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The Grizzly, October 27, 2022

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The Grizzzly



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A Look Ahead:

At *The Grizzzly*, we believe that there is always something to look forward to.

'A Look Ahead' is a section where our team showcases upcoming articles. The purpose is to generate excitement within our readership and the extended Ursinus community.

- » Editor's Letter
- » Celebration of Lights
- » Execution of Justice

Our 2022 Homecoming King and Queen!

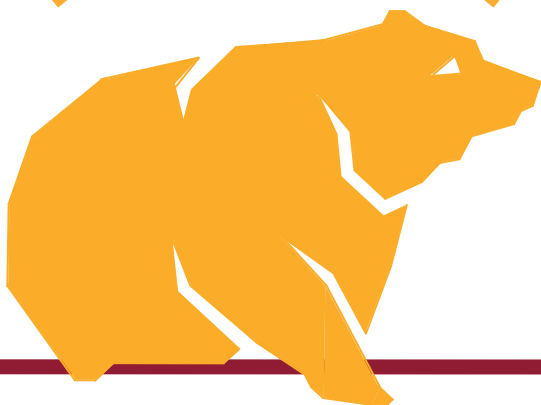


Courtesy of Tracy Panati

Congratulations to seniors Addie Plummer and Joshua Bowman!

Addie Plummer was nominated by the Field Hockey Team. Her charity of choice is the American Cancer Society.

Joshua Bowman was nominated by Phi Alpha Psi. His charity of choice is the National Alliance to End Homelessness.



Historic Trees Become Nasal Nuisance

Chase Portaro: chportaro@ursinus.edu



Courtesy of Chase Portaro

The Ginkgo Biloba, steeped in Chinese as well as Philadelphia history, is considered to be one of the oldest species of tree on Earth, but for students at Ursinus College, it may be the stinkiest tree on Earth as well.

The ten Ginkgo trees located along the walkway between Pfahler hall and Main Street have been especially bothersome for Main Street Residents, who contend with their stench on their daily walks to class. When Matthew Nieves-Hoblin '23 lived in Omwake last year, which is right in front of Pfahler, he said, "It smelled like vomit every morning when I would walk outside."

Steve Gehringer, Director of Facilities at Ursinus, said, "The nut does have a particular smell, especially if it is crushed." The Ginkgo nut, according to GardeningKnowHow.com is "a fleshy, brownish orange about the size of a cherry." Gehringer also explained that in its raw form, the nut "is considered poisonous since it causes a deficiency disorder of [Vitamin] B6 within a few hours" after ingestion— as if the putrid stench of the Ginkgo nut wasn't enough reason for avoidance.

The trees' aesthetic value, however, allows some students to tolerate their nasal protests. Story Coleman '24 said, "For the rest of the year, I love them, they're beautiful trees. They add a really nice ambience to the campus— it's just these few weeks when they smell awful."

Those few weeks when Ginkgos drop their rancid-smelling fruit, or scientifically termed rancid-smelling "nuts," have to do with the tree's evolutionary history. Considered a "living fossil" by scientists due to its 270 million year existence, the Ginkgo nuts' rotten smell helped attract animals that would eat the flesh-like nut and spread the Ginkgo species to new places. The tree is so old and has evolved so little since then, it's possible that a dinosaur could have eaten a Ginkgo nut just like the ones stinking up the grounds of Ursinus.

Modern-day science explains Ginkgos as dioecious trees, which means that Ginkgos are either solely male or female. Gehringer said, "The female trees drop fruit— the male trees do not drop fruit. My guess is whoever planted them [at Ursinus] did not know they were female trees."

The question of how they got to Ursinus, though, is shrouded in mystery. Emily Gurganus '24 told me, "The common mythos is that POD [Pi Omega Delta] planted the trees years ago." It'd make sense that the fraternity that calls themselves the "Pieces of Dirt" would be responsible for the tree planting, but that mythos is unproven.

The long and winding road that connects the East Asian Ginkgo to the streets of Philadelphia, however, has been proven. Traditionally farmed by Chinese Monasteries in the 11th century, the Ginkgo was rediscovered by Europeans in 1691.

