



3-16-2023

The Grizzly, March 16, 2023

Layla Halterman
Ursinus College

Marie Sykes
Ursinus College


Tatiana Kent
Ursinus College

Chase Portaro
Ursinus College

Ava Compagnoni
Ursinus College

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews>

 Part of the [Cultural History Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Liberal Studies Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Halterman, Layla; Sykes, Marie; Kent, Tatiana; Portaro, Chase; Compagnoni, Ava; Tague, Brian; and Cressman, Katie, "The Grizzly, March 16, 2023" (2023). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper, 1978 to Present*. 1006.

<https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews/1006>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspapers at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper, 1978 to Present by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

Authors

Layla Halterman, Marie Sykes, Tatiana Kent, Chase Portaro, Ava Compagnoni, Brian Tague, and Katie Cressman



The Grizzly



Collegeville, PA.

Thursday, March 16th

Vol. 50, Issue 5

In this Issue:

- » Anarchy at Ursinus?
- » Spring Break Recap
- » Meet Alisa Zenchenko '25

Weekly Updates:

At The Grizzly, we believe 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.

- » The Importance of Giving
- » Peer Advocates
- » Check in from Across the Pond: Former Grizzly Editor, Sean McGinley, '24

Dean Schneider to Leave Ursinus



Announcement Raises Questions for Many Faculty Members

Marie Sykes
masykes@ursinus.edu



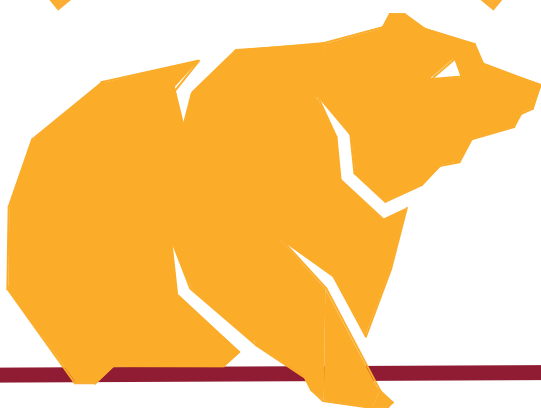
Courtesy of Ursinus College

After six years as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Mark Schneider will step down from his position on June 30, 2023. Schneider, who was appointed by former President Brock Blomberg, is known around campus for his commitment to the liberal arts, preserving Ursinus' campus life and safety during the pandemic, helping to craft the Diversity Action Resource Team (DART), and of course, his bow ties.

Schneider's exit is being lamented by many faculty members, some of whom fear

the departure may signal a potential break from Ursinus' commitment to the liberal arts. President Robyn Hannigan said the development "does not reflect a deviation from our core mission in any way."

The February 22 faculty meeting where Schneider announced his departure was disappointing for many faculty. Dr. Jennifer Fleegeer of the MCS department said the news was "devastating." Dr. Robert Dawley of the Biology department recounted, "one faculty member after another [spoke] in praise of Dean Schneider . . . with each





heartfelt speech followed by prolonged, deafening applause . . . I've never seen anything like it in my 34 years at the college."

Some faculty members expressed concern about Ursinus' identity as a liberal arts institution without Schneider's presence. Dr. Sheryl Goodman of MCS explained that Schneider dedicated his time at Ursinus to "our distinctive approach to liberal education" and "recogniz[ing] how CIE has deeply affected students and faculty, creating a true intellectual community. I can't imagine another dean having such an understanding," Goodman said.

Dr. Beth Bailey of Biology commented, "I think we have something really special here, and I fear that without Dean Schneider's leadership we are at risk of losing it."

Fleeger spoke about Schneider's dedication to Ursinus's core curriculum, which she said is "a set of questions and approaches that we feel harnesses intellectual curiosity and ethical thinking." She explained, "Dean Schneider embodies that process. Academic deans often have to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions, and as a result, they're not typically universally respected by the faculty the way Dean Schneider is. He's made hard choices and faced pushback. But it's a testament to his intellect and compassion that he was able to listen to all our voices and attain our trust. The outpouring of support for him is unlike

anything I've ever seen."

