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## The Grizzly, February 18, 2021

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## Ursinus conducts additional campus-wide testing

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The week of Feb. 8 was intense and hectic for the Ursinus COVID Task Force Team. The school administered double testing on Monday (Feb. 8) and Tuesday (Feb. 9), using both the 350 PCR and antigen nasal swab testing methods simultaneously. Ursinus had previously done a 50-50 mix of the two testing methods.

“So far, the agreement between the two testing methods has been nearly perfect,” Dean Mark Schneider, chairman of Ursinus’ COVID Task Force Team, stated in an email to The Grizzly. “Given our increased confidence in the antigen tests, we decided to take advantage of

the rapid results with as many students as we could accommodate today and tomorrow. Pairing these antigen tests [5x swabs] with the 350 PCR tests [3x swabs] that we already planned for each day will also allow us to further examine the accuracy of the antigen tests in our testing environment.” The antigen tests, specifically, have been extremely helpful in supplying immediate results within 15 minutes. These rapid results allow the team to indicate and quickly notify any individuals whose tests came back positive to prepare for isolation. “This [was] our last week of a 50-50 mix of PCR and antigen testing,” Dean Schneider added.

In a school-wide letter sent to the campus community on Tuesday after testing hours, Dean Schneider provided updates on where things stood with COVID-19 testings. It stated, “this week’s testing [has gone] smoothly. Preliminary results of [Monday’s] antigen tests indicate[d] a significant decrease in our positivity rate from last week. While this is always subject to change, we are confident that we will fall below a one percent positivity rate this week.” The email also stated that an extra testing day would occur on Friday, Feb. 12, to continue the mitigation of COVID-19, and for all students to arrive at their usual designated

testing time. A logical reason for this additional testing day stemmed from possible minor gatherings to watch the Super Bowl on Feb. 7. The team decided to act quickly on behalf of campus and community safety, using the antigen (rapid) test.

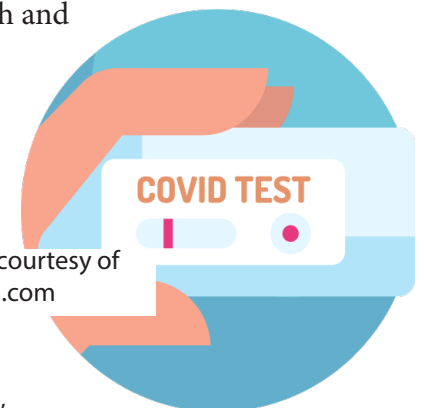
In another school-wide email sent right after Friday’s testing, the COVID Task Force Team announced that all future testings will be moved to Thursdays, and for students to come at their regular designated time slots used previously for Mondays and Tuesdays. Those who cannot make Thursdays can register for Wednesday time slots by emailing Associate Vice President for Health and

Wellness, and Director of Athletics Laura Moliken (lmoliken@ursinus.edu). This applies to faculty and staff as well.

**Wear a mask.**

**Socially distance.**

**Stay safe!**



Right: Image courtesy of Flaticon.com

Left: ‘Campus testing’, Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

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# Founders' Day

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Founders' Day is a campus-wide celebration that most students and faculty look forward to. However, this year, students and faculty could only participate virtually due to the pandemic and campus restrictions. Yet the college still managed to bring history and fun to participants' homes. On Ursinus's main website, there is a page dedicated to Founders' Day highlighting some of the people who have made an impact on the college throughout the years.

The historic day started with an in-person grab-and-go treat station with pre-packaged cookies and hot chocolate. Jordan Scharaga, the assistant director for college events and signature

programs, coordinated a digital escape room. Scharaga wanted to create a sense of community by focusing "on ways people can celebrate at their own pace rather than tuning in for a Zoom event at a specific time." She saw the success of escape rooms made by her colleague Christine Iannicelli, and knew she and her team would be the perfect collaborators.

