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Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran

Organizers of the Dec. 2 march outline their demands to their supporters. In addition to speeches, a number of poems were read and the crowd sang songs including "Alright" by Kendrick Lamar.

Students demand diversity

Students from SUN organized a demonstration on campus after recent discussions of events happening at the University of Missouri.

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On Wednesday Dec. 2, Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN) organized a demonstration demanding increased diversity in the CIE curriculum, a more explicit zero-tolerance policy regarding racial discrimination, and mandatory race and diversity training for professors. The demonstration occurred during common hour, and involved a large group of people marching throughout campus while chanting and carrying signs outlining their demands.

According to Cylon Fowlkes, a leader of SUN and co-organizer of the protest, the idea was born from a group discussion about the recent series of incidents at the University of Missouri. There had been nebulous ideas about

doing a protest, and "people were really into it," according to Fowlkes. "[The planning process] really wasn't very concrete. The space was concrete, we created the space and the time, but it was really just everyone else who came in. In the end it became very fluid."

After the group marched around, they reconvened in Olin Plaza where a number of people spoke and read poems.

About one hundred people attended the event, which was advertised on Facebook. "As a whole, I thought it was a very good show of solidarity and support, especially as a minority student," said Brandon Carey, a sophomore who attended the event. "I thought it was very well organized."

"I think this is a real positive

dialogue," said Brock Blomberg, president of Ursinus College. "We at Ursinus have had a tradition of wanting to encourage people to think critically and be independent thinkers and behave responsibly...and part of that really centers around letting people have freedom of expression and dissenting voices. I welcome that and want to have it in the most respectful way possible."

During the event, a number of organizers were present at the concurrent faculty meeting, where they outlined their specific demands, which included altering the CIE curriculum so that 30 percent of the texts were by double-minority authors.

"Double minority isn't exclu-

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Museum Studies minor coming in Spring 2016

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Ursinus College is offering a new Museum Studies minor starting in the Spring of 2016.

The minor has been in the works for many years and was developed from faculty across the college. Faculty from the Art and Art History, History, and Chemistry departments, and the Berman Museum of Art helped form this minor based of the interdisciplinary discourse of Museum Studies. According to Dr. Deborah Barkun, chair of the department of art and art history, Museum Studies has been in demand the past couple of years.

"In part, it was the recognition that Museum Studies is in fact an intellectual disciple," Barkun said.

Barkun went on to say that Ursinus has had success with students going on to pursue careers in Museum Studies or have gone on to Museum Studies graduate programs. The faculty recognized that there was a tremendous interest from the student population and Museum Studies took advantage of the interdisciplinary focus of Ursinus.

The minor is open to all students who range from generally interested, interested from an art museum standpoint, history standpoint, or science standpoint said Barkun.

"I think it adds to the college's liberal arts plus component of our strategic plan," Barkun said.

Barkun said one of the main goals of the minor is to go beyond what people already think of museums. "Museums are diverse

places of knowledge," and there are a lot of "behind the scenes professions" besides what everyone tends to think about.

Across campus, there seems to be a lot of interest coming from the student body. A second Museum Studies 100 class has been added to the Spring curriculum because demand for the course was so high.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to take advantage of the Berman and all that is has to offer."

— Safiena Amzad
Ursinus Senior

Barkun explained how having the Berman Art Museum on campus will be a tremendous resource for the minor. The minor consists of two core classes, Museum Studies 100 and 200. Museum Studies 200 is a course dedicated to a curated exhibition.

"Students will be involved in all facets of coordinating that exhibition and seeing it through to its logical conclusion," Barkun said.

Ursinus has run programs like this as special interest courses, with a great deal of success. But, this will be the first time that it will be conducted under the Museum Studies minor, according to Barkun.

Safiena Amzad, a senior, is enrolled in Museum Studies 100 next semester.

"Being one of the few schools with a fully accredited museum

See **Minor** on pg. 2

BEAR Pitch competition crowns winners

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The U-Imagine Center hosted their second annual BEAR pitch competition in Lower Wismer on Nov. 16, 2015. The winners from last year's BEAR Pitch – biology professor Rebecca Roberts for the faculty division, and current junior Nick Lee for the student division – defended their titles once again, walking away with \$200 and \$300 respectively.

This year, bigger prizes meant bigger competition. The competition hosted over 20 contestants from both staff/faculty and students and was attended by students from the marketing classes and family members of the participants. The judges consisted of Jayne Saydah, Tom Shivers '89, Gary Boyson '13 and Frank Shultz.

The competition saw a lot of returners with a wide range of ideas – from a hat for all occasions to guardian algae. Lee's winning idea, "Who wants to go?", a free app similar to that of Uber but specifically for Ursinus students, was actually conceived last year in the Spring during the last competition.

"[I] didn't think it was polished enough to present" said Lee, an applied economics major. "I think I've gotten a lot more comfortable with public speaking as a result as well as clearly presenting an idea in a short amount of time," he said.

Lee, who has taken classes that have a fast pitch component as part of the Applied Economics major said it helped him in the competition because "in research methods and public speaking, it was required to get comfortable presenting a topic with little preparation in front of a large group

of people".

"I think it's a great challenge to get an idea across in [less than] two minutes and it requires a lot of practice to make a persuasive pitch," Lee said.

