



2-4-2021

The Grizzly, February 4, 2021

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the grizzly

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Collegeville, Pa.

Thursday, February 4 2021

Vol. 46 Issue 1

Not Just a Regular Wednesday in D.C.

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January 20th was not just the first day of classes for Ursinus students, but a day that will go down in history because Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States. Biden took the oath of office as well as the helm of a deeply divided nation, declaring that “democracy has prevailed.” At age 78, he is the oldest president inaugurated. There was also a spotlight on Kamala Harris, the first woman, Black person, and person of South Asian descent to become vice-president, and the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in U.S. government.

Many students preparing for their first day of classes had to balance their schedule with the

Inauguration ceremony. Throughout Reimert, family units gathered together in their common rooms to watch history unfold, as I am sure many family units in other residence halls did as well. Throughout the day, students kept a close eye on the inauguration, many allowing their televisions to run continuously. Perhaps the most memorable moment was 22-year-old poet Amanda Gorman. Students and professors across campus were taken aback by the power of Gorman’s poem, “The Hill We Climb.” Drawing on sources ranging from biblical scripture to the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and her own experiences, Gorman created images of dire and triumphant moments through our

country’s history.

No doubt Bernie Sanders made a new name for himself as he became the most popular meme on social media for the following week. Reaching across platform after platform, Bernie’s image created a lightheartedness in media, a fresh breath of air among the somber updates of COVID-19 and the siege on the U.S. Capitol. Bernie and his mittens were even photoshopped on the Ursinus Admissions Instagram!

Julianna Berardi ’21 kept her attention on her television on the 20th. Berardi was lucky enough not to have classes on Wednesdays, and so was able to fully focus on the ceremony. “I thought the ceremony had a lot of really

key aspects that show Biden-Harris’ commitment to change, like the mentioning of how long the plight of racism has taken place, or to the promise of addressing climate change. Amanda Gorman’s poem was strikingly beautiful and resilient, inspiring many to look forward for what’s to come, while making sure accountability and justice are served from the past. I personally felt hopeful and rejuvenated watching it,” says Berardi.

Claire Velte ’23 relates her two years of political science studies to the historical event that took place on the 20th. “As a student in political science and International Relations at Ursinus, watching the inauguration was a perfect opportunity for me

to experience political history firsthand. Analyzing the inauguration in an academic setting ... was also a great opportunity because it facilitated some really thought-provoking conversations about US partisanship between students of differing views,” says Velte.

As January comes to an end, the best we can do as a united community is look out for each and listen to one another to learn and grow together.



‘Snow-blanketed campus’ -
 Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

Campus undergoes an extra round of weekly COVID-19 testing

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On Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 27, Ursinus College President Brock Blomberg and the COVID Task Force sent a school-wide email about results from weekly on-campus COVID testing. It said, “there were 11 new positives from Monday, all of whom were students.” The prior week’s testing—the first for the spring semester—saw only a one percent rate of positive results. The rise in cases led the college to decide to conduct another round of testing on Thursday, Jan. 28 and Friday, Jan. 29.

In addition, residence halls have returned to restricted visitations and lockdown until further notice. Although these results were somewhat

expected, given that many students and faculty were returning from winter break vacations, the fact that they came at the beginning of the semester prompted many to worry about what lies ahead. Consequently, the Residential Advisors (RA) duty team sent out a school-wide email soon after Communications. All New, North, and Reimert Hall residents could reach their designated RAs via Microsoft Teams for the remainder of the week. The task of meeting residents onscreen to discuss serious matters, or conduct hall meetings for the time being, has left RAs anxious. “It’s definitely [been] a new experience...the public chat [hasn’t become] too overwhelming [yet] but you never know,” said

RA Sianneh Vesslee. “I do appreciate Reslife keeping RAs in the loop, being transparent and updating us quickly.” Another RA, Arthur Artene, also stated that despite “not being able to deal with a problem in the traditional [RA] way, the [duty] team will do [its best to keep] everyone and ourselves safe. The fear of the unknown is the [only] best way to describe the current situation.”

