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## The Grizzly, April 29, 2021

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# the grizzly

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## Ursinus College Dance Department Presents Spring Concert

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On April 23, 2020, Ursinus' Dance Company hosted its annual spring dance festival on campus outside of the Kaleidoscope building. There were four live performances, along with a series of videos that the students created and projected onto the building.

The show started at 7:30 pm, during sunset, with the first act being a tap piece. Following the first act

was a modern piece passing a message about human connection throughout COVID. The third was a hip-hop piece that featured popular 90s hip-hop and R&b music. The final live performance was a very interactive African dance.

There were live traditional drums playing for the African dance of New Guinea. Towards the end of this performance, the dancers invited the audience members to dance

with them in a circle. The video performances were projects based on self-reflection, which were personal in nature and targeted social issues. Students have worked on this production for the majority of their spring semester; they connected with it because it targets the physical touch that dancers were used to before COVID separated them.

The dancers that performed in this festival worked ex-

tremely hard to put on this production, putting in hours of practice. Kalina Witkowska, who is a Ursinus sophomore and UCDC dance member, said in an interview with the Grizzly "it was bittersweet because it was the last night, but I am proud of being able to take part in the screen dance films. What this performance has done for me is that I only want to do more now."

A lot of time

and effort was put in to adhere to strict COVID guidelines. This resulted in the dancers having to use a lot of creativity, and dancing outside through all the seasons. Many students attended the show to give support through the 3 days the show was being held. Students really enjoyed the performances that the dancers put on.



Image courtesy of Shelsea Deravil

**WEAR A MASK.**

**SOCIALLY DISTANCE.**

**STAY SAFE.**

# The Celebration of Ursinus Students: CoSA 2021

**Carli Heimann**  
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On Thursday, April 22, students at Ursinus had the opportunity to partake in CoSA, The Celebration of Student Achievement. “CoSA is traditionally a wonderful day-long event filled with camaraderie, excitement, academic successes, and Ursinus pride” according to the events organizing team. The day is an opportunity for students to display their hard work and dedication to the academics, research, internships etc. that they have completed over the course of the academic year. Due to the conditions of the pandemic, the event had both a virtual component, in which students’ presentations could be viewed in an online format on the digital commons website, and an in-person option.

Student and CoSA presenter Abigail Krasutsky, talked about the event and how she felt that her hard work in the Art Department was viewed and appreciated by her peers. “I really

enjoyed being a part of CoSA. I felt that although things were different since they were virtual, Ursinus and its students did a great job of making the event seem still

had the option to choose what type of delivery and accessibility they wanted to have for their presentations. According to the CoSA organizing team, over 125 stu-

presentations, students and faculty had the options to leave comments and feedback online for each presentation, performance, or poster. Those at-

commented or virtually engaged during a presentation, one entry for the prize drawing was made. This appeared to be a great incentive for many, and a fun way to keep people actively engaged.

Despite being held virtually, CoSA still continues to be a very successful event in which students can highlight their dedication and hard work.

## COSA Spotlight



### The Impact of Race and Ethnicity on COVID-19

**Brytney Wornham '21,**  
Biology →



### Learn About Yourself: The Ins and Outs of AAT Deficiency and 23 & Me

**Simba Kanjanda '22,**  
Biology →



### Shallot Smith: A Sci-Fi Play

**Isalah Braugher '22,**  
Theater →



### Do Youth Development Programs Lead to Future Success?

**Kevyn Dewees '22,**  
Neuroscience →



### How Food-Producing Trees Can Combat Food Insecurity in Urban Areas

**Victoria Bearden '22,**  
Environmental Studies →



### How Coral Reacts to Different Stressors

**Julia Rakowsky '22 and Kayla Cayemitte '23,**  
Biology →

Screenshot: <https://www.ursinus.edu/offices/research-and-creative-projects/celebration-of-student-achievement/>

very connected and inclusive.”

