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## The Grizzly, October 1, 2020

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# the grizzly

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## In Memoriam: Aidan Inteso '24

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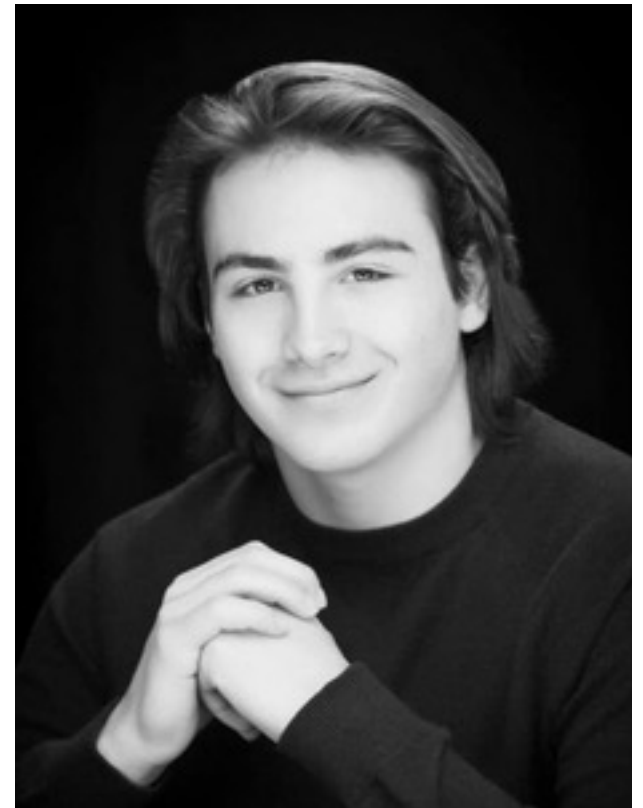
On September 13, 2020, the Ursinus community changed forever when freshman Aidan Inteso passed away unexpectedly. Aidan was an Abele Scholar who had a passion for environmental sciences and playing ice hockey and lacrosse. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, as well as surfing and fishing. Laura Cunningham, Aidan's Abele Scholar advisor, said, "Aidan stopped by Sturgis to pick up a welcome-back kit from the Abele Scholars. On the first day of classes, he noticed that Google Maps showed a creek (Donny Brook) that ran near our building and asked if he could go in it to fish." Aidan was full of a sense of adventure and was always looking for new places to explore.

Though only at Ursinus for a short time, he had a large impact on the community. His roommate and fellow freshman Jacob Harris said, "Aidan was the best roommate I could have ever wished for. He was so kind and accepting, and I always thought we would become best friends through college. He brought our friend group together and helped me meet new people. We always talked about sports and fishing, and he always mentioned his friends back home. We got so excited for this upcoming football season and dressed up for our fantasy draft. I'm gonna miss playing Smash Bros. and Forza with him. I'm gonna miss going to power yoga classes with him. I'm gonna miss going out on late-night skating adventures around campus. We had thought of so many things to do together. We were looking

at these telescopic fishing rods on Amazon that would be perfect to use on the creek and to store in our dorm. Most of all, I'm going to miss his company. I'm sure all of us here at Ursinus feel the same. I may not have known him as long, but in such a short amount of time, I feel we became super close."

Ursinus will be remembering Aidan with two landmarks on campus. One will be a tree that will be planted in his honor. Aidan's name and hockey sticks will be imprinted on the smokestack near the facilities building, representing his love of learning and sports. There is a website in honor of Aidan's legacy, now available for those who wish to share their own reflections and memories. In addition to the website, the memorials, the Wellness Center, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and the college's Student

Affairs staff are available for support and consolation.