Ursinus students took the Abbott’s BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests, another nasal swab form, that reveal results within 15 minutes. Those testing positive followed up with a PCR test this past Saturday and immediate isolated quarantining. The COVID Task Force team also announced that contact tracing

would commence after PCR results had been confirmed.



Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

UC Television Program Coming to Life

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There's breaking news in the Media & Communications Department. With broadcast journalism being of interest to many students on campus, Dr. Lynne Edwards, a professor in MCS, has decided to offer a broadcast class this semester. Edwards knows that "students have been clamoring for this opportunity and now is the time to make it happen." She and her students will later pitch the final product to Ursinus's Communications department.

Justin Masiello, a student taking the class this semester, feels "we are far behind other colleges with the idea of a news broadcast" but is excited to be part of history. He is confident that students

will watch and love the broadcast.

Delanie Rogers, another student in the class, explains that she is "a bit perplexed." She did not realize how big of a deal this class was but, "now I am in awe of it." Her first love is anchoring and believes she has a large presence on screen.

As for goals, both students hope to further their anchoring and production skills. Masiello even has a desire to incorporate local businesses into commercials to give the broadcast, "a full Collegeville community feel."

Edwards is "thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to help Ursinus students create what I believe to be our first news program."

There's no doubt this

group of students will put together a broadcast that everyone will enjoy. What a legacy to have started. Go, MCS-275A!



Courtesy of Ursinus College

Fun in the snow at Ursinus!

Courtesy of Jenni Berrios



Shannon Collis: Strata Berman Museum Exhibit

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Ursinus College's Berman Museum of Art recently began exhibiting *Shannon Collis: Strata*, a "multisensory installation by Canadian artist Shannon Collis, [that] immerses visitors in an environment of deep sonic resonance and dynamic moving images... explor[ing] complex intersections of the social, the economic, and the environmental through contrasts between natural landscape and human industry, while highlighting nature's persistence in the face of industrial exploitation," according to the Berman's website. Some of Collis' other recent works are the "Kiewa," "Singular Space," "Atlas," and "Iterations," all of which focus on examining humans' perception in multiple sensory forms and distinguishing between visual and aural phenomena.

Collis came to the attention of the Berman Museum senior staff during a showing of her artwork at "Grizzly Grizzly" in Philadelphia, and she was subsequently invited to compile an exhibition of some of her work. Students minoring in museum studies and taking the "Student Curatorial Seminar" course came together to participate in the installation,

curation, and programming of the exhibit.

Kristen Cooney '22, Justin Mitchell '22, and Katie Sanfield '23, were among those students. Sanfield is currently producing the podcast mini-series for the exhibit, with the first episode to be posted in late February and the entire series on the Berman website afterward. Mitchell has been documenting the installation process and exhibition content, work which will

"Strata strongly utilizes an environmental lens, creating a unique dialogue between two fields that feel inherently separate."

- Kristen Cooney
2022

also be available online sometime in February. Cooney is in charge of the virtual soundwalk interview between herself and Collis, about Collis' artistic process, inspirations, and the methodologies behind her most recent work. The interview is set to be published on the Berman website in mid-March.

Other contributors to the exhibit include associate professor of art history Dr. Deborah Barkun, assistant professor of art history Prof. Meghan Tierney, and Berman Museum op-



Courtesy of Berman Museum

erations manager Betsy Witt.

The Strata exhibition is an amalgamation of contemporary art and museum space, which allows it to challenge the definition of art, especially because the art is enhanced through interdisciplinarity with environmental studies and socio-economics. "I believe Strata strongly utilizes an environmental lens, creating a unique dialogue between two fields that feel inherently separate," Cooney said. "It sheds light on the enormity of the human-to-nature relationship but uses artistic and creatively chosen audio-visual sensorial elements to construct an immersive space that we may interpret by using our senses."