Scharaga said that "out of the 35 participants we had a fairly even distribution between faculty, staff, and students." She hopes that students enjoyed the escape room while learning some UC history. "If they had half as much fun as our group had creating the game then it definitely was a success," she concluded.

Dominick Scudera, a theater professor, wrote and directed the original play for the college's 150th anniversary titled, "The Complete History of Ursinus College (Abridged)". His production was streamed, too.

Here are some of the alumni Ursinus highlighted on its website for Founders' Day!

Right: Ambassador Joseph Melrose '66  
As a student, Ambassador Joseph Melrose '66 was an engaged politics major who was a photographer for the yearbook, played intramural sports and was a member of the International Relations Club. After Ursinus, Melrose began his life-long career in the world of international relations, politics and human rights advocacy.

Via: Ursinus.edu



## URSINUS COLLEGE *FOUNDERS' DAY* C E L E B R A T I O N

Image courtesy of Ursinus College



Featured: Bertha Hendricks & Minerva Weinberger, two of 10 students who graduated from Ursinus College in June 1884. Hendricks was admitted one year after Weinberger; however, the two graduated together. Weinberger was the class valedictorian, and she delivered the valedictory address titled "Dreams" at their commencement ceremony.

Via: Ursinus.edu

# KiDS NEED MoRE

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V.IRTU.E, Ursinus's virtual community service club, is working with KiDS NEED MoRE to build a welcoming and fun online space for children dealing with cancer and illness.

KiDS NEED MoRE is a nonprofit organization that was established by Melissa Firmes in 2013, and provides a number

of camps and retreats for children. At Ursinus, V.IRTU.E is working to provide fun opportunities and a nurturing environment for these children amidst the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

V.IRTU.E strives to offer online service opportunities for Ursinus students, and the club's collaboration with KiDS NEED MoRE has

provided its members with a virtual space to give back and have fun. The service club's first Zoom meeting with KiDS NEED MoRE on Monday, February 8th involved get-to-know-you games, freeze dance, exercises, and energetic music. As the club continues to meet with KiDS NEED MoRE on a bi-weekly basis, members will partake

in engaging activities such as arts and crafts, science-based activities, exercises, and a variety of games.



Cartoon by Craig Schrager

## The Grizzly

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## How athletes are navigating the long off-season

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The 2020-2021 school year has been anything but normal for college students across the nation. Whether it be in-person classes or the college experience itself, everybody has lost something. In particular, student athletes have been dealing with the loss of their sports seasons for almost a full year. Although it has been challenging, many are still staying focused and motivated on their original goals of reaching their playing fields again someday. Several Ursinus College student athletes speak here on the process of remaining fit, and what they have been doing to stay connected to both their team and sport.

Jake Stackpole '22, on the UC Men's Lacrosse team, explained the main difficulties he has faced surrounding his sport since the start of quarantine: "The quarantine has forced us (the team) to adapt. We were generally a pretty close team who did a lot together, but now we can't. So much is virtual now and it's harder to stay connected," Stackpole stated. Stackpole described his own personal disconnect from the sport, as well. "For us spring athletes, we already lost a season and in most cases hav-

en't gotten to play since. Trying to stay connected to the game without playing for so long is hard, and our connection is where our passion comes from. So it's been hard," he added.

Even with these difficulties, Stackpole has had some ideas on how to keep this connection alive. "One of the biggest things is to make sure you're reaching out to one another. This is really difficult for everybody, I mean everybody

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*"The quarantine has forced us (the team) to adapt...[s]o much is virtual now and it's harder to stay connected."*

- Jake Stackpole  
2022

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has lost something. Anything you can do for your teammates to show them you care about them is going to go a long way. And personally, even things like watching your sport in old games helps your own personal connection keep going," Stackpole concluded.