In second and third places were "Angel Vision" and "A Bridge Over Troubled Main Streets" by Chinonyerem Enwereji and Robert Colin McNamara respectively. Enwereji looked to provide solutions for those who are visually impaired, while McNamara tried to increase the efficiency of transportation in Ursinus by building an underground tunnel under Main Street.

McNamara's idea came to be as a result of the multiple accidents that have occurred on Main Street in the last few years. "I want to find a way to rectify that," said McNamara, "The tunnel under Main Street would allow for an overall easier way of life for Ursinus students."

Besides promoting entrepreneurial thinking among members of the Ursinus community, the competition was also received well by the judging panel.

"It is fantastic to see Ursinus develop a program which allows both students and faculty to cultivate innovative ideas that will provide tangible benefits to the surrounding community. The U-Imagine Center allows students to develop skill sets that will prove beneficial in their future careers and professions," said Boyson, of SEI Investments.

Saydah said, "It was great to be a part of the pitch contest. The program was entertaining and the contestants' had creative ideas for products, businesses and non-profits. The U-Imagine Center is a good resource for those interested in growing an idea into a business."

As for the winning idea in the faculty division, "Supporting Parents to Support Kids" came to be when Dr. Roberts realized that monthly date nights would consume 4% of the annual income of the typical family from Pennsylvania. This nonprofit organization looks to provide free date nights to parents.

"I think it's a great challenge to get an idea across in [less than] two minutes."

— Nick Lee

Winner of the student division

"I have three kids, my family lives on a budget and it's hard to finance a date night with my husband. After doing the research I found data showing a direct positive correlation between couple time (i.e. date night) and parental relationship strength. From there I found the data that showed that the stronger the parental relationship the better the outcomes for the kids – better social, cognitive, and emotional development," Roberts said.

As a scientist, Dr. Roberts could easily see that she had sufficient data to support the need for such an organization.

Dr. Roberts said that she had her draft written two weeks prior and came back several times with edits and tweaks before practicing it out loud several times, showing the intensity of the competition.

In second and third place were assistant director of scholarship and financial aid, Karen Maciolek and assistant dean of student affairs, Missy Bryant.

Maciolek said, "I loved hearing all of the ideas. I think it's amazing what someone can come up with to solve a problem or

meet a need." Maciolek's idea, a nighttime daycare resonated with her when her father was in the hospital.

She was hesitant to bring her kids along with her and struggled to find a last minute babysitter as their regular daycare center closed at 6.30 p.m.

"It made me think there might be other people who could use evening care, or even overnight care if they work second or third shift jobs" said Maciolek.

Bryant emerged third with "Wine Instead of Whine: Birthday Parties for Adults and Kids." – an organization for parents with young birthday party-attending children. As a mother, the idea came from "the dread of receiving multiple birthday party invitations every month from my son's friends and classmates," said Bryant. "My husband and I are often negotiating who's turn it is to take Owen to the next party – mainly because we often don't know the other parents and don't want to be forced into small talk." Bryant's idea will help to make an enjoyable experience for both parents and children at kids' birthday parties.

"It was a fun idea and something I can definitely implement in my own", Bryant said. "I would definitely do it again. Now it's time to come up with a new idea!"

The competition was also a good learning experience even for the non-participants. "It was my pleasure to be a part of the BEAR pitch competition. It's great to see entrepreneurship in action at Ursinus with the U-Imagine Center," said Frank Schulz of BC in the Cloud, one of the judges. "Both students and faculty members provided an ar-

ray of great ideas that I hope they will take the time to explore further now the the competition has ended."

The BEAR Pitch Competition has gotten bigger and better with more support from the Ursinus community and hopes to evolve even more as the years go by.

When asked about the competition for next year, Dr. Roberts said, "I already have ideas for next year, but part of the fun is just paying attention throughout the year and seeing where there might be a need."

Minor continued from pg. 1

on campus, I thought it would be a great opportunity to take advantage of the Berman and all that it has to offer." Amzad said.

Barkun added, "We are in a region that is so culturally rich, from a museum standpoint." Since Philadelphia, New York, Washington D.C., and Baltimore are within reach, the region allows Ursinus students to study museum studies at the undergraduate level.

One of the major goals is to use the various resources the school has in the region and take field trips to various museums around it.

Part of the Museum Studies minor requirement is an internship and with students from all disciplines having the ability to minor in it, it allows for students to explore a wide variety of museums.



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Photo courtesy of Andrew Tran

Demonstration organizers will meet with college leaders to address their concerns. Left to right: Mary Atta-Dakwa, Joyce Sanya, Caylon Fowlkes, Kimmie Walters, La'Shante Cox, Juliet, and Temi Olafunmiloye.

Protest continued from pg. 1

sive to just black females. We also want, let's say, a gay Asian or a handicapped Muslim," said La'Shante Cox, another organizer of the protest and leader of SUN. "Anything that can deal with double minorities is what we want so we can broaden our perspective one way or another."

Finding and adding these texts may not be as challenging as it seems. "I think with creativity and a little bit of dedication people can find examples of folks whose positions in any given society may have made them doubly or even triply oppressed, or may have moved throughout the society in a way that was not typical," said Edward Onaci, assistant professor of history. Onaci has taught CIE 100 during his three years at Ursinus and will be teaching CIE 200 next semester.