## Ursinus receives national ranking

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The U.S. News and World Report college rankings are out, and among liberal arts colleges Ursinus ranks 84th in the nation. It is tied for 11th in Pennsylvania. The Ursinus family is very excited and honored about the ranking. "The entire campus community should be incredibly proud of this recognition," said Ursinus President Brock Blomberg in a press release. "Faculty, staff and students all play a role in making Ursinus one of the very best liberal arts colleges in the nation, and being recognized by our peers as such is immensely rewarding, particularly during a year impacted by a pandemic. Good news is especially welcome." During such a difficult

time, to hear that Ursinus is succeeding in its quest for student success is a big accomplishment -- not just for faculty, but for students



as well. When students found out about this ranking, some were proud of their decision to attend. Sophomore Shane McQuaid said, "I am happy that I chose Ursinus because I

truly believe it was a good fit for me. I put a lot of thought into where I wanted to go to college. When I looked at colleges, one thing really

stuck out to me: how good my education would be. I wanted a school that would assure me of a well-rounded education. And Ursinus just seemed to be a perfect fit for me. It's small, close to home,

and it's a liberal arts college. Hearing that Ursinus was ranked so high made me so happy because it made it clear that I made the right decision attending Ursinus."

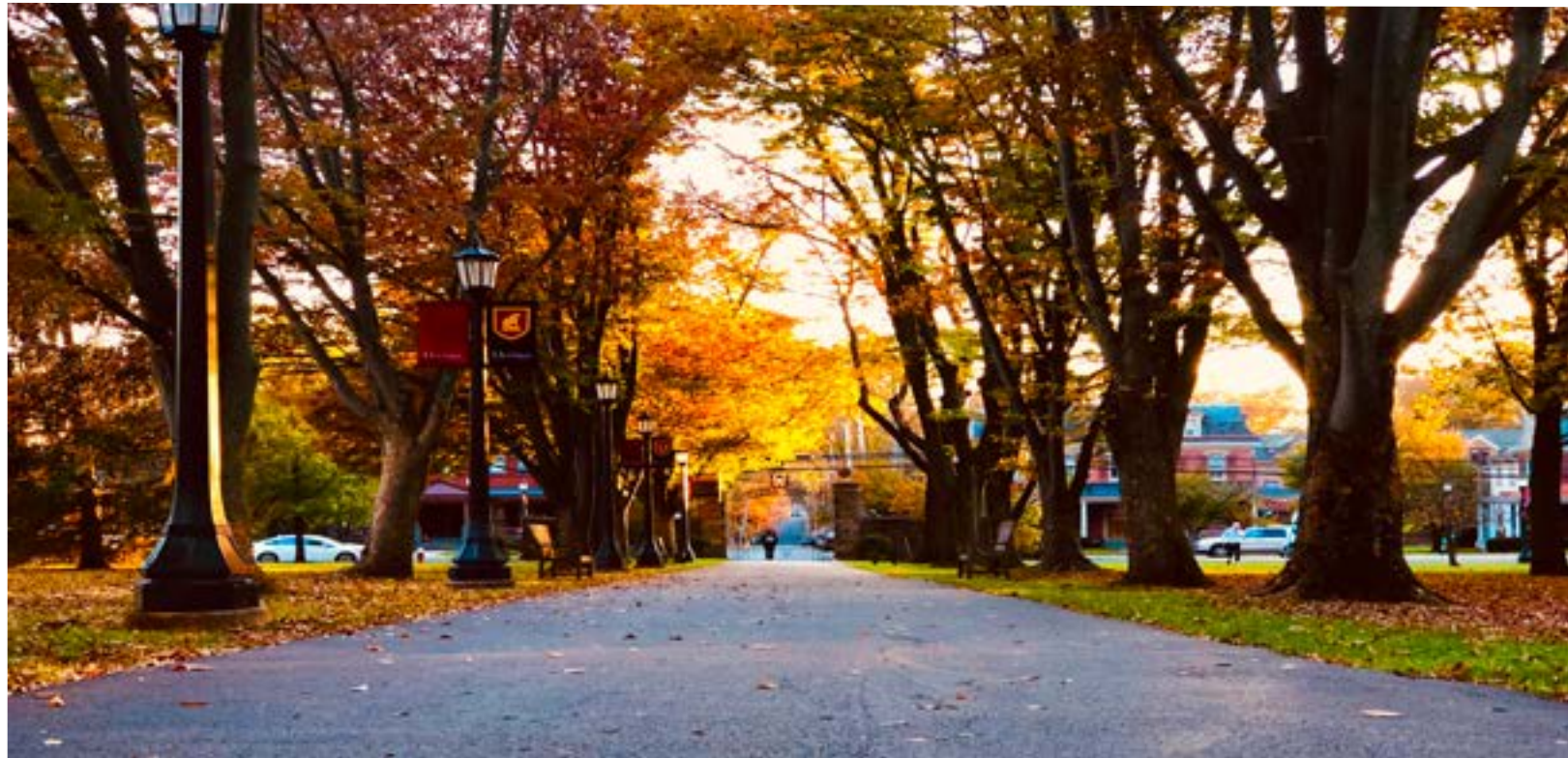
The U.S. News rankings take into account factors such as graduation rate, retention rates, undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, average alumni giving rates, student selectivity, financial resources, and graduate indebtedness rates. Ursinus was also recently recognized in the Philadelphia Inquirer for adopting "one of the most aggressive testing policies of area colleges." Ursinus's COVID-19 protocols include weekly testing, social