The application of the environmental field

demonstrates how people can approach an environment through a cura-

"The most important takeaway... from this exhibition [is] the enormous scale at which humans operate and... are connected with the earth."

- Kristen Cooney
2022

tion of chosen panels, sounds, and projections. All choices are carefully made to enhance one's observations and, ultimately, worldly perspective.

"The most important takeaway... from this exhibition [is] the enormous scale at which humans operate and... by which we are connected with the earth," Cooney added. "Strata constructs a manner by

which terrestrial earth feels vast and human activity on it feels larger. There are a lot of social constructions around how we perceive the natural world that I think require deeper thought, and that Strata requires of a viewer's attention."

The Strata exhibition debut on Jan. 22 and will complete its run on May 15, 2021.



@URSINUSGRIZZLY

Ursinus Artivism: The Freedom of Speech Wall

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The summer of 2020 saw strong support for the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and its goal of changing the systems that threaten black lives. Many young activists joined BLM to make the voices of black people stronger and louder.

In recent years, Ursinus College has been putting in more effort to make change and show solidarity with students of color on campus. The Ursinus administration and student body president, Jalen Everette '22, came together to brainstorm a way to give students a positive platform to express their emotions about important issues like these. The Freedom of Speech Wall, located in Lower Wismer, is their newest project, and a space for students to speak their minds. "The school wanted to provide an outlet for students to express themselves constructively," Ever-

ette said. "We wanted to ensure that students can use their freedom of speech, especially in this heightened social volatility that we are living in."

In order to ensure the wall stays positive,

"We wanted to ensure that students can use their freedom of speech, especially in this heightened social volatility that we are living in."

- Jalen Everette
2022

Ursinus College Student Government (UCSG) will do rounds every day between 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. "They will be checking for any obscene gestures, slurs, or anything that can [incite] negative emotions in our community," assured Everette. UCSG is prepared to act quickly to take down inappropriate messages.

To bring this project to life, Everette trusted Jaliene Rodriguez's artistic skills. "Jalen Everette came to me with the idea [of the freedom of



"I automatically thought of the minorities on campus. So that was my main focus and what I wanted to prioritize-- that every voice was heard."

- Jaliene Rodriguez
2021

speech wall]. He stated that he did not know how to necessarily start it and the idea was not concrete," Rodriguez '21 said. "I gathered a small group of people I

had art class with before and brainstorm ideas together. I took the project personally from the beginning, as soon as I heard that it was going to be freedom of speech. I automatically thought of the minorities on campus. So that was my main focus and what I wanted to prioritize -- that every voice was heard."

On Rodriguez's team was Sarah Marchione '22, Nikole Fandino '23, and Anika Shah

'19. "Without them the mural wouldn't be what it is," Rodriguez noted.

The project is not yet complete, however the artists are proud of the progress of the Freedom Of Speech Wall. This is only the beginning in terms of positive platforms for students.

DESK DRAWER OF THE WEEK

SPOTLIGHTING THREE STUDENTS' DESK DRAWERS!

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR "DESK DRAWER OF THE WEEK" SECTION?

HOW MESSY, CLEAN, OR ORGANIZED IS IT?

TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR DESK

SEND YOUR PICTURE, NAME, AND YEAR TO GRIZZLY@URSINUS.EDU

PICTURES ARE DUE EVERY THURSDAY!!!

The Reality of Remote Learning and What it has Taught Me

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I had long dreamed of my first year of college, excited for a fresh environment, the opportunity to meet new people, and the ability to explore all of my academic interests. My senior year of high-school was filled with giddy anticipation of the new friends and classes I would encounter in the fall of 2020. By the end of last summer, however, I realized that my experience as a first-year college student was going to look drastically different than I had expected due to the pandemic. I made

the decision to attend Ursinus remotely, which worried me. I feared my first memories of college would be tarnished by my inability to experience campus life first-hand.