The changes that the group is demanding would involve replacing a number of the current CIE texts with texts fitting their criteria. "For the incoming class next year, it would be nice if there were one or two new books," said Joyce Sanya, another organizer of the event.

Although the protest was intentionally undisruptive, some students still criticized it, many of them utilizing the anonymous social media app Yik Yak to do so. While some students criticized the methods of the protest, others used the opportunity to post in-

flammatory language. Some posts advocated white pride, while others used offensive language to describe the protestors, many of whom were African-American.

"What I would like to see is the people on Yik Yak, I'd like to see them come forward," said Cox. "One of the issues is that they must know what they're writing is not okay, because if they didn't then you would see it on Facebook, you would see it on Instagram, you would see it on every other social media site where your name is next to that post."

"Well first off, a lot of things are said on Yik Yak that no one can, or should, defend. A lot of hurtful, inappropriate and racially-insensitive language was used, only because of the anonymity the platform gives its users," said Blomberg. "But I do think it says a lot about our community that when those things were posted they were quickly voted down."

"We are actually collecting the Yik Yak posts, and moving forward we plan to keep doing protests until our demands are met," said Sanya. "We came up with the idea that some of the Yik Yak posts will be on our posters so that they will realize that this stuff is being said, we're not crazy, there is a reason for this protest."

"It's unfortunate that people don't understand [our position] or don't do the research to figure out where these things came from, where these concepts came from, why we do the things we do. In-

stead they say that we're monkeys or that we're wild animals," said Cox, referring to a specific post on Yik Yak.

Other students thought that the protest needed a more defined approach. "When it comes to instituting real change, you have to work against the system in place, and that means you need a figurehead," said Carey. "So I think that's what we should take out of it—if we want to make these changes in administration, we need as a student body pick someone dedicated to be the figurehead."

Going forward, the organizers of the event will be meeting with leaders of the college to begin addressing their concerns.

"I want to listen to them, I don't want to propose what they want to talk about. I think that would actually defeat the process if I started rattling off a lot of solutions to these things before clearly understanding the issues they are hoping to resolve," said Blomberg. "I respect our students, and I want to first hear them out so we can have a real productive dialogue."

SUN also hopes to help students better understand these issues and why they are protesting. "As long as you're [asking questions] from a pure place and you're just trying to understand, or maybe you think you're right but you're still asking in a more respectful way, then we can still have that dialogue," said Fowlkes.

International Perspective

Differences in cultural cleaning routines

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"You are so organized." Since I came to Ursinus, I hear these words sometimes. I'm not so organized. At least, when I was in Japan, I thought I was an easygoing person. However, getting to know people here, I noticed that I may be tidier compared to most Americans.

The Japanese are usually regarded as neat and organized, punctual and polite people and it's not just a myth. Where does it come from? I guess education is one of the reasons. I used to work at a junior high school in Japan. In our compulsory education (up to 9th grade), we value the acquisition of diligence, tidiness and moral fiber in addition to the academic ability. Therefore, schools have some activities that are uniquely Japanese.

One of them is our cleaning routine. I heard that many students in foreign countries like America or Canada don't clean at school. Apparently a cleaning staff is hired for that job. In Japan, most schools have time set aside in their daily schedule for cleaning. Students move their desks to clean and brush back and forth with a broom. Then, they wipe the floor with a damp rag and clean even the windows or shelves. Of course they clean the restroom, too. Even though we have much technology to shortcut the bothering process, our students do all the cleaning by hand.

I believe the purpose of cleaning in Japan is not only to polish the floors, but to polish students' hearts as well. In Buddhism, cleaning is an important activity. It is one of many exercises that help free people from their worldly desires, and leads them along a pure and righteous path in all aspects of life—both physical and spiritual. In addition to its Buddhist roots, cleaning is also a way to instill appreciation and tidiness in people. The students come to

pay attention and observe their surroundings, not to make a mess in the classroom or even in public spaces. That's because they know that they themselves or someone else will have to clean it. It encourages them to consider others. Cleaning is an important component of academic life at school.

Some of you may recall how media from around the world reported with amazement that no one robbed food or money in the areas destroyed by the March 2011 Japanese earthquake. The victims rather spontaneously made a line to get the distributions for food and cleaned their shelters to share room with others. They demonstrated incredible willpower and self-control in the face of adversity, showing us how Japanese people should be.

Some years ago, a song was a big hit in Japan. The title is "Goddess of the toilet." Funny? It is! The song is like storytelling. A girl lived with her grandmother and the girl loved helping her, except the cleaning, especially the toilet. One day, the grandmother told her a story. "There is such a beautiful goddess in the restroom. If you keep cleaning it, she'll make you beautiful, too." The girl, believing the story, began to clean the restroom every day. Although the two were always together, as the girl got older, she came to grow apart from her grandmother as well as the cleaning of the toilet. However, she regretted it on the day her grandmother passed away. She began to polish the toilet again to be a beautiful bride.

Obviously, Japanese value cleanliness, tidiness and moral fiber, which is seen in education and even in the cultural scene. I'm not saying the cleaning routine is all a person needs to mature their mind, but it might be an important aspect to grow such a mind with Japanese values.