Madison Vinovski '24, on the UC Women's Volleyball team, shared a similar point of view. "Our team has done as much as possible to stay connected. With weekly Zoom meetings or virtual team dinners until we can meet again...in person," Vinovski said. "Something I've picked



Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

up personally is how important it is to show up to lifts and any practices we get with lots of energy and happiness. This quarantine has taught us to not take anything for granted." Vinovski also recognized the collective loss for everyone and suggested, "don't be too hard on yourself for your team struggling with connection, but don't give up on each other either. There are so many ways we can stay connected right now, and although it looks different, don't take advantage of anything and appreciate everything."

The UC Women's Soccer team was able to take advantage of the recent snowstorm. Kayla O'Malley '22 reminisced on the bonding. "We stayed within our family units and while being socially distanced were able to have a snowman

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*"Having fun right now is more important than ever, especially with your team. Using these sporadic instances like a snowstorm can make that bond grow..."*

- Kayla O'Malley  
2022

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competition. Following that with sledding and snowball fights. It was a safe way to have fun and be in a comfortable environment. Having fun right now is more important than ever, especially with your team. Using these sporadic instances like a snowstorm can make that bond grow and cause memories to form," O'Malley said.

The importance of connection is one of the biggest struggles for our athletes right now.

Our athletes are finding creative ways to stay connected and maintain optimism that others can follow suit. e.g., enjoying the time in the snow, building a snowman, and most importantly, regularly checking in on your teammates/friends and showing your support as much as you can.

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

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# Phi Kappa Sigma and friends enjoy Super Bowl LV

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This year's Super Bowl that took place on Sunday, Feb. 7, was a different type of viewing experience for many around the nation. For college students, the large, crowded Super Bowl parties they are used to were not possible in the current pandemic climate. The tradition did not go away entirely, however. The Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at Ursinus proved that there are still fun ways to get together while abiding by COVID-19 regulations.

Phi Kappa Sigma (PKS) has usually celebrated the Super Bowl together in the common room of the Main Street house, Omwake. The fraternity still wanted to find a way to gather and watch the Super Bowl together, even if it could not be at its usual spot. "We came up with the event because we wanted to be together as an organization and the Super Bowl is always a fun event," president of

PKS Devin Molina '22 stated. The fraternity reserved a space in the Pfahler (Musser) Auditorium, which is located in Pfahler Hall, a science building part of the

*"We came up with the event because we wanted to be together as an organization and the Super Bowl is always a fun event."*

- Devin Molina  
2022

larger science wing that also houses Thomas Hall and the Innovation and Discovery Center (IDC). The Pfahler Auditorium is spacious enough for many people to convene and, in this case with COVID-19, be socially-distanced and safe.

To ensure everyone's safety, the attendance was kept under the given capacity of the room. Hand sanitizer was also provided at the doors, and food and bottled drinks were served to groups at different time intervals. Molina said



Courtesy of Matthew Parias

that the regulations were easy to enforce because "most people are so used to the guidelines that it was something that people naturally did." Safety was PKS's top priority, and they wanted everybody to be and feel safe while enjoying the game.

Even though their celebration was different from past years, it was still pleasurable. "It was enjoyable seeing the game on the big screen and having more space to spread out. This is a change we will definitely consider keeping in future years," Molina said. PKS was also happy

that some members of Omega Chi, Tau Sigma Gamma, Phi Alpha Psi, and Sigma Sigma Sigma were able to join in on the night while remaining under capacity and socially distanced. PKS is thinking about holding their Super Bowl events in bigger spaces like Pfahler Auditorium again in the future when there is no pandemic and they can invite more people from the Ursinus community.

We are constantly reminded of the unprecedented times we are living in. But that does not mean that we

need to isolate ourselves. PKS showed that it is still possible to be with your friends and celebrate events while still keeping safety a top priority. They found a way to bring a bit of normalcy back into their lives without endangering themselves or those around them. The Ursinus community still makes sure that we students are abiding by COVID-19 protocols and keeping each other safe. However, we can still have fun together while doing so.

