to the tennis team as well as the basketball team. He excelled as a two-sport athlete: During his four years on the basketball squad, he racked up close to 1,500 points, which netted him seventh on the current all-time point scorers list.

Coaching the men, Smith had his most fruitful year during the

2013 season. The season yielded a 14-7 record that broke a school record. This also propelled the Bears to the Centennial Conference playoffs to make their first appearance in school history. That same year Smith was graced by the Centennial Conference with the coach of the year honor—his second such award at Ursinus.

Coming into the 2017 season, Smith has garnered a record of 94-85. During the match against Cabrini College on March 22, Smith reached the century mark in wins for his career. The Bears defeated the Cavaliers with a

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## The HEART of Ursinus Cardio-vascular Research

*Assistant professor and director of the HEART lab, Dr. Deborah Fearheller does a lot more than just research*

**Fran Liberatoscioli**  
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At the heart of Ursinus is assistant professor, health and exercise physiology director, and HEART lab specialist, Dr. Deborah Fearheller. She has quite the story to tell.

Fearheller came to Ursinus in 2013 after her husband's job brought her back to Pennsylvania, her home state.

Growing up in the small town of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Fearheller spent her days running around on her father's and grandfather's farms. She then went to college at Penn State University where she studied microbiology. From Penn State, Fearheller advanced to Temple and received her Ph.D. in integrated exercise and physiology with a focus in exercise stimulus in humans and in cells.

After graduating she took her first job in pharmaceutical research. However, after a short while, she realized that it wasn't for her.

Fearheller said "she likes talking to people," which eventually helped her decide to become a personal trainer and open up her own exercise company where she

happily worked for nine years.

Since then, Fearheller has found an even newer passion: firefighting.

"I have always been an athlete and always loved to exercise. As a firefighter now, my exercise is sometimes very hard," she said. "Firefighting is rewarding sometimes, scary sometimes, and very sad other times. Overall, though, I feel that exercising has taught me to appreciate my body and what it can do for me. Some days exercising is my stress relief. My escape from the hustle of day-to-day."

Fearheller also has a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, a first degree belt in Hikuta, and was also a kickboxing instructor. She does a lot of martial arts training on her own now.

Her martial arts skills came to be very useful when she had a scare while shopping in San Francisco one time. As she was walking along her purse was stolen and, without thinking twice, she chased after the culprit. Eventually the assailant dropped her bag, but Fearheller couldn't believe what just happened. Still, she didn't let it shake her.

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## Upcoming Games

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Sunday
Softball @ Delaware Valley 3 & 5 p.m.	M. & W. Track and Field vs. Danny Curran Invitational	M. & W. Track and Field vs. Danny Curran Invitational	M. Lax vs. Swarthmore 12 p.m.	Baseball @ Dickinson 12:30 & 3 p.m.	Gymnastics vs. NCGA Individual Championship 4 p.m.	M. Golf vs. Rosemont Invitational 9 a.m.
W. Tennis @ Lebanon Valley 3:30 p.m.	Gymnastics vs. NCGA Team/All Around Championship 6 p.m.	M. Golf vs. Rosemont Invitational 12 p.m.	W. Golf vs. Gettysburg Invitational 12:30 p.m.	Softball @ McDaniel 1 & 3 p.m.	W. Lax @ Swarthmore 3 p.m.	W. Golf vs. Millersville Invitational 1 p.m.
						Baseball @ Salisbury 1 p.m.