As for me, I'll keep cleaning. And maybe someday, I'll even be able to be a beautiful bride.

Flapjacks for finals

Students look forward to the annual pancake dinner that kicks off exam week

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Finals week can be a stressful time for Ursinus students. But amid exams, projects, and papers comes a unique form of stress relief: pancakes. The popular breakfast food draws a large crowd to Upper Wismer one night each semester, as students are served a late-night pancake breakfast by many members of the Ursinus faculty and staff.

This kickoff to finals week is an anticipated event for many students, as well as for faculty and staff. It offers students a chance to relax and take a short break from schoolwork and to interact with their professors and other members of the UC community.

According to Dean of Students Deborah Nolan, the event has been in place every semester since the 1990s when the student government sponsored it. The breakfast is now sponsored by Residence Life under the leadership of Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Melissa Sanders Giess, who has run the program for about 10 years.

Several years ago, the event

The pancake tradition began in the 1990s

was located in the field house.

"We used to set up tables and chairs, and we only had pancakes available," said Sanders Giess.

"In fall 2009, we started working closely with the Sodexo staff in the dining hall to have the event in Wismer and offer a much bigger menu," she added.

Recently, the event has expanded to include karaoke singing to keep students entertained. Students seem to enjoy this activity.

Senior Monica Adams said, "It's a fun experience because they have karaoke machines. It's a great way to take a break from

studying for finals."

According to senior Henry Willshire, "The real joy of the event was singing 'Hooked on a Feeling' with three good friends."

While Residence Life plans the event and faculty members serve the food, Dining Services also plays a part in making the event possible. According to Rick Lenker, who is often known as "Mr. Wismer" to students, "We order the food and help when needed."

"The Sodexo staff has been incredibly supportive of this event since we started it," said Sanders Giess. "It's a beautiful partnership that benefits our students."

According to Sanders Giess, student participation is usually very high, and in the past over 700 students have participated.

"I attribute that to a free meal during off-peak hours, the engagement of their favorite faculty and staff in a setting where they don't typically interact, and the timing. We intentionally hold the event early during finals week so that as many students as possible are on campus. We hope it's a stress relieving time for everyone," Sanders Giess said.

With finals quickly approaching, many students are beginning to look forward to the pancake breakfast.

"It's one of the highlights of the semester for me because getting provided a late-night snack by the faculty of the college shows that they understand that we're stressed, so they put on a lighthearted event for us," said junior Jordan Hodess. He added, "It's nice to be encouraged to relax by the people whose assignments are causing us so much stress."

"It's one of the highlights of the semester for me."

— Jordan Hodess
Ursinus junior

See **Pancakes** on pg. 5



Photo courtesy of Jordan Scharaga

Cast members of "Good Kids" by Naomi Iizuko at their final dress rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 3. "Good Kids" was directed and performed by Breakaway Student Productions, the only student-run theater group on campus. The show ran for two nights and was well received by the Ursinus community.

Artists' tribute to Chadwick

New Berman exhibit juxtaposes British sculptor's work with a collection from contemporary artists

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The newest exhibition at the Berman Art Museum at Ursinus College is called "Tyger, Tyger," and it features drawings, paintings, sculptures, and photographs by a group of international contemporary artists that include Nick Cave, John Coplans, Louise Despont, Anya Kielar, J.D. 'Okhai Ojeikere, and Ruby Sky Stiler.

The artists are from different generations, but they are known to be similar in their themes and styles to Lynn Chadwick, the British sculptor.

Chadwick was known for using welded iron that combined figurative subjects with expressionistic abstraction. The Berman Museum holds more Chadwick pieces than any other institution in North America. It holds over 150 pieces of art from monumental bronzes to studio maquettes.

The exhibit's full name is "Tyger, Tyger: Lynn Chadwick and the Art of Now," which

comes from the famous poem by William Blake, "Songs of Innocence and Experience." In the poem a tiger is questioned on its origins and creator, similar to the way the contemporary artists in this exhibit are all their own people, but they are all connected by using a similar style.

Chadwick would often begin his pieces by using iron rods to build framework and then would later fill them in with iron shavings and plaster mixture that could be smoothed or left to form a rough textured finish. In later work, Chadwick used these frameworks for his monumental bronze sculptures.

One of the featured artists, Ruby Sky Stiler, has a piece called "nude from parts" which is similar to Chadwick's style in the way that it has a peculiar relationship to time, meaning that the statues appear to look ancient, modern, and, in some cases, futuristic. In her piece, unrelated appendages appear to be stacked together by figures to create one whole.

Ginny Kollack, the curator of the exhibit, explained that when

she was asked to put together an exhibit it was something that would be celebrated during the inauguration of President Brock Blomberg. "It was meant to highlight something special at Ursinus, and the Berman and its collection," Kollack said.

Kollack felt that Ursinus's large collection of Chadwick art would be the perfect exhibition. Kollack began to organize and put it together during the summer.

Kollack became the curator for the Berman two years ago.

"When I first arrived, I noticed all of the huge statues and I thought, 'Wow these are really cool,' but I didn't even know who Lynn Chadwick was," Kollack said.

"It was definitely a process, and we couldn't have done it without the wonderful facilities crew," Kollack said. The exhibit is scheduled to run until Dec. 22.