distancing, remote classes, distributing PPE and cleaning supplies, setting up large indoor spaces reconfigured as classrooms, creating a student and faculty health corps, and setting precautions for commuters and on-campus students.

To find more information regarding the title, visit: <https://www.ursinus.edu/live/news/4977-national-rankings-again-list-ursinus-as-a-top>



# Autumn at Ursinus



Courtesy of Alix Segil



Courtesy of Ursinus College



Courtesy of Alix Segil



Courtesy of Ursinus College



Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

## Ursinus online: new ways to live together

Kevin Melton  
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Generation Z is becoming increasingly well known for its affinity for online interaction. Dubbed the “iGeneration,” it is safe to say we have formed a relationship with the Internet that no other generation ever had. So, it really is not much of a surprise that some students on campus have taken it upon themselves to create social media accounts to connect and interact with their peers on campus in fun and intriguing ways. Specifically, the student-run Instagram pages about life on campus, which serve the same purpose of interacting with the campus and students in a unique way.

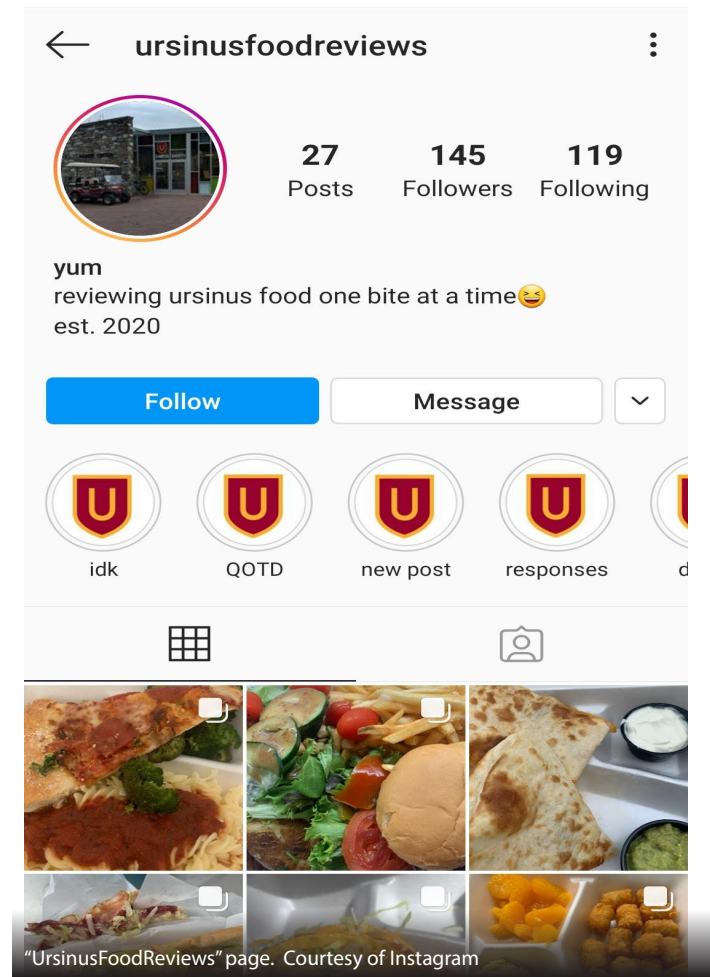
“UrsinusFoodReviews” is an Instagram page that posts -- you guessed it -- reviews of different foods that are served every day at Wismer Center. Their content features daily food reviews, polls/questions of the day, and responses in the comment section. Often, they will pose questions like, “What is one thing you can’t leave Wismer without?” or “Does Upper or Lower Wismer have better fries?” They also strongly recommend the nachos from Tres Habaneros in Lower Wismer. This was the first student-run page to surface online,