## DESK DRAWER OF THE WEEK



This week's desk drawer comes from Miles Noecker '22, who maintains a disorganized assemblage on top for easier access. "I reserve my desk drawer to hide my coloring paraphernalia. Coloring is a nice coping mechanism for when I get stressed," Noecker said.

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## The Home Theater Experience Exposed

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It is just not the same. Not to insult your setup, couch, or the cool light strip you have behind your TV, but we cannot rely on those features to give us the same experience a real movie theater can provide. There doesn't seem to be much of a rush to go to the very small number of places open because, well, there is nothing out. The majority of the good flicks have been pushed back a good 12 or even 18 months beyond their 2020 release dates, which has local and corporate theaters temporarily closing locations until the film industry can get its life back. The only problem is, we aren't sure *if* or

*when* that will happen.

There was a glimmer of hope when a few anxious movie-goers, including myself, went to see the release of Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* back in August, but it was not enough for theaters to stay comfortably open, especially when studios are pushing back release dates. Instead, they release their movies straight to video or make them available on many of the streaming services that we subscribe to -- which brings me to my fear: we are getting too comfortable watching movies at home. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy eating microwavable popcorn topped with "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!" and sitting

down in my own living space to watch a movie just as much as anyone, but as I mentioned before, it is not the same.

There is something special about checking the showtimes, going out to the complex, ripping your tickets, walking down the hall, and tugging open the door to your designated auditorium. Gazing upon the hundreds of seats and searching for the perfect spot (two thirds of the way up and in the middle if available). Subject to the large screen and massive surround sound speakers. The unanimous wave of silence from everyone in the theater when the lights dim down turning that same screen and

those same speakers into the only real source of light and the only real source of sound. From that point on until the roll of the credits, it is the ultimate movie watching experience. We know how awesome it is to walk into an empty theater and have it all to yourself, but whether it be ten, 20 or 100 others accompanying you in there, you share that experience with them and that is what you will remember. You will remember the jolt of excitement and the whole crowd cheering when Cap held Mjolnir in *Avengers: Endgame*, or the absolute shock and sound of jaws dropping on the floor when Arthur did what he did to

Robert DeNiro in *Joker*. Imagine those same moments being ruined by your dryer buzzing, the ruckus outside your door, turning the volume down because you have neighbors, noticing that glare on the TV, a knock at the door, and countless other distractions. Even worse, imagine taking yourself out of the movie completely by pausing it and answering that phone call. A good movie watching experience at home depends on hope that nothing else will come between you and the movie. A good movie watching experience at the theater usually depends on the movie itself, and whether you picked a good one or not.

## West Coast Students: Why Ursinus?

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As a small liberal arts school in Pennsylvania, Ursinus has its share of students from the West who have travelled across the country to obtain an education at Ursinus. Students have parted from the Pacific to spend a majority of four years in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. While the West Coast offers endless opportunities for a remarkable education and college experience -- UCLA, UC Berkeley, Stanford and the University of Oregon -- our West Coast students found their home away from home at 601 E. Main Street.

For Avery Samer, the

decision to leave home was always easy, simply because she wanted a different environment. "Being from so far away has definitely been a challenge to this point, but that is why I decided to push myself outside of my borders away from home. I have really liked Pennsylvania so far and have really enjoyed exploring Philly and the King of Prussia area which is a completely new vibe then I am used to," says Samer. Samer is from Boise, Idaho (not the West Coast, but still the West). The East Coast was always in the plan for her, and the big move was even easier with the help of her teammates on the

women's tennis team. Hiking and skiing are some of Samer's favorite activities to occupy her weekends with, luckily the Perkiomen Trail has welcomed the Idaho native graciously.