Despite the exhibit's success, Kollack said, "I do wish more students would come to the Berman to see the exhibit." The Berman Art Museum offers free admission to everyone.

Bringing safety to the students

New campus safety officer is now teaching a class geared toward students' self-defense

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Campus Safety officer Paul Harris is offering a unique opportunity for students to learn a little more about self-defense.

The program, called U-Bad, aims to help students, both male and female, learn tips and tricks about how to protect themselves in unknown ways.

"I think it's a good idea to promote awareness and safety for everyone," Harris said.

While he was a police officer, Harris was also a self-defense instructor, and says he thought of bringing the program to Ursinus after talking to Dean Kim Taylor, director of Campus Safety, about the way other colleges and universities were handling self-defense.

"A lot of classes are labor-intensive; they take up to 12 hours to complete," Harris said, adding that students have to be extremely dedicated to put in that amount of time.

Harris wanted to scale the program down to better fit the Ursinus culture and Ursinus students' schedules.

U-Bad is one hour long, with a focus on raising awareness and mastering a few key techniques.

"What we focus on is flinch reaction," Harris said.

Harris explained that flinch reactions are natural, especially in high-stress situations.

Flinch reactions are the natural

responses that let the body protect itself, oftentimes with arms being flung to face level.

From there, in the U-Bad program, participants can learn how to use this position to their advantage.

Harris said that utilizing flinch reaction techniques allows time to flee the situation or to use certain skill sets.

The program is coming at an critical time with awareness of surroundings being lowered.

Harris explained that with the colder weather students often have their hoods up and their headphones in their ears, making them less aware of the conditions around them.

Gabby Simonetti, a junior, attended the test run of U-Bad earlier this month.

"I learned how to keep myself safe in a possibly dangerous situation," Simonetti said.

"I learned how to keep myself safe in a possibly dangerous situation."

— Gabby Simonetti
Ursinus junior

Simonetti says the program was "an interactive and fun" way to learn about a serious topic, especially with recent events that have happened on campus.

Harris is offering this program as long as there is a demand for it on campus and says the program could run year round, with

students signing up on a rolling basis.

He wants to keep the class size to 40-50 students so everyone can get individual attention with the techniques.

Harris said he hopes the program helps students feel more confident and enhances their natural instincts.

U-Bad will help all students, male or female and of all sizes, to learn simple self-defense techniques that can be mastered in an hour, he added.

The use of flinch technique self-defense is not only applicable on college campuses, but in all types of everyday situations.

Pancakes continued from pg. 4

Many faculty and staff members volunteer to serve the food, and Sanders Giess hopes that more will continue to join.

"I'm always optimistic we'll get some new faces...It's a fun event, and faculty and staff can bring their families along to enjoy time with the students, and some breakfast, too," she said.

While many students agree that the pancake breakfast is a successful Ursinus tradition, others offered suggestions for improvement in future semesters.

"There are so many students

who suffer from gluten allergies and other dietary restrictions, so it would be nice for there to be options for them in order to allow all students to have the opportunity for this wonderful idea for a study break," said sophomore Skye Gailing.

However, the current food offerings still entice many students to attend the event.

"I really love pancakes," said junior Arthur Robinson.



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Word on the Street Ursinus Professors Edition

What is your opinion about last week's SUN protest and the demands the students put forward?

"I think the protest was important, and I'm glad it happened. It seems pretty clear that African American students, Hispanic students, and other students of color routinely experience discrimination and racism on and off campus. But for most white students (and faculty), even the most well-intentioned ones, those experiences are almost invisible. A protest like this helps bring those experiences out into the open, and it gives everyone a chance to think a little harder about what kind of community they want to build."

—Dr. Nathan Rein, Philosophy and Religious Studies

"I am encouraged by last week's protest and the list of demands presented by the students. The challenge now is for ALL of us to take next steps engaging in conversations and appropriate processes to effect meaningful and lasting change. This is important work."

—Dr. Yvonne McCarthy, Modern Languages

"I am sympathetic to the frustrations articulated by protesters, and I hope for positive change. I wish the English language had a word more urgent than 'plea' or 'petition' and less antagonistic than 'demand'."

—Dr. Jon Volkmer, English

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Intermediate Microeconomics Policy Poster Presentations Wismer Center - Lower Lounge 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Internship Poster Presentations Myrin Library - Main Floor 12 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Reading Day	Free Mugs, Coffee, and Donuts Olin 104 1 p.m.	Final Exams begin. Library open 24 hours	Final Exams Library open 24 hours	Final Exams Library open 24 hours

Protests prompt hate on Yik Yak

Students demand zero tolerance policies for racial slurs

La'Shante Cox
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Last week, SUN (Sankofa Umoja Nia), an organization dedicated to educational programming about African and African American culture at Ursinus conducted a protest last week. I, the president of SUN, helped coordinate the protest. We did not march around campus screaming “We hate white people.” We marched around alongside white people demanding that there be “diversity in CIE.”

The protest was done to show solidarity with the University of Missouri after the series of racial incidents at that school. In addition to voicing our solidarity, we demanded from Ursinus that a policy of zero tolerance for racial slurs be put in place, that our faculty have diversity training, that more diverse texts be implemented into CIE, and that a fourth question—“How is our experience shaped by societal inequalities based on race, class,

gender, and other differences?”—be added to CIE so that people of all races will have a better understanding of each other, a broader perspective, and a greater respect for their peers.