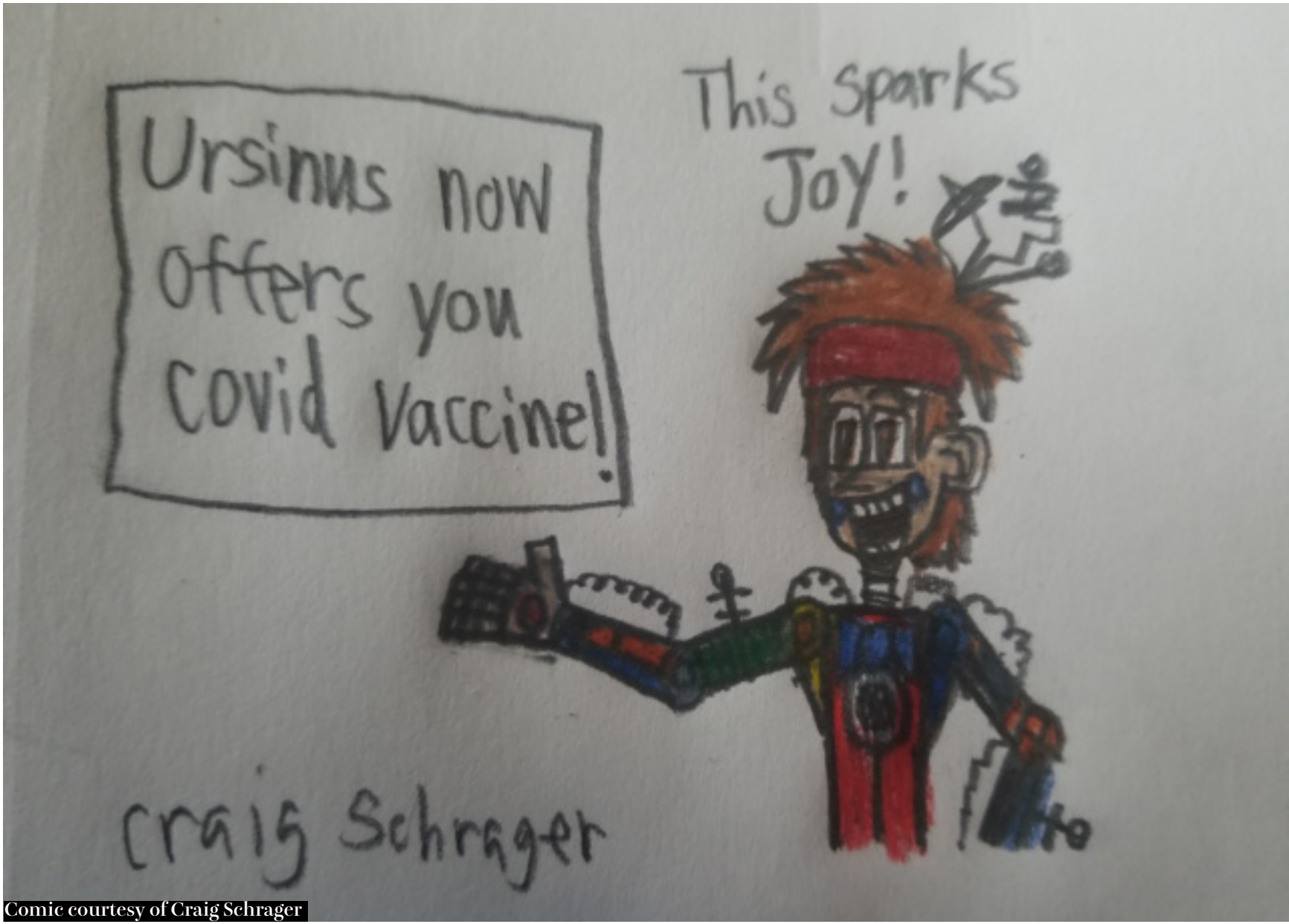
In order to be considered for participating in CoSA, students had to apply to present their material by April 8. From there, students

dent projects were displayed, and there were multiple forms of interactive options between viewers and presenters. To replicate the exchange of ideas that takes place at in-person

tending CoSA also had the chance to win different prizes, such as an iPad Air, just for participating and engaging with their peers’ and presentations. For every time a student

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2021



Comic courtesy of Craig Schrager



Image courtesy of Ursinus College

## Get to know Simra Mariam '21

Layla Halterman  
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For Simra Mariam, Ursinus College was not her first choice. She went to Penn State first, but after attending for a year, she decided it was not the right fit. “I really do enjoy interpersonal relationships and I wasn’t getting that at a big campus. You tend to get lost in the crowd,” she explained. When Mariam looked to transfer, Ursinus seemed to meet the criteria she was looking for. “I had a friend who was going here so I joined her for a day. We were walking around campus and she was telling me how great it was which drove me to apply.”

Mariam was originally an International Relations and Political Science major but soon realized she was not passionate about those areas of study. Her creative ambitions were not being fulfilled. Mariam was always an avid reader and writer, which drew her to the Media and Communications field, especially after the coverage of the 2016 election. “I thought there was no better time to get into a field that incorporated storytelling and advocacy to work towards improving people’s quality of life, both domestically and internationally,” Mariam explained.

This also motivated Mariam to create her own magazine in 2019, called “Reclamation Magazine.” She believed that there were not enough platforms dedicated to giving marginalized communities a voice. “I wanted to hone in on that and showcase our diverse range of talent because it isn’t appreciated as much as it should be.”