Schneider leaving, these faculty said, made them concerned about whether Hannigan's vision for Ursinus will still honor the authentic liberal arts education to which Schneider was so dedicated. In particular, several were upset about a statement Hannigan made that Ursinus is "no different" from other liberal arts colleges. Dawley said the development, "followed by President Hannigan's declaration . . . makes me fear that [Hannigan] fails to understand the kind of liberating education we offer students, and that she will not sustain our commitment to it."

Asked to comment on the exit, Hannigan stated, "these sorts of transitions are normal as a leadership person." She stated that she had "conversations with Mark about where the college is going under my leadership and what we need to do to get there." She said, "this is not a negative thing. This is a smooth transition," and pointed out that Schneider is staying until the end of June as proof.

Hannigan said she is aware that some professors are questioning her devotion to liberal education, and that she is committed to finding another dean who is "grounded in the liberal education tradition." She explained that the search committee for Schneider's replacement will consist of seven to eight faculty members, two vice presidents, and two staff members. A

national search service will be utilized to find candidates, and then the committee will select four or five to bring to campus and interview. After they select their top candidates, they will present their finalists to Hannigan, who will make the final selection.

As for her remark about Ursinus being "no different" from other liberal arts colleges, Hannigan said that she was talking about what liberal arts schools "believe" about themselves – not that Ursinus is no different from other schools, but that many schools believe they are distinct.

Hannigan acknowledged that "there is no question" the faculty "hold Mark in high regard." She went on, "I am passionately committed to [the] Quest. I am committed to liberal education. This is not reflective of my intent to harm the faculty or departments. It is truly what I believe to be ultimately the best thing for the college as I look to the work we had to do for the future."

When asked for comment, Dean Schneider said, "it will be hard to leave Ursinus, but I am committed to doing everything I can over my remaining few months as dean to make for a smooth transition in the Dean's Office and to help position Academic Affairs and the college for success in the coming years."

Maker's Club Promises Creative Fun for all Majors

Tatiana Kent

takent@ursinus.edu

With so many different clubs on campus, it can be hard for students to decide what organizations they want to be a part of. Maybe you're interested in so many different things, you're not even sure which meeting to attend first. If this sounds familiar, there's a new group on campus for you: Maker's Club.

President Jake Kosa and Secretary James Waring, both in the class of 2025, told me that Maker's Club is the new and improved successor to the now defunct Association for Computing Machinery Club. Both were involved in ACM but saw room for improvement, with Kosa telling me it felt "overly organized and formal" and Waring feeling it "wasn't very approachable because of the name." Hoping to get more students involved, the students worked with faculty advisors Dr. Christopher Tralie and Dr. Casey Schwarz to combine both ACM and the Robotics Club into a group that would welcome many interests.

Coding and robotics not your thing? There's still a place for you at Maker's Club. Walking around Musser Auditorium at the club's first Makeathon, students were work-

ing on a variety of projects. Maya Kyriakos, '26, was busy with biochemistry homework. Ikenna Onyemeke, '24, was typing an original story. Breeze Tucker, '24, told me they were researching second edition modules of the roleplaying game Pathfinder, hoping to introduce the game to new players.

This variety is exactly what the club was hoping for. "We're dedicated to creating social spaces for student projects," says Waring, "anything from doing homework, doing video games, making art, and writing code – anything you want to do." Kosa emphasized a desire for more artistically minded students at Maker's Club. "[STEM] is our comfort zone, just because we're the spiritual successor of ACM, and the fact that our faculty advisors are computer science. But we want to branch out towards other subjects eventually, so maybe next year we can see some more artistic stuff."

Maker Club's long term goal, he says, is to secure funding for Ursinus's very own makerspace – a long time ambition of students and faculty alike. Makerspaces are popping

up on college campuses across the country. They're collaborative work areas that provide free tools and equipment for bright minds to create whatever they can think up. makerspaces contain 3D printers and laser cutters, but Kosa also wants Ursinus' to have items like a sticker printer and an embroidery machine. "I don't want it to just be a STEM thing. I'd like to see it for everybody."