As I begin my second semester, I realize that despite the challenges remote learning has presented to me, I have learned a great deal about myself and my expectations for the next three years. One of the reasons I am grateful to have been a remote student this year is that I have been driven to connect with the Ursinus community in any way possible. Despite my

inability to connect with peers, professors, and staff in person, I have been motivated to do everything in my power to become involved in the community. When I started my first semester from home, I never expected that I would be participating in talent shows, joining clubs, or beginning my search for internships from my bedroom. One aspect of college life that I was looking forward to was the sense of independence. Even without the experience of living on campus, I have grown to be the most independent I have ever been. Learning to manage a college

workload has not been a simple task, even from the comfort of my own home; the challenge of doing so, however, has absolutely given me the skills to succeed in my academics.

This academic year has undoubtedly been a stressful period of my life, as it has been for a majority of college students. I have, however, learned that these unprecedented times are what I make of them. Being proactive in Ursinus's community despite the challenges of doing so remotely has made my first year of college extremely meaningful. Reflecting on the

past several months has made me aware of the personal journey I have taken, and despite the limitations of remote learning, I am grateful for my experience.

"What is Your Favorite Starbucks Order?" — UC Students Respond

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**Cold Brew
with Dark
Cocoa
Almond Milk
Foam**

STRAWBERRY
ACAI REFRESHER

Hot Vanilla Latte
with Whipped Cream

Iced Caramel
Macchiato

**Chai Latte with
Espresso**

PEACH GREEN
TEA

*Salted Caramel Cold
Brew*

*Caramel
Frappuccino*

**Strawberry
Acai with
Vanilla Pumps**

CARAMEL
MACCHIATO

*Very Berry Hibiscus
Iced Tea*

*Venti Iced White
Mocha with Sweet
Cream Cold Foam
and Extra Caramel
Drizzle*

**Chai Latte with
Espresso and
Coconut Milk**

ICED CHAI LATTE

*Cold Brew with
Toasted White
Mocha Peppermint
Foam*

VENTI COLD
BREW WITH 2
PUMPS OF WHITE
MOCHA AND 2
PUMPS OF
TOFFEE NUT &
ALMOND MILK

**Black
Coffee**

*Vanilla Sweet Cream
Cold Brew with Extra
Sweet Cream*

MATCHA LATTE
WITH COCONUT
MILK & 2 PUMPS
OF VANILLA

**Vanilla Cold
Brew with
Almond
Milk Foam**

*Hazelnut Iced
Coffee with
Sweet Cream
and Sweet
Cream Cold
Foam*

Swimming cont. from pg. 8

ing techniques and skill work, as well as fine tuning things so that we can work on being better for next year,” states junior member of the women’s team, Oliviah Rachael. In terms of maintaining the closeness of these teams, both the men’s and women’s side has had success, even though break restricted them from being able to see each other. Senior member of the women’s team, Allie Thomas, states, “The team stayed as close as we could, under the current conditions, and we hope to continue growing closer while still following COVID guidelines.” She expects this to go well. “I do not see us getting further apart -- I see us getting closer as friends.”

“I think that doing our best to virtually recruit swimmers is important to maintaining and growing and rebuilding the future of our program.”

—Sophie Lear, Class of 2022

While not having a season is a disappointment for this team, there are still goals that they hope to work towards. As far as the men’s team goes, junior member Matt Seeburger has some goals that he hopes will set the team up for next year: “I think something to work on this semester is getting our technique straightened out and something we won’t have to spend as

much time on that next season. Instead, we will be able to focus more on our physical limits.” Snyder finishes with some of the main goals he has for the team in order to be ready to go next semester: “Staying focused when we have our ‘season’ so by the time we have a real season, we can hit the ground running. Focus on what we have to do in and out of the water.”