This 2020-2021 school year, Mariam has served as the Editor-in-Chief of The Grizzly, and is the president of the Muslim

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*“There was no better time to get into a field that incorporated story-telling and advocacy to work towards improving people’s quality of life, both domestically and internationally.”*

- Simra Mariam  
2021

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Students Association (MSA) at Ursinus. She is also deeply involved in the Melrose Fellows organization, which has allowed her the opportunity to do lots of service work. She describes a time when she got to travel to Puerto Rico, which she says was her most rewarding college experience. “We were helping rebuild homes there after Hurricane Maria hit.” Moreover, The Grizzly has been one of her favorite



Courtesy of Simra Mariam

things to be involved in. Mariam said it has taught her “so much about how a newsroom actually works.”

After graduation, Mariam plans to take a

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*“Enjoy every moment, even the moments that disappoint you. Have a community around you to rely on because that will be your biggest motivator.”*

- Simra Mariam  
2021

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few months to herself,

explore the industry, and see what appeals to her best. She would like to work in journalism for a while, but she eventually plans to explore other avenues like marketing and advertising.

There are many things Mariam will miss about Ursinus. Specifically, the professors, the close-knit student-body, and the campus alone. “Our campus is so beautiful so I’ll miss walking around that,” she stated.

Mariam wants students to know college goes by so quick. “Enjoy every moment, even the

moments that disappoint you,” she added. She believes everything is a learning experience and it will only make you stronger. “Have a community around you to rely on because that will be your biggest motivator,” Mariam concludes.

On behalf of The Grizzly staff, we wish Simra the Beary best in all her future endeavors.

Thank you for everything.

# Spotlight on the 2020-2021 Grizzly Editorial Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Simra Mariam**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021




Media and Communication Studies, Class of 2021  
 Minor: Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies



NEWS EDITOR

**Gillian McComeskey**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021



Political Science, Class of 2023



FEATURES EDITOR

**Shelsea Deravil**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021



Media and Communication Studies, Class of 2021  
 Minor: Film Studies



OPINIONS EDITOR

**Claude Wolier**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021



Philosophy, Class of 2022  
 Minors: Spanish + Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies



SPORTS EDITOR + STAFF WRITER

**Rosalia Murphy**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021




Media and Communication Studies, Class of 2022  
 Minor: Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies



ONLINE x SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

**Colleen Murphy**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021



English, Class of 2023  
 Minors: Creative Writing + Classical Studies






PHOTO EDITOR

**Jenni Berrios**

THE GRIZZLY STAFF, 2020-2021



Photojournalism and Spanish, Class of 2022  
 Minor: Peace and Social Justice Studies



The Grizzly would like to thank and honor its editorial staff and writers who contributed immensely to the newspaper for the 2020-2021 school year. We say farewell to our seniors — Simra Mariam, Shelsea Deravil, and Griffin Banks — and we hope to see returning staff members next fall.

## Vaccinations on Campus

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The Pfizer vaccine recently arrived on campus. We talked with several students to gain insight about how they were feeling about the vaccine, as well as whether they were going to partake in this opportunity to receive it.

The majority of the students we talked to expressed that they were going to get the vaccine, and the only concern that they had about getting it was the possi-

ble side effects, including headaches, nausea, and a fever. We did talk to a few students who said that they wouldn't be receiving the vaccine because they were worried about how quickly the vaccine became available, about unknown long-term side effects, and contracting SARS CoV2 from the vaccine. As Biology students who have been educating ourselves on the vaccine all semester, we felt it was necessary to share the information that we learned in order to alleviate some of these student concerns.

The SARS CoV2 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are mRNA vaccines, which means

that they work by injecting a small amount of genetic material from the virus into our cells. The amount that is injected is not enough to make a whole virus, but it is enough to allow our cells to make copies of one viral protein. Once our immune system, including our T and B lymphocytes, recognize this protein as foreign to the body, they begin to destroy it. This allows our cells to create a plan to fight the virus and remember how to do so in the future if we are infected with SARS CoV2.

It is very unlikely that one could contract the virus from a vaccine, because of how small

an amount is injected and because it triggers a quick immune response from the body. While we can't know for sure if there are any potential long-term side effects of the vaccine, it's important to note that the ingredients in the vaccine have been safely tested and that most vaccines seldom cause long term side effects.

While it may seem like the vaccine came to the market in a short period of time, it is vital to understand that each vaccine went through all the mandatory FDA regulations before being administered to the general public. It may seem daunting to take a vaccine that started

clinical trials in 2020, but we should remember all of the long-term side effects of SARS CoV2 and how many have lost their lives already to this virus.