From Granite Bay, California, just outside of Sacramento, senior Josh Grahame could not have asked for a more welcoming environment than Ursinus. "My favorite thing about the East Coast is simply how different it is to the West Coast in many aspects, especially the people, how they interact and their mannerisms," says Grahame. The small liberal arts style of education is where Josh saw himself. "Ursinus

stuck out to me as it was the first school I could see myself accomplishing everything I wanted to do in college and post-graduation," says Grahame.

Molly Blume, Class of 2023, from San Diego, CA was extremely drawn to the unique experience that Ursinus and the East Coast have to offer. "I wanted to continue my education on the East Coast because I think college is the perfect opportunity to test out different places you might want to live in and experience," says Blume. "Ursinus has the perks of a small school, with the feel of a larger campus, which I felt other colleges lacked. One

of my favorite things about living here is that I get to learn about my friends' lives on the East Coast and I get to share about my experience of growing up in California. We love comparing the differences between life on the East and West Coasts," says Blume. Our West Coast Bears have definitely made an impact on our campus family. While our population of West Coast students has grown in the last ten years, we can only hope that it will grow even more; admissions continues to reach out to prospective students who, if not for our persistent staff, would have never even heard of Ursinus College.



**Coach Mike** cont. from pg. 8

lifting sessions. When talking about this unfortunate delay, Mike stated, "Even though we will not commence team training for another week or so, I have been grateful for the opportunity to see people during their individual workout times and catch up on how they are doing."

*"Our team of student staff has done a marvelous job making sure everyone sticks to their appointment times/spaces."*

—Mike Moronese

The challenging task of keeping in touch with those in our lives while still in a pandemic affects the situation as well. Whether it be the prolonged holiday/winter break or staying in contact with those in quarantine, it can be difficult keeping those connections alive. "Staying connected to people has been hard over the course of the last 11 months. However, I don't feel completely disconnected. My office door is always open, and students/student-athletes have not been timid in embracing that." Mike continued saying, "I am thankful that our school and facility is still operational, because it has enabled people to stop by, talk, or ask questions whenever they need or want to."

When navigating these trying times, peoples' willingness to

change and adapt is critical to the success of our campus environment. Systems in place last year are not able to work at this time. Coaching and coaching strategies are among the things that needed adjusting. Mike stated that "prior to the pandemic, I would be more hands-on with athletes, but now I have had to work on more concise instruction, as well as more physical demonstration to get the job done. We have also tried to standardize parts of our training, so that we can maximize our time frame for training, as well as transfer workouts from one space to another." While changes have been made to the style of Mike's training, the result remains the same: Enjoyable, successful, and impactful sessions with the student-athletes.

*"...I have been grateful for the opportunity to see people during their individual workout times and catch up on how they are doing."*

—Mike Moronese

In a time of chaos and uncertainty, Coach Mike has kept the weight room as a constant on which students can rely to relieve stress and fulfill their team workouts. It has been managed in a strict and orderly fashion throughout the first three weeks back on campus. Adjustments

have been made and safety protocols are pushed to the forefront. Mike is balancing it all, with the help of his student workers, and still going about his days with the usual positive attitude we are all accustomed to.

**Superbowl** cont. from pg. 8

other coming out of retirement, they were still unstoppable. The second quarter followed with another Brady-Gronk 17-yard pass touchdown, followed by the Chiefs defaulting to another field goal from Butker. In the last 6 seconds, the Buccaneers secured another touchdown with a one-yard pass to Antonio Brown to finish the half up 21-6.

The Weeknd solidified his decade-long climb from an anonymous artist to the top of the charts by performing some of his hit songs "I Can't Feel My Face," "Blinding Lights," and "Starboy" in the half-time show. A noticeable difference between the 2021 halftime performance and past was the stage and that there was an absence of one on the field. The Weeknd began his performance in the stands accompanied by an orchestra with a jazzy spin off of his songs. The singer also interacted more with the camera than previous performers due to majority of fans watching from home. The Weeknd spent almost \$7 million out of his pocket to create the show to his vision and standards. When the show reached "Blinding Lights," he shifted to down on the field with hundreds of dancers in white bandage face coverings and red suits. The Weeknd's performance had several

hidden meanings. The dancers' outfits were a reference to when The Weeknd arrived at the American Music Awards bloodied and taped up from surgery. Their outfits also reflected his message that in Hollywood there is a toxic reality that an aspiring artist cannot obtain fame without beauty. The dancers were abiding by COVID guidelines as they were masked and socially distanced.