If you weren't at the first Makeathon, there are three more events to attend this semester. The Green Game Jam starts at 7 PM on Friday, March 17 and ends at 1 PM the following day. Students will compete to make an environmentally themed game – digital or not. From Friday, April 7th to the 8th there will also be a Robotics Interest Competition within the same hours. This event welcomes students regardless of their abilities – you'll have fellow club members alongside you to help you out. Closing off the year, there will be one more Makeathon from May 5 to 6. Interested students can also email makers@ursinus.edu for access to the club's Discord server to receive live updates and give input.

Anarchy at Ursinus?

Chase Portaro
 chportaro@ursinus.edu

An act of vandalism occurred in the form of a graffitied “anarchy” symbol on the wall of the first floor men’s bathroom in Olin Hall sometime between Friday, February 24th and Saturday, February 25th. One student, who chose to remain anonymous to avoid any connection with the incident, posted a picture of the graffiti on their Snapchat story at around 11 p.m. Friday night. They said, “It certainly gives the school a bad look. Never in my life have I seen someone tag a bathroom like that.”

The graffiti in question, pictured above, was discovered by campus safety on Sunday afternoon. Dan Kelly, Director of Student Conduct at Ursinus, said “Facilities is planning to repaint. They do a temporary measure.” After that temporary cover up, Kelly explained that facilities will fully repaint the wall to ensure the graffiti is no longer visible, which will cost \$250.

This incident comes on the heels of multiple incidents of graffiti that occurred during the fall semester, when graffiti appeared on several outdoor sculptures around campus. This raises the question of how the school plans to deal with graffiti vandalism on campus.

Missy Bryant, Dean of Students, said, “When we have been made aware or know who has been responsible for something, we have addressed it and [have] taken it through the conduct process.” But unlike the case of the outdoor sculptures, the nature of the Olin bathroom case makes it difficult for details to emerge. Bryant said, “We rely on students to share what they’ve seen, if anything, because obviously this was in a bathroom. There aren’t

any cameras in or near the bathroom, so it would be really hard for us to know who did it, unfortunately.” She added, “That would give us some indication of who it is because if someone just comes in and says, ‘So-and-so did this.’ Unless they saw that, we really wouldn’t be able to move forward in the conduct process.”

That conduct process, which can only be initiated if further evidence comes forth, is a multi-step process to find out if there has been an official policy violation. Kelly explained, “We review all of the information. . . if we have a student who’s been identified, and the information shows that there was a possible policy violation, we send them what we call a ‘charge letter.’” A charge letter contains a time to meet with the Student Conduct Office and identifies any alleged action that violated the student conduct policy. Kelly explained that the initial meeting between the Office of Student Conduct and the student believed to be responsible for a possible policy violation is called a “process review meeting.” Kelly said, “In that [meeting], we describe to them all of the information they might need to feel prepared to actually meet with an administrator for an administrative hearing.” That administrative hearing, Kelly explained, “is the time when we actually review all of the information. We talk about what the evidence is, we hear from the student, and we make a determination based on the preponderance of evidence on whether they are responsible or not for the policy violation.”

But until any further evidence emerges and that conduct process can begin, Kelly said, “If anybody has information that they want

to share with us, please do. We always talk about bystander intervention, so if anybody is concerned about the behavior that they have witnessed and they have information to share with us because they want us to address it, we need to hear from people.” But until new information emerges, the school cannot be certain if the vandal is even an Ursinus student.

Though if the person is a student, Kelly mentioned other possible outlets for self-expression that are perhaps more productive than graffitied walls of bathrooms in academic buildings. He said, “If you want to put out a point of view, you can do that in a manner that doesn’t hurt the college and hurt the community.” Kelly cited the free speech wall, posting flyers, or possibly starting a student organization. He added, “There’s an overwhelming amount of ways that you can do this that is not going to cause any harm.”