Global imperialism brought the Ginkgo to Europe in the early 1700's. Then, in 1784, the very first Ginkgo in North America arrived in Philadelphia at The William Hamilton Woodland's Estate. The Estate was gifted three Ginkgo trees, but it donated one tree to historic botanist William Bartram. Bartram's tree was the only one of the original three to survive, and you can still visit the continent's very first Ginkgo at Bartram's Garden in SW Philadelphia.

Since the Ginkgo's arrival in 1784, its Philadelphia history has been "rooted" in its place of origin — China. Chinese immigrants in the city have traditionally gathered fallen Ginkgo nuts for their medical benefits. Although poisonous in its raw form, Gehringer said, "If carefully harvested, the Ginkgo yields a nut meat that's edible in small amounts. The Chinese believe that Ginkgo nuts have medicinal and aphrodisiac properties, and use them in congees, and certain dishes served on special occasions."

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, although the foraging tradition "has waned among Asian Americans, it has risen elsewhere." While you might see pedestrians along Spruce St. in Center City or parts of South Broad St. in South Philly gathering up fallen Ginkgo nuts, you might have a hard time convincing Ursinus students to pick up a nut next time they come across one.

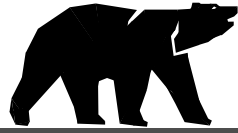
Mitigating the stink of the Ginkgo is a high priority for facilities, as Gehringer said, "The grounds staff blow the fruit off the Main walkway onto the grass area every other day." But other than temporary displacement, there isn't much else the Grounds Staff can do to eliminate the smell. The Ginkgo may stink terribly, and it may not even be native to Pennsylvania. But as a tree that survived the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and can live for more than 1,000 years, the Ginkgo is here to stay in Collegeville for the time being.

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The Film Club Satisfies Student Interests

Sean McGinley: semcginley@ursinus.edu

For Jess Schnur '24 and Nadav Asal '26, two Ursinus students interested in careers in film, something more was needed from their college in order to satisfy their interest in filmmaking. Both have enjoyed learning about the film theory side of their film studies curriculum, but shared a bit of disappointment in the lack of opportunities to learn about the filmmaking process at Ursinus. As a result, the two recently took it upon themselves to create Ursinus College Film Club, an organization dedicated to viewing, discussing, and making films. While the club's creation has provided some unique challenges for all involved, it has also provided a sense of community and exploration within filmmaking for a group of students who felt like something was missing.

Ursinus College Film Club kicked things off on September 16th with a film discussion of *Rango* in Olin 107. Since then, the club has been offering similar film discussion events on a weekly basis. For October, the theme for these discussions will center around horror films. According to Film Club president Jess Schnur, this month is doubling "as a Halloween countdown. So, we picked a bunch of Halloween, horror, or scary themed movies and we are showing them every Friday." Of course, Film Club was also created to fill a desire to make films. So, in addition to the discussions, Club treasurer Nadav Asal says that the club's members are in the midst of creating a horror-themed short film for the month of October that is hopefully set to be screened on Halloween.

Asal was the one who came up with the idea of making a film club. According to him, he saw that the college had one before and asked one of his Media and Communications professors, Dr. Fleeger, about bringing it back. She responded enthusiastically and, per Asal, "A week later, we were in a room and we made the contract and picked a president unanimously and a treasurer unanimously. And now we're here." Despite the painless start, though, those involved did face some

initial struggles in trying to gain official 'club status' from Ursinus. Asal went on to state that he expected the organizational structure for clubs at Ursinus to be more responsive and expressed some disappointment in the inconvenient scheduling of meeting times that would allow his club to become official. He stated, "You have to be going to those meetings and if you are like us, people who take classes that have screenings that are later at night, it means that we can't go to those meetings. Well, not sometimes, but all of them. We haven't gone to a single one of those meetings." Yet, Schnur states that the club has now managed to achieve official club status. She said, "So the fact that we just submitted an OAP, as far as I know, means we're a club officially. We just don't really have funding yet." The lack of funding hasn't stopped the club or its members from starting club events, and, most importantly of all, making movies.