SUN feels that it is important to have at the least an understanding of black life in order to avoid and alleviate the negative comments said by our peers. Comments like the discriminative, hurtful, insulting, and absolutely obscene voiced after our march over the anonymous app Yik Yak, such as “protests are gay;” “you guys don’t act normal. That’s why you’re oppressed;” “you’re out here acting like wild animals;” “#monkeys;” “when u protest it makes ur race look like a bunch of dumbasses;” “There’s a reason the whites haven’t been oppressed. It’s cause we’re the best;” “You people go to a fucking liberal arts school. It’s about as accepting as it’s gonna get so shut up and be happy.”

At the protest, SUN presented a list of demands, an example of

being a minority, two poems, and a letter of hope. We did a lot more than march. We did a lot more than mention “black lives matter” the few times that we did, and we did a lot more than what anyone posting these comments on Yik Yak mentioned.

We need our faculty to be perspicacious enough to handle the targeting of minority life on Yik Yak. We need assumptions to stop being made, and questions to start being asked. We want our faculty to care.

Last Wednesday, we sang “They don’t really care about us” because the fourth CIE question is brought up year after year, racist comments are constantly being made, racial tensions grow in and out of the classroom, and nothing is being done about it. We want action to be taken. This is why we marched. This is why we will continue to do so until something is done because what I quoted from Yik Yak is NOT from a “compassionate” community and what I quoted is not okay, Ursinus.

I refused to get Yik Yak because I found it to be a waste of time. I distrusted Yik Yak even more after all of the hateful comments arose last year after the Ferguson incident. Clearly, this app is still a problem if I am still being sent racist screenshots and still am able to see the nonsense of ignorant students on social media outlets like Facebook.

People use Yik Yak to anonymously post dreadfully hateful comments because they are more than aware that something is terribly wrong with what they are posting. If they weren’t aware of the negative connotations, these offenders would be completely content with making their post a Facebook status, tweeting it, or blogging it. Instead, they are hiding behind the veil of Yik Yak, prohibiting themselves from gaining the courage to say how they feel and what they truly think of minority lives.

I am totally for freedom of speech, but I also like to be educated. In order to be educated and

to help educate others, we need to know who these people are. Ursinus, you have the ability to rid the community of the toxicity that is Yik Yak. If students want to spread their prejudices, let them do so in the classroom. Ursinus, you have the power to ban Yik Yak—an app that only gives us a bad name.

Yik Yak gives a bad image to our community that is struggling to continue to define itself as “compassionate.”

We need to stop the ‘Yaks’ or, at the very least, allow them to manifest in the classroom as well so we can address them appropriately.

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Why Syrian refugees don't pose a threat

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Ryan Costello, U.S. Representative for the 6th district, is a discredit to Ursinus College. Costello graduated from Ursinus in 1999 with a degree in political science. Last month, he voted in favor of H.R. 4038, which would effectively halt Syrian refugees from entering the United States. Costello’s vote stands contrary to Ursinus’ teachings and values, and I ask him, and anyone else who agrees with his stance, to consider the facts and reconsider your position.

From the Ursinus College website, we can see that the UC education is not simply about passing tests and writing papers. It’s about being able to “graduate equipped in the knowledge, skill and judgment not simply to make a living but to make a life of purpose, with the knowledge to flourish as an individual and as a global citizen.”

While Costello has positioned himself as a global citizen, serving in the distinguished halls of the United States Congress, his recent vote demonstrates a shocking lack of knowledge, skill, and judgment. If his intention was to protect his country from harm, he may have caused more harm than good.

As Nick Stockton argues in his Wired.com article, rejecting asylum seekers actually fuels the fire of anti-west ideology and Muslim marginalization that breeds terrorism. (That being said, terrorism is an indictment of a person’s extremist ideology, never an entire religion. And as an FBI study reveals, between 1980 and 2005 94 percent of terror attacks on U.S. soil were committed by non-Muslims).

Jesse Andreozzi from the Huffington Post poses an even blunter question: “If we turn away refugees, doesn’t that add to ISIS’ propaganda that perpetuates the distortion that Americans are intolerant and jingoistic?” An-

dreozzi adds that “over 750,000 refugees were accepted into the United States since 9/11. None were arrested for terrorism.” Probably because agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security have proven themselves to err on the side of caution when it comes to asylum requests, and, as such, “The U.S. refugee process is so long, so thorough, that it is probably the least efficient way for a potential terrorist to enter the U.S.,” according to Stockton.

As WhiteHouse.gov makes clear, the current screening process is plenty thorough. Before a refugee can step foot on U.S. soil, he or she must make it past nine incredibly involved steps. Less than 1 percent of the global refugees even qualify for step two. Study abroad applications, the Common App, and teaching certification background checks may seem daunting, but they pale in comparison to what any asylum seeker faces.

Candidates are subjected to

screenings by the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the State Department. Screenings are structured specifically to identify individuals who have criminal violations or even connections to bad actors. Syrian asylum seekers receive an enhanced review by the Department of Homeland Security.