The Pfizer vaccine offered on campus has a 95% efficacy rate after the second dose is administered, meaning that in all clinical trials the vaccine protected against severe illness 95% of the time. As a younger generation we may not get extreme symptoms if we contract SARS CoV2, but in order to protect ourselves as well as to do our part in initiating herd immunity and preventing more deaths it is essential we get the vaccine.

## Parting Thoughts: Seniors on Commencement

Griffin Banks  
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Last year, the class of 2020 was devastated when the news broke that they would not be having a commencement ceremony due to the chaos brought on by the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the country and the world exercising a firmer control on the pandemic, Ursinus has decided to pursue an in-person commencement for the class of 2021. This will not be a traditional commencement, because social distancing and a mandatory mask rule will be in effect, but it will constitute something of a return to normalcy. It must be stressed that this plan is tentative, and that the plan

is subject to change. Ursinus College is closely monitoring the health situation in the Collegeville area and will adjust its plans if necessary, with the health and safety of graduates, faculty, and their guests in mind. This begs the questions, what do seniors think of this move? Are they glad to have a commencement? Is this inherently abnormal commencement truly better than nothing? Is Ursinus wrong to pursue an in-person graduation, rather than putting its efforts into a virtual one?

We spoke with a couple seniors to gauge the temperature of the graduating class. Kat Saddler, an academic senior, said:

*"If they want to have us socially distanced and with masks, fine. But I do think that it is unfair to the senior class*

*to only allow two people at the ceremony. I know I personally have siblings in addition to my two parents that would like to attend. I'm the first of my siblings to graduate college and it is a big deal. It's a shame that my family can't be there."*

While Saddler is understanding about the social distancing and mask mandates set by Ursinus, it is clear from her statement that she is upset with the guest limitation. This is an important consideration that speaks to the significance of the commencement ceremony, both to graduates and their families. Commencements are, under normal circumstances, a time for family and friends to come together to celebrate the achievements of their loved ones. Due to COVID-19, however,

Ursinus has elected to put a cap on the number of attendees. This move was bound to be controversial, and it certainly appears that Kat Saddler is one of those students disheartened with this particular cautionary measure. Fellow senior Mike Conforti had this to say:

*"I think it's good that it's in person. I think all of us (seniors) wanted an in-person graduation. Happy that parents can come. I was expecting that if we had one, we had to wear masks."*

Conforti has a more positive take, acknowledging that COVID-19 restrictions were bound to be in play in the current climate. For better or worse, as of writing this, a commencement ceremony is on. Obviously, due to the unpredictability of

the pandemic, this plan is subject to change. If all goes well however, the class of 2021 will be on stage in caps and gowns, continuing the grand tradition of collegiate graduations in spite of the ongoing crisis.



Recap cont. from pg. 8

many successes as a duo. Their senior day match ended in a tie-breaker, but the Blue Jays came out on top 7-1, and ultimately taking the win 8-7. At number two doubles, Lars Jespersen and Will Oberholtzer almost grabbed a win but lost in a tie-breaker as well. The Bears also lost all six of their singles matches. Mason Groff won 2 games against the No. 9 singles player in Division III, Vishnu Joshi, but lost 6-1, 6-1. The Men's Tennis team will head to Westminster, Maryland to play against McDaniel for their last game of the season.

Women's tennis also celebrated senior day, honoring Madisen Harvey and Maddie Sorebo. Madisen has had quite the career here in her four years. She has 42 wins in both singles and doubles. The women's team could not pull off the win against Johns Hopkins, however, losing all six of their singles matches. The number three doubles was the only duo to win a game, but ultimately lost 8-1. Number one and two doubles both lost 8-0 against the Blue Jays. Along with the Men's team, the Women's team will play their last game of the season away at McDaniel.

The Bears have a packed schedule this coming weekend. Baseball, Men's Lacrosse,

Men's and Women's Tennis, Softball, and Women's Lacrosse will compete against McDaniel. Men's and Women's Track and Field will compete in the Centennial Conference Championships on both Saturday and Sunday. Best of luck to our athletes as they begin to close out their spring seasons.



Image courtesy of Ursinus Athletics

Senior Day cont. from pg. 8

thing that will make this year unforgettable," said senior Molly Davis. And while parents were not allowed to spectate for this game, the rest of the underclassmen were able to make the day as memorable as possible, "It was really sad not being able to have our parents there, but our underclassmen made it memorable. We were able to hold traditions and make our own," says senior Hannah Reape.