Despite some familiarity in filmmaking from its founding members, Ursinus Film Club has emphasized being open to everyone, including those without film experience. Schnur highlighted this, stating, "I feel like Film Club can be a place where, like, who cares what your major is? If you wanna go watch and discuss *Scream*, or *Shaun of the Dead*, or *Corpse Bride*, you can do it here. You can watch and discuss movies for free." Above all else, it seems as though Film Club has provided a much needed sense of community amongst its members. One of the club's members, Holly Stang, pointed out how the club has provided her with the opportunity to get to know others. For her, "It's also about having a community. Meeting new people who are also interested in film is always a useful thing."

All involved have more plans for Film Club. For Asal, this includes more ambitious film projects. But most importantly of all, he sees it as an opportunity for the college to expand its film program, stating, "Hopefully, it gets big enough to the point that students who come here won't have to say, 'Oh, why isn't there something that I'm really interested in?'" And maybe it'll inspire the school to fund the film department more." Despite not having a ton of time left at Ursinus, Schnur expressed high hopes for the future of Film Club. She states how she wants even "more movies being made and for a community to be built from it." Her most ambitious goal? Ursinus's very own film festival. Schnur stated, "I wanted it to get to the point where we could have our own fun, little film festival called The Zachs for Zacharias Ursinus. Like, you know, our own little Oscars thing. That's my goal of where I would like to ideally go. I just think it would be fun, having something that's so silly and everyone can just get together." Given how much the club has already achieved in just a few months of existence, who's to say what the future holds?

If you're interested in getting involved with Ursinus Film Club, you can follow them on Instagram @ursinus.film.club or attend a film discussion on Fridays in Olin 107.



Courtesy of Nadav Asal



Halloween Word Search

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P E N N H U R S T N S D O X G
N E E W O L L A H R J J L H S
H A U N T I N G Z E D Q O N H
S A P U M P K I N T W U O Y O
Y P U U W S I B V N L T U D U
R M I N Z I Z U Y A E E Z N S
A U E D T B T Y R L M W K A E
C M F I E E Z C E O Z P N C Y
S M R M V R D K H K R Z I Y Y
Y Y E M U T S O C C L R I R T
C K J M T A C K C A L B O R E
N X O S Y D S H A J W M I H G
J L O O S H I V E R S Z Z E C
O H X A P Y R A M Y D O O L B
G N I E T S N E K N A R F K L

Word Bank

Halloween	House	Shivers	Eastern State	Werewolf
Grizzly	Ghoul	Bloody Mary	Spider	Vampire
JackoLantern	Costume	Frankenstein	Trick or Treat	Mummy
Ghost	Spooky	Horror	Black Cat	
Haunting	Scary	Candy	Pumpkin	
Haunted	Skeletons	Pennhurst	Witch	



Pres. Hannigan Made Me Cry (And Frankly, I Loved It)

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This past Friday, as Robyn E. Hannigan delivered her presidential inauguration speech to the Ursinus community in the Floy Lewis Bakes Center, I couldn't help but cry. To me, her speech was powerful, inspiring, and hit all the marks of a good speech. But I didn't just cry because I'm an avid speech connoisseur. I cried because above all, Hannigan was unexpectedly heartfelt – and she truly made me feel proud to be a Bear.

I have to admit, I approached the inauguration like I approach most formal events, already skeptical of its austere nature. Plus, I was already aggravated because while I was attending the inauguration, most of my friends had already returned home to get a head start on their Fall Break. But almost as soon as Hannigan began speaking, she disarmed me of my skepticism and made me momentarily forget I was still in Collegeville. “In case you didn't figure it out already, I cry a lot,” she said, stifling a laugh as her teary eyes looked out over the crowd.

Next, Hannigan touched on a topic that's been weighing heavily on the hearts and minds of her mostly-Southeastern Pennsylvanian audience. “Although this week has been about Ursinus and about my presidency, it was a big weekend in town, so I just wanna say, go Phils, go Eagles.” I was close to tears when she mentioned the Eagles' success this season (as I'm an angry and jealous Panthers fan – 2-5 record – Boo Hoo), but at this point in her speech, my tear ducts were still bone-dry.