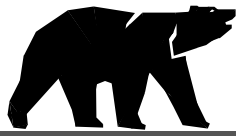
The identity of the person behind the Olin Hall graffiti remains a mystery. If, by chance, they read this article with Kelly’s advice, maybe they will transition from academic building art installations to more positive contributions to Ursinus’s campus. After all, Banksy, one of the world’s most famous graffiti artists and political activists, was once heavily criticized for the vandalism that launched him into stardom. Could this just be a misguided college student, or possibly a Banksy-in-the-making? If you have any information on the Olin Hall graffiti, you can always reach out to the Office of Student Affairs, who will keep your identity anonymous.



Courtesy of Chase Portaro

Want to write for *The Grizzly*?

Pitch meetings are on Wednesdays at 7pm in Ritter 141.
 Reach out to Grizzly@ursinus.edu to get involved or sign up for MCS-006-A for next semester!



Meet the New President, Alisa Zenchenko '25

Ava Compagnoni: avcompagnoni@ursinus.edu

Alisa Zenchenko is the new president of Ursinus' class of 2025. Meet her here!

Q: How did you and the treasurer decide who would fulfill this role?

A: The Executive Student Government Board talked about it and asked me if I was interested in it. I obviously said yes, to which they responded: do you have any ideas that you want to give us? After a rundown of ideas, they deemed me the most qualified for it and they just kind of put me in the position!

Q: Why was there no re-election for secretary?

A: It was already the second-half of the semester and Exec Student Government took over the secretary position, so there was no need to re-elect someone else because they just took over.

Q: What would define this semester as a success for you?

A: I wanna see more student spirit, more specifically for sports games, I think that we lack in that area. I would also just like to see more fun events offered and more student participation in those events. So if we have a couple of those this semester, I would consider the semester successful.

Q: What are some of your plans for the upcoming spring?

A: I am working right now with the Student Engagement Office on trying to bring food trucks back on campus during the weekends. I have also planned a color run that will happen in April, more info to come on that. I would like to promote student engagement, not the office, but overall students' engagement with each other in events.

Q: Do you feel you have influence towards the EXEC Board as a class president?

A: I would think that because UCSG is set up in a way where you have the Exec

Board and Class Officials, and it is really easy for class presidents and even the secretaries and treasurers to bring up an idea to them. Every idea is almost every time considered and thought about, they do a good job with critical thinking and listening to our ideas.

Q: How do you feel administration and student government relationship is?

A: I think that at times it can be very severed, but when things need to get done, especially when the administration reaches out to students because they genuinely want to care for them. So I would say that I think the relationship is going really great right now. Obviously when the students and admin find differing opinions, we cannot just tell them to do something because there are a lot of other factors that go into consideration. I feel like because of those reasons the student body often thinks that UCSG, the admin, directors do not get along; but they have so many other rules and things going on that make it hard.

Q: What are some of your biggest challenges?

A: I think one of the biggest challenges with student government is students do not recognize the power that they have. If students come together about issues, especially things they are passionate about, the school will listen to them.

Q: What else are you involved in on campus that you feel aid to your ability in a leadership role?

A: I am a science

scholar mentor and an Abele scholar mentor which allows me to be in a position of leadership that equips me well for handling student government. I am also a UC Ambassador and work for Tom McKinney [Director of Community Engagement and Student Programs], that allows me to have a good understanding of campus events.

Q: Do you want to run again?

A: Yes, I would do a lot of research and reach out in the summer to get some of my ideas going in the fall. More specifically, I would reach out to local businesses during the summer to try and get more of the local economy involved on campus. Especially with Missy Bryant's talking about expanding Lower Wismer, if we were able to see some local businesses I would be interested in trying something like that.



Courtesy of Alisa Zenchenko '25



Softball Season Back in Session

Brian Tague: brtague@ursinus.edu

When Punxsutawney Phil arose from his burrow on February 2 he saw his shadow, indicating that we would see six more weeks of winter, but it seems that the Ursinus Softball team didn't get the memo. The team got the season started with two big wins against Stevens, kicking off their season in a major way.

The team played its first two games of the year in a double-header which saw them sweep the two-time defending MAC Freedom champions. Their bats were alive for the first game, which they won in a 13-8 shootout, while their pitching came up big in the latter game, helping them edge out the Ducks in 5-4 battle.

