



4-13-2023

## The Grizzly, April 13, 2023

Layla Halterman  
*Ursinus College*

Georgia Gardner  
*Ursinus College*


Marie Sykes  
*Ursinus College*

Erin Corcoran  
*Ursinus College*, [ercorcoran@ursinus.edu](mailto:ercorcoran@ursinus.edu)

Kate Horan  
*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; Gardner, Georgia; Sykes, Marie; Corcoran, Erin; Horan, Kate; Kiessling, Samantha; Rothschild, Laura; Tague, Brian; and Cressman, Katie, "The Grizzly, April 13, 2023" (2023). *Ursinus College Grizzly Newspaper, 1978 to Present*. 1010.

<https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/grizzlynews/1010>

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](mailto:aprock@ursinus.edu).

---

**Authors**

Layla Halterman, Georgia Gardner, Marie Sykes, Erin Corcoran, Kate Horan, Samantha Kiessling, Laura Rothschild, Brian Tague, and Katie Cressman



# The Grizzly



Collegeville, PA.

Thursday, April 13th

Vol. 50, Issue 9

## In this Issue:

- » A New Rain Garden
- » COSA Honors Projects
- » A Feature on GSA
- » Opinions on the new Lower Wismer

## 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.

## What's to come in Issue 10 - Our Final Issue of the Semester!

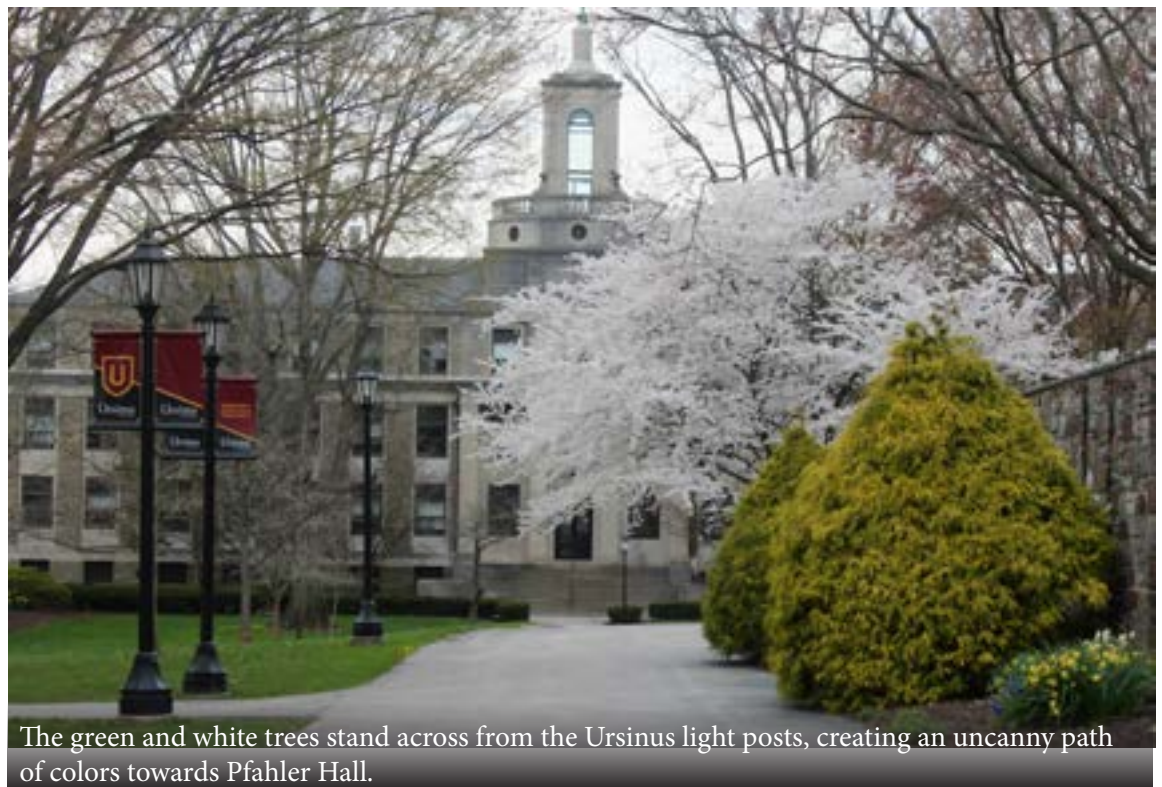
- » Farewell Letter from the Editor
- » 'No Shame' Pledge
- » Women's Lax Feature

## Photo Essay: Spring Has Sprung!



Georgia Gardner  
gegardner@ursinus.edu

This is the first installment of a two-part photo essay titled, "Spring has Sprung in Collegeville," from *The Grizzly's* new 2023-2024 Photo Editor, Georgia Gardner '25.