seeming to ignite the trend of creating student-social-media pages this year. However, what sets “UrsinusFoodReviews” apart from the other two examples is that this page has posted pictures and reviews every day since late August. When asked why they made their social media page, anonymous explained, “I was bored and just wanted to make a fun account for people to see what I ate! I also wanted to document my food throughout my years at Ursinus.” What started as a student’s idea to share what they ate has turned into an authentic food review page that has amassed over 140 followers.

Speaking about authenticity, there is a similar Instagram page titled, “WhatsAtWismer” that puts its own spin on “UrsinusFoodReviews.” This page is far more satirical and humorous, taking pictures of food that is served at the Wismer Center and the images either feature peculiar foods, or they are deep-fried (a trend online where an image is edited to appear low-resolution, compressed, and/or pixelated as a joke) and captioned with humorous and mocking commentary. This page also interacts with its followers in the comments and does polls/questions for people to answer. When I asked the proprietor of “What-

sAtWismer” why they made their social media account, they said, “The original purpose was just as a funny parody account to the original food reviews account, but it’s really become more of a meme page focused on my own food reviews. Sure, it can be seen kind of as a rip-off or as offensive, but I think it’s funny and it’s really its own thing now.” So, it seems that the basic difference between the two food-focused pages boils down to one being more sincere and one being more satirical, but both find similar ways of interacting with their followers and reaching out to the Ursinus community.

Now, if you want a page that really interacts with its followers, the account “Hiden.Biden” (yes, you read that right) is the one. “Hiden.Biden” is a unique Instagram page that hides small, printed pictures of Democratic candidate Joe Biden around Ursinus’s campus. Occasionally, they will post hints to their story, and the first person to locate the hidden picture of Joe Biden wins a prize (usually in the form of candy). This page is the least active of the examples, but it really makes up for that in the extent to which they interact with the Ursinus community. For example, they recently hid a “Biden” in the Berman



Museum, and posted a hint to their story. Little things like these social media accounts really help allow students to connect with each other in fun and lighthearted ways.

It does seem rather weird that we’re talking about Instagram pages that review food at Wismer, both genuinely and satirically, and pages that hide pictures of presidential candidates on campus, but that is just what today’s circumstances call for. Sure, you can scrutinize them, or think that accounts like these are silly or dumb, but they truly are bringing the Ursinus College

community together in new and memorable ways. They’re taking it upon themselves to create enjoyable and special experiences for students living at Ursinus. In times where face-to-face communication between students is limited, it is tremendously helpful to have social media pages like these to connect the Ursinus community. So, laugh all you want, but these online accounts are proof that, pandemic or no pandemic, Ursinus finds a special way to live together.

