

Ursuline College Chatham

Student Trustee Report



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Christmas

Throughout the week of the sixteenth of December, the UCC student council ran several holiday themed activities. Hundreds of UCC students participated in Christmas themed trivia, door decorating, karaoke, and the ugly sweater contest. The week concluded with the annual Christmas assembly, where students were delighted to watch performances from the UCC cheerleading team, dance classes, and teachers. On January 20th, Student Council and Ms. Dunlop's leadership class will be hosting Marshmallow Madness—a school-wide event where all students are invited to drink hot-cocoa and gather in the cafeteria while preparing for their exams. Representatives from each department have volunteered to be present to answer questions posed by students.



Activism



“What is needed is a personal approach, not just of curing but of caring—in a view integral to the human being,” Pope Francis, December 28th 2019.

I’ve decided to highlight the above quote because I felt that the Holy Father’s words during his address to the sick were especially relevant to the social initiatives occurring at Ursuline College. Over the course of the past two months, UCC has led and participated in several community activism and social initiatives, including (but not limited to) the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition, the Homeless Initiative, Mindfulness and Meditation meetings, the Polar Plunge, and the Pedagape club.

I’d like to spend a bit of time discussing the Homeless Initiative, which might be the most ambitious community project created by Ursuline College this year. At the beginning of January, several staff and students distributed cardboard boxes and lists to each classroom, detailing the material needs of food banks and local community outreach programs. Classes were asked to supply the boxes with the items included on the lists and to return the boxes by the end of the initiative. The response was overwhelming—with thousands of items collected, and many classes going above-and-beyond in donating relevant items which weren’t included on their class list, the Homeless Initiative can be counted as one of the most successful Ursuline College charity events to date. Later in January, the chaplaincy team and a number of teacher volunteers began a program called “Mindfulness and Meditation,” where students can gather in the Chapel to pray and reflect on scripture to manage the stress caused by exams. The chaplaincy team has advertised the program as “taking care of your whole self;” a slogan which aptly describes the incredible nature of the Ursuline College chaplaincy team.

Extracurriculars

A number of exciting extracurricular events occurred at UCC this month. On the weekend of January 11-12th, the midget girls' volleyball team experienced huge successes at the Panther Invitational Tournament. After winning eight of nine sets and beating Tilbury, Dresden, and John McGregor, the midget girls' team won against CKSS in the semi-finals. The Lancer girls were (unfortunately) bested 25-23 by St. Pats in the finals.

The Ursuline College wrestling team experienced successes on January 13th at the St. Pats wrestling tournament, competing against over three hundred and fifty individual competitors. With over half of the UCC team winning medals in their categories (five of whom won gold), the Lancer wrestlers have a bright season ahead.

Other big events which occurred this month include the girls hockey team winning a tough game against WDSS 4-3, the boys hockey team winning a resounding 14-3 win over the McGregor Panthers, and the senior boys basketball team beating Sarnia Northern against all odds at 67-53.

Conclusion

I wanted to include a portion of this month's student trustee report to sum up an eventful two months. With a special emphasis on our community and activism initiatives, I hope I've been able to accurately portray the positive impact Ursuline College staff and students create. As I finish up the report, I'm reminded, like most students, of the massive amount of work I have yet to do to prepare for my last two exams. The sheer volume of social justice programs, community outreach initiatives, athletic events, and other extracurriculars which occur in the month of January is always an incredible testament to the kind of students Ursuline College creates—especially considering their exams have, throughout January, been less than a month away. In any case, it's been an eventful month with an especially eventful conclusion for students. I look forward to seeing each of you next month and I hope you have a wonderful few weeks to come.