The green and white trees stand across from the Ursinus light posts, creating an uncanny path of colors towards Pfahler Hall.



The light pink flowers of Ursinus's blooming trees are displayed against the out-of-focus campus directory sign.





Pink, purple, and white tree flowers near Paisley Hall burst throughout the heart of campus.



A lone wooden bench sits in front of bright purple and pink flowers cascading over top.



With one of Ursinus's iconic statues hiding in the background, the campus is in full bloom.



A group of boys that rode their bikes into campus take advantage of the spring weather and play a game of baseball on the lawn in front of Schellhase Commons while some Ursinus students look on.

## Escape Velocity: 'Avenge'[ance] in the Air

Marie Sykes  
[masykes@ursinus.edu](mailto:masykes@ursinus.edu)

Escape Velocity Dance Company's Spring 2023 show, "Avenge," left audiences in awe with nineteen dynamic dances set to popular songs like "Cell Block Tango" and "New Romantics." With nineteen different dances ranging across genres, the production showcases a variety of styles. Escape Velocity (EV) members spoke passionately about the importance of the community in the dance company and the opportunity to express themselves creatively. Seniors

were especially grateful for the chance to end their college careers on such a high note after the pandemic disrupted live performances in the previous year.

With everything from contemporary to hip hop to tap, Allie Fiore '24 said the concert was "more diverse than anything we've done before." Taylor Tobin '23 explained that even within the dance genres, "people always have their unique take on different styles." Chris

Gerrow '26 said he enjoyed choreographing and getting a chance to "explore all of those [styles] at once." He added that "every time I see [the dances] again it's like I'm watching them for the first time."

Members of EV spoke about the importance of the community they created together. Mia Staurowsky '23, the events coordinator, emphasized how it was such a "super fun show" and a "happy community."



Highlighting an important aspect for students that are part of Escape Velocity, Olivia Fiorella '24, said, "I can let my creativity shine." Having a student dance company also allows students to incorporate dance into their college experiences whenever it fits into their schedules, as Bri Spadafora '24 explained. Bailey Hann '24 appreciated the company for allowing her to learn more about the process of running a program outside of "actually dancing." Kalina Witkoska '23 said that they "love that we all help each other and work together to show our love for dancing." Liv Lesinski '26 said, "I love performing [with EV] because of how it allows me to express myself! I feel free on the stage and I enjoy seeing others enjoy the performance."

For seniors, "Avenge" was their last performance with EV. With COVID-19 preventing live performances in the 2020-2021 school year, the seniors were especially excited to end their college careers with such an exciting live show. Mackenzie Buckley '23, treasurer, explained that because of the pandemic, she



Courtesy of Marie Sykes

"made [her last piece] different than a lot of the other pieces" compared to more typical senior pieces. Buckley explained that most seniors pick sad songs for their final performances, which she maintains she did also, but Buckley also explained that she wanted to include very high energy songs in the performance as well.

Addie Schwindt '23 said "as a senior I've been really grateful for the opportunity to be

able to create pieces [as well as] work with my peers to create a vision."

Escape Velocity is for anyone who wants to dance, whether they're lifelong dancers or new to the stage. Bailey Hann '24 said Escape Velocity is "for everyone." You can see their archived performances on their YouTube and stay up to date with them on their Instagram, @ursinusescapevelocity.

## Ursinus Installs New Sustainable Rain Garden

Erin Corcoran

ercorcoran@ursinus.edu

A new rain garden is being installed on Ursinus's campus alongside the path between Lower Wismer and the Kaleidoscope. When fully installed, the rain garden will help prevent the puddling that commonly occurs on the pathway. This project was conceptualized in the Spring 2022 semester by Dr. Finney's Plant Biology class where students identified the area as an on-campus source that could benefit from native plants.

Over the summer and fall, a group of interested students and organizations worked out the details and began to make the rain garden a reality. It is a collaborative project between Ursinus's Biology Department, Office of Sustainability, and the Facilities Department, as well as the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and Woodrow & Associates Inc. Overseeing the project are student environmental leaders Nate Berger '23, Evan Stinson '23, Hannah Blanco '24, and Andrew Philburn '25.

Kate Keppen, the director of the Office of Sustainability, explains how it works: "[Rain gardens] are constructed in a certain way so that water is encouraged to flow into the garden. In fact, rain gardens are usually a depression in the land or are formed in the shape of a bowl. The soil of a rain garden is important and is usually a careful mix of sand and soil to allow water to be absorbed into the ground. It is important for the Ursinus community to know

we are not building a pond. When it rains, the water that would flow over the land and end up puddling on the walkway will now flow into the garden. The water may pool in the garden for about 24 hours, and then it will be absorbed into the ground and used by the plants."

