Welcome to the third issue of the Ursuline College Parent Newsletter for parents of new students! Our goals are to provide you with information about campus resources available to assist students in being successful at Ursuline, introduce faculty members who teach first year students, suggest ways you can support your student and keep you informed of general news at UC. We invite your feedback; please email comments to Sr. Virginia DeVinne, Associate Director of URSA, at vdevinne@ursuline.edu.

OFFICE OF INCLUSION, EQUITY & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
This month we feature the Office of Inclusion, Equity and Multicultural Affairs whose mission is to create a culture of inclusion and equality at Ursuline College. This office sponsors Academic Inspiration for Multicultural Success (AIMS), a peer mentoring program that matches experienced students with new students to assist them as they embark on their college experience. This program features group activities in addition to individual mentoring. This office sponsored Diversity Workshops for faculty & staff in October and November and sponsors the annual Martin Luther King celebration in January. For further information about all these initiatives, please contact Ursuline’s Assistant Dean of Inclusion, Equity & Multicultural Affairs, Tina Roan Lining at troan@ursuline.edu.

STUDENT STRESS LEVELS
December 12th is the last day of classes in the fall semester. As the semester winds down student stress levels often increase. It’s important that they use good time management skills to keep up with their course work and complete long-range assignments. If your daughter/son is worried about final exams you may want to suggest a visit to an advisor in URSA (Ursuline Resources for Success in Academics), MU 306 and 312. These academic advisors can assist with test-taking skills, time management, and study tips. UC also has the services of a psychologist and a licensed counselor; both these professionals can assist students with stress and anxiety.

FOUNDER’S WEEK CELEBRATED
The week of November 16th marked the annual Founder’s Week celebration on campus to recognize the founding of the college by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland in 1871. On Sunday, November 16th at the Founder’s Day Mass & Brunch for board members and benefactors, three faculty members were honored. Sr. Diane Therese Pinchot, art professor, received the Teaching Excellence Award for full-time faculty while Melissa Barranger Mathys, chemistry professor, received this award for part-time faculty. George Matejka, philosophy professor, received the Marie LoPresti Award for community service.

On Monday, November 17th, the students celebrated at an Awards Ceremony & Dessert Reception at 3:00 p.m. in the Pilla Atrium. This year the entire art therapy department was featured and several student organizations were recognized. Daily activities throughout the week included a guest speaker on art therapy, Barbara Trauger-Qerry, a session to make healing facial scrubs, the opportunity to design a personal lunch & tote box and a headphone party.
REGISTERING FOR SPRING CLASSES

The Spring 2015 Schedule of Classes is now posted online. You may want to ask your daughter/son if she/he has made an appointment with her/his academic advisor to select spring classes. This is an important student responsibility. Online registration for freshmen began on Friday, November 21. All financial obligations must be met in order to register. Athletes should have submitted their registration forms to the Student Service Center by November 14th.

MEET UC FACULTY

For November we feature Dr. Christopher Edmonds, the chairperson of the Psychology department. Dr. Edmonds earned his doctorate in Experimental/Cognitive Psychology from the University of Toledo in 1996. This is his nineteenth year teaching at UC. He was awarded tenure in 2002 and promoted to the rank of full professor in 2006. He was the 2009 recipient of UC’s Teaching Excellence Award. This semester he is teaching new students in PS 101: Introduction to Psychology and advanced students in PS 230: Lifespan Development, PS 322: Research Methods I, and PS 380/L: Human Memory and Cognition. He shares, “As a teacher, my goal is to make the instructional message interesting and relevant to students' lives. I also hope to instill a personal desire for life-long learning.” He challenges his students to re-evaluate the prior conceptions they might have about human nature and encourages them to continually think about and apply their new knowledge.

EXCITING ATHLETIC NEWS

The Ursuline College soccer team defeated second-seeded Trevecca University by a score of 2-1 on Saturday (Nov. 8) afternoon to capture the program's first-ever Great Midwest Athletic Conference tournament title. The Arrows finished the year at 15-4 overall, establishing a new school record for wins in a single season.

COLLEGE GLOSSARY

Degree Program: the curriculum to earn a degree in a specific major

Electives: courses selected from an academic area of interest to the student not required by their core, major, and/or minor

GPA: Grade Point Average – sometimes called the cumulative average

Major: an undergraduate's field of specialization

Minor: in contrast to a major, this is a second, smaller number of courses completed in another field