As she continued into the more serious parts of her speech, she spoke

about her family and the important role her mother-in-law played in her life. “Thank you for wrapping your arms around me and showing me the power of family, something I really didn't have much of growing up,” she said, as she struggled to contain the emotion in her voice and paused to wipe away the tears that streamed down her face. At this point in the speech, my own waterworks started to flow.

As Hannigan's speech continued, the emotion of it mellowed a bit and my tears dried up, but when she recounted the Squishy story, I went right back to crying again. Squishy was the nickname of an undergraduate member of Hannigan's research cohort in her early years as an Assistant Professor. To make a long story short, Squishy was an extremely dedicated student who spent extremely long hours in the lab, even sleeping there overnight throughout the week. But one day, Hannigan found out his dedication in the lab was borne out of necessity rather than purely just a love for science. “Lo and behold, Squishy was homeless. I asked the students, ‘Well how is he eating? How is he showering?’ And they said, ‘Well, we've been feeding him, and he uses the athletic facilities to take a shower.’”

After doing her own due diligence into Squishy's academic situation, Hannigan discovered that years earlier, he had been arrested for drugs, and his first job out of jail was her research lab. “With the help of colleagues and an institution that was committed to non-traditional students like him, we discovered he was eligible for several scholarships and

grants. After three years, Squishy had published his research in peer-reviewed journals, had finished his bachelors in chemistry with a minor in biology, and was accepted to medical school. He is now a practicing physician with a spouse and a couple of kids, and he hasn't forgotten the journey that he took. He established a scholarship for formerly incarcerated men to pursue chemistry degrees at the university.”

Hannigan explained how Squishy's story changed her outlook on students' success in higher education. “Well-being and health in a student's success matter, and that's a legacy he should be very proud of.” Hannigan's experience with Squishy motivates her to improve Ursinus's own outlook on student well-being. After her speech, Hannigan signed the Okanagan Charter on behalf of Ursinus, which according to information on the school website “provides institutions with common language and principles for well-being in person, place, and planet.” The Charter will allow Ursinus to collaborate with other colleges in the Okanagan network to improve the well-being of all members of our campus community.

Hannigan explained that Ursinus is the first liberal arts college to sign the charter, and at this point in her speech, I was overwhelmed with pride for my college – my Ursinus community. I don't know if I drank the Kool-Aid or not, but I do know that I am extremely excited, possibly even humbled, to have Dr. Robyn E. Hannigan as our 19th President of Ursinus College. Go Bears!



Golf Teams' Fall Season Brings Hope for Spring

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This year's fall season for Men's and Women's Golf was a little shorter than usual, but nevertheless ended up being surprisingly sweet despite various setbacks. As covered earlier this year in *The Grizzly*, the teams faced a new set of challenges after learning that their former head coach had resigned about three weeks prior to the new season set for early September. This unanticipated announcement prompted an almost eight weeklong search for a new coach, and when September came around and the position was still not yet filled, the golf teams were left to practice and coordinate all of their logistics on their own.

And they were perseverant! In hopes that they'd be able to resume competing, the golf teams kept their spirits up and did everything they could to keep their program running. During that time multiple candidates for the head coach position were going through rounds of interviews, and one even came to campus and met with the team captains, but both teams still needed a concrete authority figure that could dedicate the time necessary to managing and coaching them. Player Elliot Schott looks back on this time, recounting, "I was definitely worried about the rest of our season. We have good leadership on our team, but it was difficult to even be able to set up practice times at courses." The lack of a coach was no one's fault, but it meant that scheduling, coaching, and man-

aging duties all fell on the sophomore and junior players who at most had experience as captains.

However, the golf teams were able to start competing in late September and made do throughout almost their whole season with the help of their peers. One week before the season ended on October 18th, Matt Reed was officially hired as the new head golf coach to oversee the men's and women's teams. I reached out to Team Captain Kaylin Chen to follow up on this development. She noted that while the team was able to grow through the adversity, making "a lot of decisions on [their] own, getting closer together, and learning new skills like leadership and collaboration," the fulfillment of the vacant position made all the difference in the season, and the coach "has done a lot already, working on getting the teams a store and sponsorships" along with all of the other managerial responsibilities that the student players did not know much about.