  @URSINUSGRIZZLY

# A powerful yet stylish weapon

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Face masks have proven to reduce transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). According to a case study from The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), two hairstylists from Missouri came in close contact with 140 clients when sick. Both stylists and clients complied with the mask mandate and all the clients still tested negative. Effectiveness can vary depending on type of mask, but face coverings are helpful.

Students at Ursinus College have been finding ways to keep their mask-wearing stylish while following the school's health protocols. "My favorite face mask of mine is a black cotton mask that covers my nose and mouth and goes around my ears," Zoe Kondravy, a second-year student, stated. As a dedicated neuroscience major, Kondravy finds it crucial "to wear

a face mask because my future work is in the health field and I would like to protect myself and others from the virus."

Kondravy further describes her mask and how comfortable it is. "I like it because it is black, so it is fashionable and goes with everything."

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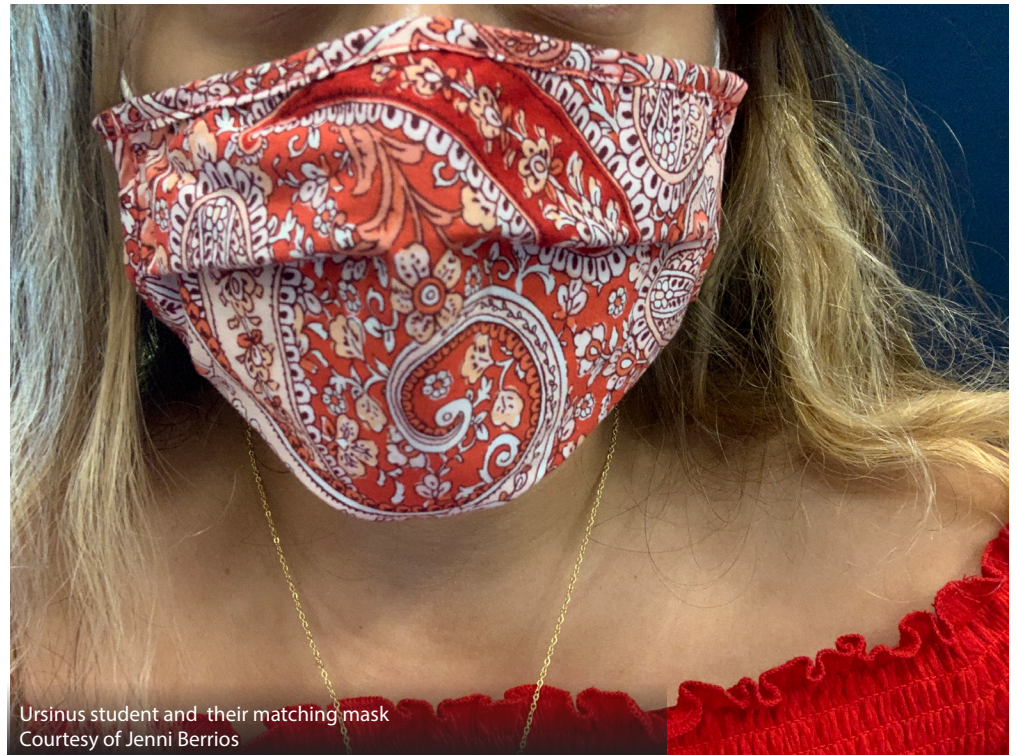
*"I like it because it is black, so it is fashionable and goes with everything."*

- Zoe Kondravy  
2023

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Also, I find it breathable and it stays in position." Hence, the stylish mask has an additional bonus to matching with most of Kondravy's outfits: being a money-saver, since she doesn't have to purchase a whole bunch more. Her mask is pictured below.

Sarah Haughton '23, a history and education major, explains her love for the Ursinus masks that the college supplied students with on move-in day. She believes they are a hot



Ursinus student and their matching mask  
Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

item this fall because of its, "simple, minimalist look." Haughton also loves "how lightweight the mask is. It is very comfortable to wear for a long period of time. I hardly notice it when painting in the art studio."