“I think something to work on this semester is getting our technique straightened out and something we won’t have to spend as much time on that next season.”

—Matt Seeburger, Class of 2022

Another junior member of the women’s team, Sophie Lear, talks about some goals she hopes to achieve to make the team as successful as possible next year. “I think that doing our best to virtually recruit swimmers is important to maintaining and growing and rebuilding the future of our program.” Thomas adds in some closing thoughts on her hopes for this team in its next season: “I think building a good team dynamic, and working towards the same goal of trying to win another Centennial Conference championship will be very important for us.”

We wish nothing but the best for both the men’s and women’s team as they take on the next

part of their season. Go Bears!

Wellness cont. from pg. 8

says, “many students have told me they enjoy having therapy from a comfy space in their room!” There have also been fewer no-shows for appointments than in previous semesters, which helps keep the Wellness Center running smoothly.

“I hope we are able to recreate the same kind of bubble that we did in the fall.”

—Dr. Finnegan

COVID-19 is still a “significant concern” for the Wellness Center. Dr. Finnegan hopes that the Ursinus community can continue to work hard to keep cases to a minimum. She says, “I hope we are able to recreate the same kind of bubble that we did in the fall.” In addition to the physical toll of COVID-19, Dr. Finnegan is extremely aware of the mental toll that this pandemic has had on students. The Wellness Center is currently working on more ways to reach out to and support the students.



Wellness Center Update

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As the new semester begins, the Ursinus community is again familiarizing itself with the COVID-19 regulations on campus. In order to ensure the health and safety of everyone here, the Wellness Center will be maintaining the same procedures as last semester. As a refresher: the Wellness Center will not be taking any walk-in visits. Instead, visits will be by appointment only, which can be scheduled by emailing wellness@ursinus.edu or by calling 610-409-3100.

There is also an alternative to in-person appointments. The Wellness Center is offering telehealth calls for minor medical concerns. Teletherapy calls are also still being conducted. Any student in need of a private space for online therapy can reserve a room in the Wellness Center. Crisis Hour, which takes place on weekdays from 2-3, will

be held online. The link to Crisis Hour is on the Wellness Center's website under "Counseling Services."

The Wellness Center is maintaining extended hours for this semester. Medical appointments will be available from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. However, appointments for after 5:00 must be made in advance. Waiting room occupancy will still be kept to a minimum, and students will have their temperatures checked upon arrival.

"Many students have told me they enjoy having therapy from a comfy space in their room!"

—Dr. Finnegan

Dr. Lauren Finnegan, the Director of Counseling and Wellness, was pleased with how last semester went for the Wellness Center. In reference to the teletherapy feature, Dr. Finnegan

See **Wellness** on pg. 7



Courtesy of Ursinus College

UC Swim Works for More

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After about a two-month break, Ursinus athletics is back on track. Once COVID-19 testing has been in place for a few weeks, winter sports are expected to kick off the final part of their seasons: a five-week 'practice' season, similar to last semester. For the men and women's swim teams, this means getting back in the gym and pool. Not having seen their teammates much over break due to

COVID restrictions, the teams are eager to pick up right where they left off.

Last semester, both the men's and women's teams were able to successfully practice and remember what a "normal" season would be like. However, will the same energy these teams had in their first semester carry over into this one? Junior member of the men's team, Matt Snyder, talks about what he hopes to get out of this next mini-season: "This semester is more difficult because we don't have a conference

meet, but I am looking forward to spending time with my teammates and preparing my body for next year." Another junior member of the men's team, Ryan Carkhuff, says something similar: "I am looking to get a lot of technique work out of these five weeks, and I am also looking forward to being back in the pool with my teammates and enjoying this last semester with the seniors." Additionally, the women's team has some related ideas. "More so practic-

See **Swimming** on pg. 7

Thinking of You!



Photo by Ursinus Athletics



Photo by Ursinus Athletics