With this weight lifted off their shoulders, the team was able to focus on skill building for the rest of the season. Coach Reed noted to the Ursinus Athletics department that he looks forward to building "a competitive, successful program for years to come" and it looks like both the men's and women's teams are only headed upwards from here. The fall season has now come to a close after about a month of competition, but this is not the end of their story. Golf's Spring season is coming up in

March.

Golf's fall season is almost a precursor to the slightly longer, more heavily weighted Spring season, and so the Bears have a lot to look forward to next semester. Not only will they have Coach Reed with them every step of the way, but the season will be able to start right as scheduled, practices and competitions will run more smoothly, and the players will be able to focus on playing and supporting each other rather than ordering uniforms and scheduling their own practices. About next spring, everyone seems to have high hopes. Schott commented, "I am very excited for the season. I think we have built a good team dynamic, and we have a lot of time to prepare for Spring." We are so excited to see what's in store for Golf, and we wish them much success as they close this chapter of challenges, and open another one of possibilities.

Upcoming Games

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Men's Cross Country vs. Ursinus Fall Twilight Meet	Men's Wrestling @ Messiah: 10am
			Women's Cross Country vs. Ursinus Fall Twilight Meet	Football vs. Juniata @12pm
			Women's Swim vs. Bryn Mawr @ 6pm	Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Widener @1pm

Jack Psenicska: Smashing Ursinus Football Records

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Now in at quarterback for the Bears:
Jack ... Pens-ka? Pah-zen-ska?

Everyone in the Bears' grandstand was wondering who was in at quarterback in the closing minutes of a 36-point loss to Susquehanna University on October 22nd, 2019. Freshman Jack Psenicska was the third quarterback on the depth chart, and came into the game after a string of quarterback injuries in the loss. Little did the Ursinus faithful know that this 6ft, 160-pound frail-framed kid from Springfield would eventually become the school's all-time leader in touchdown passes by the end of his Ursinus career.

Fast forward three years and Psenicska (pronounced "Pah-zen-ska") is the now full-time starting senior quarterback and team leader for the Bears. And on the brisk Friday night of October 14th, 2022, Jack became the all-time leading touchdown passer in Ursinus football history. He threw three touchdown passes to eclipse the record of his predecessor, Thomas Garlick ('19) – 45 for Garlick, 46 for Psenicska. Jack spoke about what this record means to him.

"It would mean a lot to me just knowing the players that came here before and how good they were," said Psenicska. The Bears quarterback was on the team when Garlick was on the field, and believes he learned a great deal from Garlick's leadership style. "The biggest thing is leadership. He was not about the stats himself, but more the team winning. Also, knowing and learning the playbook. I learned a lot of that from him," said Psenicska.

Throwing touchdown passes does not just happen when Psenicska steps on the field on gameday. It starts with the film room and the practice field. Head Coach and quarterbacks coach Pete Gallagher shared his thoughts on Jack breaking the record. "It's been neat coaching the quarterbacks and developing these players and it's been great to see them achieve," said Gallagher. In his 22nd season at Ursinus, Gallagher has coached many to great feats, but Psenicska breaking the passing touchdown record is one of the most impres-



Courtesy of Donovan Dyitt (@OfficialDonFilms)

sive. He spoke on the significance of this achievement. "The more touchdowns you score, the better you are going to be. It has been neat coaching the quarterbacks and developing these players and it has been great to see them achieve."

Psenicska has four more regular season games left to add to this record-breaking feat and a potential sixth if Ursinus reaches a bowl game. It is clear now that Bears fans will be chanting for (Pah-zen-ska) for a long time to come.

Additionally, at last week's Homecoming Game on October 22nd, Psenicska was named the Kenneth R. Walker Trophy Award Winner! The Walker Trophy is given to the most outstanding Ursinus player in the Homecoming game.