The wins marked the first wins of new head coach Taylor Gardner's career and started the Bears season off on the right note as they try to improve from a 17-18 record last season. Senior pitcher Alexis Miller, who earned a save in the first game and the win in the second, said, "We were fired up especially since rankings came out like the day before and we were ranked 8th in conference. We wanted to prove people wrong, and we did that on Sunday."

In the first game the Bears got the day started off early when, after going scoreless in the first two frames, they pushed six runs across the plate in the bottom of the third inning. The Bears had five hits in the inning but the biggest one came off the bat of senior Amanda Panati. With the bases loaded and no outs Panati stepped up to



Courtesy of Ursinus Softball

plate and smacked a bases-clearing double into right field. This was followed up one batter later by first-year catcher Kayla Carr, who blasted a two-run shot into left field for her first collegiate home run. The Bears would tack on an insurance run at the end of the inning along with two more in the bottom of the fourth. The Ducks would fight back and threaten the lead, scoring seven in the top of the fifth, but the Bears were able to stop the bleeding and add a few more runs on their way to the 13-8 victory.

The second game was a much different contest, as pitching and fielding took the spotlight away from the offenses. The Bears again jumped out to an early lead as they

took the advantage 4-0 in the bottom of the first inning when, despite it not quite being spring yet, junior Maddie Solow brought the rain anyways when she hit a towering three-run shot into left field. The Ducks would start to fight back in the top of the fourth, when a double with two runners on made it a 4-1 ballgame. A single in the next at-bat made it a 4-2 game, but a great relay throw by sophomore Samantha Mallen to junior catcher Madison Wilson prevented another run from scoring on the play. Wilson would flip the ball to Miller who tagged the base runner down the third baseline after a good old-fashioned pickle. Mallen would again come through for the Bears when she led off the bottom of the fourth with a double and scored on a single from Panati. The Ducks would score again in the fifth, but it meant little as the Bears won 5-4.

The two wins were ideal for the Bears as they were able to execute in all aspects of the game. Wilson, who went 3 for 6 with 2 RBIs on the day, said of the games, "From top to bottom no matter who was on the field or off, us 21 girls got the job done. Getting two wins before we go down on our spring break trip is a huge morale booster and it gets the ball rolling."



Courtesy of Ursinus Softball



What will seniors be doing after graduation?

Chase Portaro: chportaro@ursinus.edu

“I’m moving to DC to work at the Department of State for two years. I’m looking forward to living in a new place and exploring a new city.”

- Rachel Arthur

“I will be taking a gap year to study and take my MCAT. Then, I will be applying to Medical School.”

- Alex Goldsby

“I’ll be pursuing a PhD in Physics starting this fall, most likely at Purdue.”

- Liam Powers

“After I graduate, I plan to work for a year to save up money for grad school. My goal is to pursue a Master’s Degree and find a career that allows me to continue my passion for both literature and theatre.”

- Kate Foley

“Post-Ursinus, I am planning to attend the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College in Fall 2023.”

- Serena Rose Gaskin

“I honestly don’t have an exact plan right now, but I’m hoping to get a job creating and producing music for albums, films, and/or video games. I still have a music internship to complete this summer, so I think that will help me find exactly what I want to do moving forward.”

- Austin Brzecki

“I plan on going into teaching, either through Teach for America, which is a non-profit foundation, or another service.”

- Evan Dietrich

“I’ll be working with Teach for America to help close opportunity gaps in the Philadelphia area.”

- Will Cottone

“I want to spend this next year getting experience in the job world and then applying to graduate programs, hopefully studying marine science and coral reef restoration.”

- Julia Racowsky

“I will be pursuing my masters in communication. I received a full scholarship to Baylor but haven’t decided if I’m going there or Villanova. So, I will continue with my participation in community service with my local organizations.”

- Julia Paiano

“I will be working with CVS Health Aetna as a Senior Underwriting Associate and aim to improve health insurance and rates. I plan on also pursuing a career in sports analytics/sports statistics with sports companies and organizations.”