While the mask is to her liking, Haughton is aware that her fellow students wear them too. "I know a majority of students wear them! I always see a handful of students wearing an Ursinus mask when I walk around campus,"

she said. This demonstrates the popularity and comfort that the masks bring to students' everyday lives, as well as highlighting the institution's name. With many students wearing the Ursinus masks, though, it is best to make sure that people keep theirs

safe and secure to limit the risk of accidentally taking their wrong mask.

Finding a mask that fits properly, comfortably, and stylishly all at once will encourage a person to wear one. If we continue to comply with the face covering mandate, we can all play a part in ending the pandemic on campus and off.

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*"Comfortable to wear for a long period of time. I hardly notice it when painting..."*

- Sarah Haughton  
2023

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## MASKS OF THE MOMENT

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE BEST-DESIGNED MASKS EACH WEEK!

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR "MASKS OF THE MOMENT" SECTION?

TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR MASK AND PROVIDE BRAND/COMPANY NAME.

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PICTURES ARE DUE EVERY WEDNESDAY!!!

## Online learning versus in-tents perspective

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Being physically back on campus has allowed many of us students to complete our college experience. It is quite a privilege because not too many colleges are handling COVID-19 like Ursinus College. The current state of Ursinus education, however, does give me mixed feelings. While some classes that are strictly lecture-based can function just fine remotely, others that rely on in-person interactions (e.g. science labs, film screenings, art courses) may not translate as easily.

Taking a science lab and film course this semester myself, I struggle with the remote atmosphere. Especially in my New Hollywood

film course with Dr. Alice Leppert -- associate professor of Media and Communications and Film Studies, and whom I have had for other previous film courses -- the film screenings are just not the same virtually. When previous classes came together for weekly screenings, we analyzed the films and the audience around us simultaneously. Now, I must wait until the next class meeting to learn people's reactions to the assigned screenings instead of hearing them in the moment.

Dr. Leppert agrees that the film courses are missing out on the social aspect. "Teaching remotely has necessitated some adjustments to how I teach film," Lep-

pert said. "I have always loved hosting group film screenings, I think it's a great way for the class to bond and see films how they were intended to be seen -- on a big screen in a group, all in one sitting -- as opposed to watching alone on a computer with multiple tabs open and the ability to pause any time you want." Additionally, "I've had to get creative with showing clips during synchronous and asynchronous sessions, and students have to watch the films on their own."

Although I personally have no issues with watching films alone and online -- since I already do so, and watching alone allows me to rewind and analyze as much as I'd like --

screening required films as a class was a thrill. This is something we film students will have to miss out on for a while.

Dr. Simara Price, assistant professor, lab coordinator, and assistant dean of the college, made similar remarks about biology. The pandemic has "requir[ed] me to make some changes to my teaching style. I've sent lab kits home to my remote students for things I feel are safe to try remotely but there are some things -- like working with bacteria -- that just aren't going to work outside of the lab in the same way." Luckily, most students taking Dr. Price's BIO-151 African Diasporic course, including me, are able to meet in-person for lec-

tures and labs, making them just as engaging as they were pre-pandemic.

Professor Rebecca Lyczak, chair of the Biology department, also chimed in about her bio courses. "The guidelines have certainly influenced my teaching. I usually like to move freely around the classroom and have students working closely in groups. I have made the best of the situation by having students on Zoom work in groups and students in the classroom form distanced groups where they can still hear each other."

I will say I do enjoy my film class at night and on Zoom, maybe because it matches with the mood of screening a late-night film.

## The Ursinus response to COVID-19

Julia Paiano

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Ursinus has been recognized in the region for its aggressiveness in its COVID-19 approach—there was even an article written in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that detailed our school's COVID-19 strategy. Some of the school's plans include classes being held in outdoor tents, to-go dining only (which was lifted as of 9/20 but there are still dining restrictions), and mandatory weekly testing. Ursinus also has a class structure model similar to other nearby colleges, where most students have a mixture of online and in-person classes, and some of the

courses are hybrid.