The past three sentences describe just one of the nine steps required for an asylum seeker to enter the U.S. As WhiteHouse.gov states, “Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States.”

And those security checks take time. In fact, if an asylum seeker is starting his application process at the same time as you are reading this sentence, you will sooner see a new face in the White House than that Syrian refugee entering the U.S. Why? Because the U.S. Department of State declares that “the average processing time is about one year to 18 months.” If

an applicant receives as much as a new phone number during their review process, step three (the one described above) is repeated.

Repetition isn’t interesting, but it is sometimes necessary. So, I repeat: Representative Costello, face the facts. Syrian asylum seekers do not pose a threat, and to think that they do proves either ignorance or intolerance. I am calling out Ryan Costello, in particular, because he is our representative. His vote was just as destructive as any other, but, as a fellow Bear, it was even more disappointing.

But it would be hypocritical of me to insist that my argument is infallible and that no alternatives exist. So go ahead: provide me with a cohesive, factual counter-argument. I’ll wait. But I won’t hold my breath.

Jordan Ostrum is a junior currently studying abroad in Spain. He is involved in the GSA and Breakaway Student Productions.



Photo courtesy of David Morgan/Stylish Images for Ursinus Athletics Bears sprinter Jequan Mitchell '18, seen closest, finished third in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash in the season-opening Bow-Tie Classic held by Ursinus on Saturday.

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le's freshman class. The talented freshman has the ability to run away with the conference championship in all of his events.

In the distance events Ursinus will hope to get big performances from Andrew Voyak and Evan Cirafesi, who are both coming off of solid cross-country seasons. When asked about his goals for the upcoming indoor track season, Cirafesi said, "Improve and qualify for conferences in the mile and 800." Along with veteran leadership and talent, coach Blickle and the Bears will look to some of their freshmen to step up and fill the void left by the previous runners and throwers.

The Bears have the talent to improve upon last season's fifth-place finish at the 2015 Centennial Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship meet. "The men's team will be looking to solidify and possibly even improve on our position in the conference," Hartop said.

Mackin took it one step further, stating that "a goal for the men's team should be to place third at conferences." It should be noted that this is a solid goal for the Bears, as the Centennial

Conference is one of the best track and field conferences in all of Division III and includes powerhouse teams like Haverford and Johns Hopkins. The Bears are looking to finish at the top of the Centennial Conference, and in order to do this they will need contributions from their top athletes, young and old.

Blickle has big goals for his program in the future. The athletes have bought into the program and believe that Blickle is determined to bring Ursinus track and field to new heights. "Coach Blickle has transformed the Ursinus track and field program," Hartop said. Agreeing with Hartop, Cirafesi said, "Looking at the recruits, I see him being able to significantly improve the program."

The Ursinus track and field program has seen its fair share of turnover in the last few years. With a determined coach like Blickle and his staff, the program continues to build and head in the right direction. The season's next test for Blickle and his squad comes after winter break on Saturday, Jan. 23, when the Bears host the "Collegeville Classic."

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agree that the team dynamic is great this year. Though young, many players have the experience required to be successful in the Centennial Conference. Three of the five starters this season are sophomores and all got significant minutes as freshmen.

Using momentum from the summer, the Bears propelled themselves into the first tournament of the season, the Scranton Tip-Off Tourney. The Bears defeated Stevens Institute of Technology before falling, 71-62, to the University of Scranton, ranked nationally in the preseason.

The Bears played without two starting players in the Scranton game. Even though the Scranton game did not go as planned, it showed that the Bears can play with some of the best teams in the nation.

On December 19 the Bears will have another unique experience, when they will travel down

the Schuylkill Expressway into University City to play the University of Pennsylvania Quakers at their home court, known as the Palestra. To basketball fans all over the nation, the Palestra is known as the "Cathedral of College Basketball."

Ursinus was invited to play against Penn by the Quakers' head coach, Steve Donahue. Donahue was a 1984 graduate of Ursinus and played both basketball and baseball. Originally this game was not on the Bears' schedule, but with such an exceptional opportunity, the men were humbled to play in this game.

Penn is a notable Division I team playing within the Ivy League. Over the years the Bears have played a number of Division I opponents, including Princeton, Colgate, Bucknell, and Lafayette. Small believes it is an honor to be playing a team such as Penn at a place like the Palestra.

Though Penn is a Division I team, Ursinus believes it has a good chance against the Quakers,

who are currently 4-4. Small believes that the Centennial Conference is a place where players who are on the cusp of Ivy and Patriot League players end up.

The Bears are looking at the Penn game as a great opportunity to gauge their growth as a team. This game will also be motivation for the conference games moving forward.

The men will have the opportunity to polish their skills before the Penn game. There is a two week gap between their game against conference foe Johns Hopkins and this monumental game, which will give the team ample time to rest and game plan.