The first points scored in the third quarter came from the Chiefs kicker, who made his third field goal of the game from the 52-yard line. The final touchdown of the game, clearly setting in stone Brady's 7th Superbowl, and Tampa's second, came when Brady found Leonard Fournette for a 27-yard run to bring the score to 28-9. Succop kicked a 52-yard field goal to put the last points of the game on the board, making the final score of Super Bowl LV 31-9 Tampa. A scoreless fourth quarter left nothing but Chief fans distraught and Bucs and Brady fans in happy cheers.

Another Superbowl has come and gone and Buccaneer fans can celebrate their accomplishments of the 2020-2021 season. Hopefully, football games can resume in normal conditions by the time Superbowl 56 and the new season come around again.

## Superbowl LV, COVID-Style

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Superbowl LV will go down as a historic sporting event, not just for the game, but for everyone that made the 2021 pandemic Superbowl achievable. The teams and their staffs, members of the NFL organization, health care workers, The Weeknd, and most importantly, the fans who brought exuberant game day spirit to Tampa and in front of their screens to watch the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers matchup.

Ursinus students gathered with their family units to watch the game, but Super Bowl 55 still had the lowest numbers of views watched on traditional broadcast television since 2006 at only 91.6 million people. The in-person, of course, had the smallest attendance in Super Bowl history, 25,000 people, mostly vaccinated health care workers, who along with 30,000 cutouts filled the Tampa Bay

stadium. Suzie Dorner, COVID-19 ICU nurse manager at Tampa General Hospital, performed the coin-flip, honoring all the health care workers across the country risking their lives to fight this virus.

The first quarter was underwhelming, featuring a 49-yard field goal for the Chiefs after only 31 yards on 8 plays, putting the Chiefs on the board. Patrick Mahomes struggled to find receivers throughout the game but threw some impressive passes before he was tackled. However, the Buccaneers were not going to leave the quarter without scoring; Tom Brady found Rob Gronkowski for an 8-yard pass for a touchdown to end the quarter with a score of 7-3 Tampa. The Brady-Gronk partnership sent a message to the entire NFL, that though one was starting with a new team after 20 seasons in New England and the

See **Superbowl** on pg. 7



Courtesy of Ursinus College

## Coach Mike Does it All

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Managing an entire weight room is a challenge in and of itself. Adding on the responsibility of following the new rules and regulations brought about due to COVID makes the task progressively more difficult. Head strength and conditioning coach Mike Moronese has been working through these rough times, making adjustments as need be, to keep everyone safe and in good spirits

while using the fitness center. These first three weeks of the Spring 2021 semester have tested everyone, due to the rise in positive cases, increased testing, and need to get things under control in our campus bubble. Mike and his staff have stuck to their procedures of signing out pods and time slots for workouts, which has proven to be successful. Mike stated, "Our team of student staff has done a marvelous job making sure everyone sticks to their appointment times/spaces. We have had an increase in rule viola-

tions, which has been a challenge to our sense of safety and experience. However, even in times where we have to carry out these confrontations, our staff has carried themselves with integrity and grace."

Due to the cases on campus, teams' individual training sessions with Mike were delayed a week; the original start date of February 8th was bumped to the 15th. Many athletes are eager to get back into somewhat of a normal routine again, starting with their

See **Coach Mike** on pg. 7

## Thinking of You!



Photo by Ursinus Athletics



Photo by Ursinus Athletics