As someone who is currently living on campus and able to witness the protocol first-hand, there are a lot of evident changes in campus life. I believe that Ursinus' COVID-19 response is much better than what we have seen from other schools which have had lack of testing and continuous partying. At Ursinus, some of the most effective guidelines have been the mandatory weekly testing, to-go packaging from both Lower and Upper, and the mandatory use of masks. However, there are still areas for improvement. As someone who tends to do their coursework later in the

day, closing the library at 8pm, Monday through Thursday feels very ineffective and insensitive to the present times. Students are already struggling with adjusting to such a hectic and unfamiliar environment on campus that limiting one of the most popular study spaces during the times when students would utilize it the most seems counterproductive.

Another issue is the lack of disinfecting supplies available to students. To ensure that disinfecting is being done, there should be resources to disinfect the primary surfaces we all come in contact with. Rather than having

to guess if these areas have been disinfected as I have to do right now, it would be beneficial if students were provided with some type of personal disinfectant so we could clean these surfaces ourselves and be certain they are clean.

Maybe I am just being too imaginative, but it would have been favorable for students to receive more supplies for the present times. Each student being provided with more than one mask would lower risks of students wearing already dirty masks. Also, more bottles of hand sanitizer and gloves would be advantageous. Just a thought.

However, overall

Ursinus' efforts appear to be much stronger than what we have seen from campuses across the country. Although it may not be perfect and there are some prime areas in need of improvement, our mandatory testing will be key these coming months. Please continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and follow all CDC guidelines.



**Practice** cont. from pg. 8

we are able to play the sport we love with the people we love, is something I am really fortunate that COVID hasn't taken away from me."

For our football team, this is an extremely unprecedented year, but Jack Thomas '22 points out the positives arising from the new normal. "I think COVID has brought the team a great opportunity to learn and practice without the pressure of having to be fully prepared for a game. This is a great chance for the freshmen too, this will help them get a good understanding of the playbook and understand our values as a team." The understanding that the seniors are not able to have the opportunity to play on Patterson again hangs over their heads, but the team continues to push forward with a positive attitude.

Two-sport athlete Amanda Panati '23 is ecstatic to be back on the field but notices difficult modifications to her teams' daily practice routine. Panati states, "Being back on the fields has been so refreshing; I know field hockey and softball are excited to get back out. It is definitely a big adjustment to wear a mask, making it a challenge to play. The social distancing rules are hard on both team's spirit; we usually always high five each other after someone makes a

nice play, but we are working around it to encourage each other in new ways." Teams have become more vocal than ever on the fields, cheering each other on continuously through practice to keep their spirits up.

*"While the absence of game day is hard to overcome, the fact that we are able to play the sport we love with the people we love, is something I am really fortunate that COVID hasn't taken away from me."*

—Addie Frey, Class of 2021.

With about forty-five new freshmen football players, Gavin Croissette '24 gives his perspective adjusting to the team without the help of off-field bonding. "Getting to know the guys is definitely hard as a freshman jumping right into practice since there was no camp, but I can't wait to get closer and am just as happy to get out on the field." Teams have even begun Zoom bonding sessions, which allows them the opportunity to get to know each other without a mask on.

The cross-country team has also developed a new way to space their runners out safely; fortunately, Ursinus' easy access to the Perkiomen Trail allows the team to use that to their advantage. Holly Chambers '23, a member of the cross-country and

done a great job of making sure our student-athletes stay distanced, safe, and strong with modified team lifts.

Until 2021, teams will continue to be persistent and work through this fall together. Teams are reaching out to each other to make sure teammates, and other student-attitudes are kept up and slowly but surely, adjusting to the new normal.