With a young and talented squad, the men are poised to have a successful season. The Penn game will be a challenge for the team, but it will be something that will be etched in history books forever.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Raucio

The men's basketball team has 11 days off between its last game against Johns Hopkins and the game against the Penn Quakers on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Scores as of Monday, Dec. 7

M Basketball (1-4)	W Basketball (4-3)	Wrestling	M Track & Field	W Track & Field	M Swimming (5-2)	W Swimming (7-0)
Dec. 1 @ Franklin & Marshall UC: 57, F&M: 63 Remi Janicot: 13 pts., 9 reb., 2 ast., 1 blk.	Dec. 3 vs. Dickinson UC: 59, Dickinson: 49 Alyssa Polimeni: 20 pts., 9 reb., 4 ast., 3 stl.	Dec. 5 @ Petrofes Invitational, Messiah College Sixth place, 90 points	Dec. 5 Bow-Tie Classic Highlights: Senior Drew Mackin finished first in the 800-meter dash, while sophomore Jequan Mitchell finished third in the 60-meter dash and 200-meter dash	Dec. 5 Bow-Tie Classic Highlights: Senior Kristen Prijs finished first in the 200-meter dash and second in the 400-meter dash, while freshman Caroline Buckley finished third in the triple jump	Dec. 5 @ Swarthmore UC: 99, Swarthmore: 161 Highlights: Junior Marcus Wagner finished first in the 500-yard freestyle and 1,000-yard freestyle	Dec. 14 @ Swarthmore UC: 162, Swarthmore: 95 Highlights: Senior Corinne Capodanno finished first in the 100-yard freestyle and 1,000-yard freestyle
Dec. 5 vs. Johns Hopkins UC: 94, Hopkins: 101 Malik Draper: 17 pts., 6 reb., 8 ast., 1 stl.	Dec. 5 vs. Johns Hopkins UC: 50, Hopkins: 49 Jess Porada: 24 pts., 14 reb., 1 ast., 2 stl.	Junior Derek Arnold finished first at 157 pounds				

Outrunning the competition

Men's indoor track and field looks to improve upon last season

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The future is bright for the Ursinus men's indoor track team as the squad continues to improve under the guidance of second-year head coach Carl Blickle. While the team lost many contributors to graduation this past spring, the Bears return with a core group of solid athletes and boast a freshman class that has been ready to compete since day one.

Along with Blickle, the Bears will be led by assistant coaches Carmen Graves and Crystal Burnick in distance events, Maggie Brill in sprints and hurdles, and Matt Kade and Miles Burrell in the throwing events. The captains feature a talented group of seniors that includes Drew Mackin, Jamie Hartop, Erich Keyser, and Skyler McCormick.

Despite the graduation of many talented runners and throwers from last year's team, there is no shortage of talent on the roster. This season the Bears will be led by a few key contributors in each event. The Bears will be without a talented and all-conference group of sprinters this winter and spring, but return with seniors Erich Keyser and Skyler McCormick and junior Pat Mekongo, who could contribute to the team

in a big way this season.

The Bears will also benefit from the addition of freshman sprinting phenom Sam Pope, who, according to Mackin, "has the ability to score 30 points at conferences." In the distance and middle-distance events, the Bears will be led by Mackin, who will look to improve upon his personal record of 1:55 in the 800 meter dash. "I would like to place in the top three at conferences in the 800," Mackin said.

Along with Mackin, the Bears will be paced by sophomore Joe Iulucci, who is coming off a solid cross-country season and will look to improve upon his personal best times and qualify for the conference meet in the 3,000 or 5,000 meter races. Along with Mackin and Iulucci, seniors Nolan Davis (mid-distance), Jamie Hartop (distance), and Jason Rudich (distance) will look to hit the conference marks in their final season. Lastly, spectators should keep an eye on members of the throwing squad, especially Adam Meyers, who placed at the outdoor conference championships in the discus and javelin last year.

Along with the veteran talent, the Bears will debut an impressive group of freshmen this season. Pope headlines coach Blick-

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Photo courtesy of Rachel Raucci

The men's basketball team huddles up during a timeout in its game against Johns Hopkins on Saturday. Ursinus outscored Johns Hopkins by 17 in the second half, but fell just short, 101-94.

Men's basketball set to take on Division 1 Penn

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Big things are in store for the Ursinus men's basketball team this season. Head coach Kevin Small is back at the helm for his 16th season and is looking to lead the Bears to a fruitful season. Ursinus returns senior captains Malik Draper and Mark Wonderling along with a host of starters from the previous season. Though the majority of the players are young, Small is confident in their abilities.

The offseason was unique for

Ursinus. The team had an opportunity to travel to Europe to play against professional teams in four different countries. By NCAA rules, a team is only allowed to play internationally every three years. This time around the men traveled to Belgium, Iceland, the Netherlands, and France.

During their European excursion, the men were pitted against three professional squads, two of whom were touted as "pretty high level professional teams with guys who were getting paid to play," Small said. "We were down in all three contests. We showed grit, heart, and determination and

came back in the fourth quarter of every game."

Not only did the men play basketball during the trip but they also did some volunteering and community service to give back to the community.

Heart, grit, and resolve is a formula that leads to success. The men's team is "all playing very hard and very tough," Wonderling said. "The future is bright and we are very hard-working guys that put the team first."

Both players and coaches

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Upcoming Games

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
M&W Swimming @ Golden Ram Classic @ West Chester University, 4 p.m.	W Basketball vs. Lancaster Bible, 1 p.m. M&W Swimming @ Golden Ram Classic @ West Chester University, 9 a.m.	Wrestling vs. Penn College/SUNY Sullivan/Mt. St. Vincent				