- James Fells

Ursinus Spring Break Wrap-Up

Marie Sykes: masykes@ursinus.edu

We asked students to describe their Spring Break in three words:

“Plenty of time”

- Serena Rose Gaskin ‘23

“Not long enough”

- Emily Thomas ‘25

“Way too short”

- Destiny Young ‘24

“Productive, nurturing, and relaxing”

- Renee Krier ‘26

“Relaxing, enjoyable, quick”

- Gabrielle Revaitis ‘26

“Sun, connection, reflection”

- Rachel Arthur ‘23

“Reunion, discovery, fun”

- Malak Smahi ‘26

“Fun, relaxing, and productive”

- Alexis Kandy ‘26

“Thought-provoking, inspiring, and joyful”

- Emily Nash ‘23

“Relaxing, family, sleep”

- Robert Grubbs ‘25

“Low-key, boring, wholesome”

- Mattie Young ‘23

“Filed my taxes”

- Miles Noecker ‘22

“Refreshing, wonderful, bittersweet”

- Della Wagner ‘26

“Variably entertaining; restful”

- Levi Fritz ‘26



Continued from page 8

...“When I play, I always have the hunger to win. Playing with a team especially motivates me, knowing that I play not only for myself but also for my team. In regards to being undefeated, I could not have asked for a better start to my freshman year. But, while I always want to win, I am grateful for having the opportunity to do the thing I love most, and that is being a tennis player,” says Bogdan.

The Bears, men and women, take on Lebanon Valley this Saturday for their home opener of the spring season! Adjusting back to the Pennsylvania March weather will not be as enjoyable as those 80 degree matches in Florida; nonetheless, go Bears!

Upcoming Games

Friday 03/17

Baseball vs. Immaculata at 3:30pm

Saturday 03/18

Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Lebanon Valley at 1pm

Tuesday 03/21

Softball vs. Gwynedd Mercy at 3pm & 5pm

Women's Tennis vs. DeSales at 4:00pm

Wednesday 03/22

Women's Lacrosse vs. Delaware Valley at 4:00pm

Women's Tennis vs. Swarthmore at 4:00pm

Mayhem Defends the Intramural Basketball Den

Katie Cressman

kacressman@ursinus.edu

The reigning 2022 intramural basketball champions, Mayhem, did it again, winning the Ursinus intramural title by defeating the sharp shooting Soft in the Paint 44-38 in a close matchup.

Like any successful intramural season, this year's basketball league was competitive and exciting, and the championship game was no exception. Soft in the Paint put up a hard fight against the reigning champions with intense shooting skills, sinking a total of four threes in just the first half. Mayhem struggled to keep up and found themselves down by five going into the second half. This was vastly different from last year's championship game when they beat their opponent easily. Although behind, they refused to back down and secured seven points in the last two minutes after some pivotal play to take the lead and finish the game.

During the first half it looked to be Soft in the Paint's game. The team of football players came out strong and shot above 50% as a team. Senior and captain Andrew Keris led the way with 11 points, and senior teammate Luke

Leshar also played a key role, banking another 11 points. Mayhem's scoring was more evenly distributed, with their points coming from five different players.

They still found themselves down come halftime when Soft in the Paint led by 24-19.

“First half they were hitting their shots and we were a little sloppy on defense,” said Mayhem's senior captain, Alex Goldsby. “At halftime me and my fellow captain Dallas looked at each other and said, ‘We not losing.’ After that, the team matched our energy. We made the necessary corrections to win in the second half.”

Game MVP, sophomore Caden Johnson, delivered two game-changing shots late in the second half. With six minutes to go, Johnson found himself on the free throw line after getting fouled. He successfully sunk both to tie the game at 35 a piece. He didn't stop there, getting three big defensive rebounds and eventually finishing the game with a layup and free throw opportunity with five seconds left on the clock.

“Our big men stole the show last night. Between Eric, Don, Kel, and espe-

cially Caden each one of them attacked the backboard aggressively for rebounds and were putting up great shots.” said senior captain Dallas Evans. “They are the reason we were able to grind out that win.”