**Teammates** cont. from pg. 8

as a suite." Spending quality time together seems to be one of the similarities, as another junior and member of the Men's Swim Team Ryan Carkhuff, chimes in and talks about how he also enjoys time with his teammates and family unit. "We also have pretty much dinner every night in the suite together, in the common room, and spend quality time together."

*"[We], as the Men's Swim Team, are the closest that we have ever been now that we are doing almost everything together."*

—Ryan Carkhuff, Class of 2022.

Not being in season, as of now, these three swimmers have been able to make time to find other activities other than just using their "water legs." Snyder states, "One time as a suite we went to a park down the street and played volleyball and football." Even though they still are active in the pool, being able to spend time together is something that seems to stick with these swimmers. Now, not being able to do many things that they were once very easy to do causes some students to feel closer with their teammates, and family units, than ever before. Carkhuff explains just how close he feels he has gotten with his team just over these past few

weeks, "We, as the Men's Swim Team, are the closest that we have ever been now that we are doing almost everything together." In addition to the team feeling closer than ever, Snyder adds that this has led to a stronger relationship with the people that he lives with, stating, "Yes, it has made me a lot closer to my suite as a whole. We do a lot more together now."

Learning and experiencing all of these new regulations first-hand, all student athletes are susceptible to lots of changes during this fall semester. Not knowing what the next day or week could be asking for, they are making sure to take care of their physical and mental health, as well as making sure to spend lots of time with their teammates and family units.

## The closeness of teammates under COVID-19 guidelines

Ro Murphy

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COVID-19 has made for an interesting year in many social contexts that were once considered “normal.” One of these social contexts that have been drastically changed and modified is sports. Athletes who once practiced twice a day for up to two hours a day are not permitted to do such drastic workouts anymore. But they have found other ways to try and keep as active as they can while still maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Some ways that they maintain an extreme workout routine include doing little things throughout the day, such as going to some parts of the lawn and playing multiple games such as pick-up volleyball and football. This allows them the freedom of being outside with friends while staying socially distanced and energetic.

In addition to being able to stay as physically active as possible under

COVID-19 regulations, taking care of mental health is also a key component to staying healthy. Some of the regulations that Ursinus has put into place, only allows students to stay within their “family units” which refers to the people that they live with. Junior Matt Snyder, a member of the Men’s Swim team, talks about the most relaxing part of his day that helps him to loosen up within his family unit. “I’d say definitely unwinding with the boys at the dinner table is the highlight of my day.” Matthew Seeburger, junior and member of the Men’s Swim Team, also states something along the same lines: “Dinner is a good mental outlet for me. We sit and talk about our classes and day together.” Seeburger also adds that Sundays equal football and valuable time in the suite, “Don’t forget about watching Sunday night football together

See **Teammates** on pg. 7



Photograph by Jenni Berrios

## Back to Practice: COVID Style

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While times are tough for our student-athletes with the absence of competition, luckily they can continue to practice while abiding by COVID-19 guidelines. The notorious fields, Snell and Patterson, have been reunited with their teams, who are working hard this fall season to increase their strength, skill, and passion for when the time comes to compete in the Centennial Conference again.

Not only are practices themselves different,

but arriving to practice entails a new routine as well. First, athletes must complete a self-assessment each day before practice, answering questions about how they are feeling. If the assessment is “green,” athletes can move onto the next step, but coaches cannot admit them to practice yet. Athletes must have their temperatures taken; if normal, they can continue onto the field for practice. Unfortunately, athletes cannot walk together onto the field, they must keep their distance, and space themselves with

their gear six feet apart.

Through the spring and early summer months, some athletes were unable to practice their sports together on their own time. Now, each team is able to work together to fine tune their skills. Field hockey senior Addie Frey comments on her team’s attitude this fall, “The field hockey team is extremely relieved to be given the opportunity to be on Snell together as a team. While the absence of game day is hard to overcome, the fact that

See **Practice** on pg. 7

## Thinking of You!



Photo by David Morgan/Stylish Images for Ursinus



Photo by Brandon Smith '23