*"We had so much fun out there with each other, of course it was weird seeing the empty stands but that is just one more thing that will make this year unforgettable."*

—Molly Davis,  
Class of 2021

Another senior, Katherine Eckhoff, adds, "We still had a great day and got to celebrate with the girls we started this journey with." Being with teammates, while it may not have been the most ideal Senior Day, made the seniors feel as much support as they would have felt in a 'normal' season. This really gave this team an opportunity to come together and grow into a bigger and stronger unit.

*"It was really sad not being able to have our parents there, but our underclassmen made it memorable. We were able to hold traditions and make our own."*

—Hannah Reape,  
Class of 2021

We wish all the best

to the seniors of the women's lacrosse team and those seniors who have upcoming senior days, even without spectators -- at least you will have your teammates who have been by your side all these years! Congratulations!

**WRITERS  
WANTED**

Lend your voice  
to The Grizzly

Email  
[grizzly@ursinus.edu](mailto:grizzly@ursinus.edu)

## A Memorable Senior Day

Claire Vance  
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With spring sports back in full swing, the women's lacrosse team was able to have a memorable Senior Day two Saturdays ago, when they competed against Dickinson and celebrated their 10 seniors who are soon graduating.

This season was quite different than they would have expected their senior year to look like, and the same went for Senior Day. Seniors were each walked out by one of their teammates, who held phones to record the announcements of their names. No student visitors were allowed, nor were parents of the graduating seniors. This was due to a rule set in place by the Centennial Conference. Not being able to have family and friends at a game as important as this one was difficult for these Lady Bears, but they still were

able to feel support from the many people who tuned in virtually.

The seniors celebrated were: Alyssa Penny, Brittney Bedrossian, Carli Heimann, Molly Divis, Katherine Eckhoff, Kylie Cherneskie, Abby Krasutsky, Grace Langen, Hannah Reape and Hanna Crowley. So many seniors graduating this year means a lot of re-building for this team, but they are fired up and ready to welcome the next incoming class.

*"We still had a great day and got to celebrate with the girls we started this journey with."*

—Katherine Eckhoff,  
Class of 2021

Although the seniors were not able to pull off a win this past Saturday, the love was surely felt as they were celebrated in one of their final games of their careers. "We had so much fun out there with each other, of course it was weird seeing the empty stands but that is just one more

See Senior Day on pg. 7



Courtesy of Ursinus Athletics

## Bears vs. Blue Jays Recap

Claire Vance  
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As the spring semester comes to an end, so too do spring sports. After a short season, there are only a few more games for all of our UC Bears. Baseball and Men's and Women's Tennis all had games this weekend against Johns Hopkins, while Softball and Men's and Women's Lacrosse had a break from game play. Men's and Women's tennis celebrated their seniors on the Bailey Courts.

Baseball headed to Baltimore, Maryland to face the Blue Jays, but came up short in both of their games. The Bears went scoreless until the top of third when Tom Jacobs scored the first run. Nick DeFeo kept Johns Hopkins from scoring until the 4th inning. It was in the 5th inning that the Blue Jays ran up the score off of an error that led to the next 5 runs. The Bears lost the first game 11-2. In the second game the Blue Jays came out hot and had the lead 5-0 by the end of the 3rd. The

Bears were able to score in the 5th with an RBI single from Colby Chan. Nolan Graber allowed just eight hits in the eight innings, but the Bears came up short, losing 5-2. This weekend the Bears will play against McDaniel in a double header at Thomas field.

Men's tennis celebrated their three seniors, Mason Groff, Matt Fontanese, and Kyle Bookman, on Saturday. Fontanese and Groff have been doubles partners all four years here at Ursinus and have achieved

See Recap on pg. 7

Thinking of you!

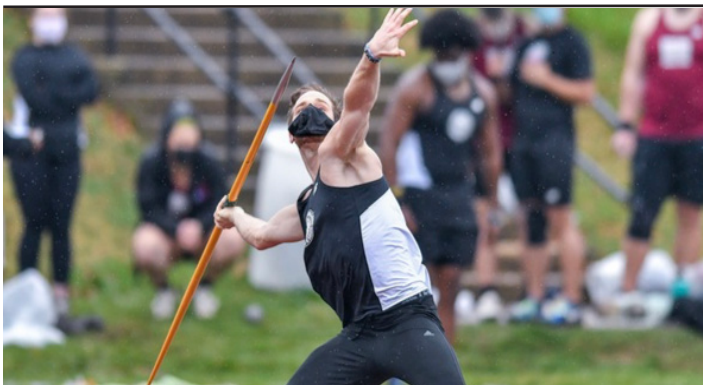


Photo by Ursinus Athletics



Photo by Ursinus Athletics