The back-and-forth game ended with a cheer of excitement from Mayhem's bench, everyone sporting big smiles after the hard-fought win.

Goldsby explained what this win meant for the two-time champions. “This one felt a little more special because of the work we put in. Thinking about the year in general, it was definitely more up and down than last year, with our team being plagued with injuries and people missing games. Also, the humbling moment of us losing our first game together. We turned the passion and the emotion from that loss into a championship. That's what it's all about and there is nothing more you could ask for from your team!”

With the wrap up of this year's intramural basketball season only one question remains: Will the Mayhem dynasty continue for a third year in a row?

Serving...in Florida

Ava Compagnoni
avcompagnoni@ursinus.edu

There can't be anything better than being in Florida for spring break right? How about playing TENNIS in Florida?? Both men's and women's tennis teams were down in Orlando, Florida for spring break week competing in five national match-ups each. Spring break is a great opportunity for both teams to bond on and off the court, and work on techniques and court plays to bring back to Collegeville.

The Bears arrived in Florida in the late afternoon of Saturday, March 4th and finished out the day getting settled into their houses. Sunday, March 5th, the Bears got the rackets moving for a midday sunny practice at the USTA (United States Tennis Association) National Campus. The practice was the perfect opportunity for the Bears to acclimate to the 85 degree Florida weather for the rest of the week.

The women finished the week with a 3-2 record, winning against Misericordia, King's College, and University of North Western (MN). They were edged out in a tight opening match on Monday, March 7th against Concordia (MN) losing 4-5. In the final match of the week, the Lady Bears took a tough 1-8 loss to Otterbein University. The player of the week award for the women goes to sophomore Shannon Stewart. This year Stewart was moved up to third singles, compared to fifth/sixth singles for the 2021-2022 season, and went undefeated in singles on spring break. In addition to going undefeated, Stewart never took a singles match to a third set, she took down all her opponents in straight sets!

Freshman Bella Vassalluzzo and junior Avery Samer are the third doubles team and were on an almost perfect streak. Going 4-1 for the week solidified a couple of matches for the Bears at that spot in the doubles lineup. They kept the Bears at 2-1 before starting singles play as opposed to a deeper hole of 3-0. "My first spring break trip in Florida with the team was a blast to say the least! Play-



Courtesy of Ava Compagnoni

ing tennis everyday, enjoying the warm weather, and making great memories with my teammates are just a few awesome activities that took place during the week. Crushing it at third doubles with Avery was the highlight of my trip, looking forward to the rest of the season with her, and cannot wait to do spring break all over again next year!" says Vassalluzzo.

The men had a 4-1 record on spring break, winning against Wentworth Institute of Technology, St. Francis (Ill), King's College, and University of North Western (MN). Unfortunately, on the last day of break, the men lost in a heart-breaker 4-5 against Otterbein University. For the men, the star of the week was junior Darby Rogers, who went undefeated in singles and doubles, 10-0 for the week! Rogers' performances were critical in matches for the team, but also individually rewarding. With doubles partner Ethan Yu '24, the duo cruised through their five matches at second doubles. "Going into spring break everyone has to be focused on both the team aspect and the individual aspect. We want the team to win, but for that to

happen we have to do our best as individuals. I felt confident and focused on playing smart tennis, doing everything I could for my team to go undefeated on spring break. Unfortunately we came up little short, but that mentality allowed me to go in and take care of business to go undefeated individually," says Rogers.

Another valuable player for the men's team was freshman Andrei Bogdan, who is undefeated in singles for the year. His current singles record overall is 7-0, 6-0 at sixth singles, but during the final match on spring break against Otterbein, Bogdan moved up to fifth. For his first collegiate season, his performance has shown reliability for the back of the lineup for upcoming Centennial Conference matches. "My first spring break was absolutely amazing. The memories I made are the kind of moments you just never forget," says Bogdan. Regardless of the fun memories off the court in Florida, Bogdan has a drive on the court that has proven to be unbeatable (literally).

Continue on page 7