Keppen explained that the rain garden not only prevents the walkway from flooding, but it will also contribute to the water cycle by filtering water shallowly into the ground. Native plants will grow in the garden, which are acclimated to the local climate as well as attract pollinators and maintain biodiversity. This will be the second native plant garden on campus, as one previously conceptualized by Dr. Woodstock's class is located nearby as well.

The garden does not only benefit the environment, as the team involved hopes that this area will become a communal gathering space for the Ursinus community, along with providing ways for the campus community to learn more about the surrounding environment. Future plans include adding identification cards to the plants, and the team is also working with Facilities to create sitting areas nearby.

One of the student organizers, Evan Stinson '23, states, "I'm excited to see [the plants] in full bloom and to hear these become a point of conversation for people on campus. There is a whole world of life that I only saw as 'weeds' prior to this project, so I hope this project con-

tributes to expanding people's awareness of the landscape all around them."

Currently, the project is slated to be completed by mid-April, weather dependent. Keep an eye out for emails regarding opportunities to assist in planting native plants in the new rain garden and other ways to partake in this new addition to campus.

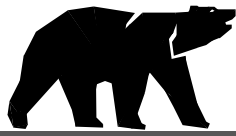
Email sustainability@ursinus.edu or kkeppen@ursinus.edu to find out how you can get involved!

### Honor Your Experience

As the Class of 2023's Ursinus Story comes to a close, they begin to reflect on their past four years. Ursinus seniors have been encouraged to give back to their beloved institution. It is suggested that students make a donation corresponding to their class year, example: \$20.23.

Seniors will make the donation in honor of someone who has made an impact on them at some point during their Ursinus career.

**Alpha Delta Phi Society**  
**Nick Balliro and Family**  
**Julie Cherneskie**  
**Will Cook**  
**Samuel Mamber**



## GSA: Creating a Safe Space on Campus

Kate Horan: kahoran@ursinus.edu

Every person deserves a place where they feel safe and free to express themselves, to experience human connection and unity. The Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is a student organization that creates this place for many students at Ursinus College. According to GSA President Danielle Santana Denrich '24, "GSA's mission is to provide a safe space and other resources for our community on campus. It's less about political outreach off campus and more about fostering a kind and caring community on campus." GSA welcomes everyone to their group, appreciating both allies as well as their LGBTQ+ friends on campus. GSA holds meetings called LGBTea Time on Mondays at 5 pm on the second floor of Starbucks in The Commons. These meetings are a general hang out session and are a safe space for LGBTQ+ students on campus to "make friends, do homework, and whatever else they want," says Denrich. GSA has hosted many events such as a S'mores Night, Pride Week, and Trans People Across History along with many other kinds of events that students can look forward to if they cannot attend GSA's normally scheduled meetings.

"GSA means being friends with some pretty cool people [and] having a chance to do fun things with a diverse group of people," says Jake Kosa '25, a general member of GSA. The organization values inclusivity along with diversity. Participating in GSA allows students to spend time and interact with other like-minded queer people, forming connections and relationships. GSA's Vice President, Tilly Dumaine '25 states, "I decided to join because I wanted to become friends with more queer people, and I think it is crucial to have groups like this on campus. Having a community for queer students that can organize social events, provide a social support system, and advocate for our collective goals to the administration allows for marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ+ community to have our needs met on campus." Not only does the organization provide a safe space and a close community, but it also provides a platform for the collective voice of the

LGBTQ+ community on campus.

LGBTQ+ rights have long been controversial and politicized. It is an extremely polarizing matter in the United States, with some people believing that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights and others believing that LGBTQ+ individuals do not deserve rights. Kosa states, "I feel that our current political climate consists of people in power trying to erase queer identities and this has terrifying implications for our future and freedom." Dumaine's views on the political climate in the U.S. are disheartening with all of the homophobic and transphobic legislation being advanced. She states, "It feels like our rights and our ability to be ourselves are being stripped away because of right-wing, religious fundamentalism." Dumaine thinks that steps need to be taken by GSA to create social change, with these steps involving hosting educational events and by creating their own strong community here on campus. GSA supports social equality and justice and works to create an inclusive and accepting community on campus. With LGBTQ+ rights being threatened nationwide, it is difficult for individuals to feel like they can make a difference. However, GSA is currently making a difference on the Ursinus College campus by leading by example. The organization is demonstrating how to practice compassion and how to accept others for who they are, both of which are lessons that the country as a whole needs to learn.

"People should join GSA if they want to become more involved in the UC queer community or if they want more social connection with fellow LGBTQ+ students!" says Dumaine. GSA is currently looking for new members. Anybody



Courtesy of Danielle Santana Denrich

can join, whether they are queer, gender variant, straight, cisgender, or questioning. Both members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies make up the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. According to Kosa, "GSA is all for acknowledging and supporting people's identities and exploration of those identities. GSA provides a space that's judgment free and supportive for identity exploration."

GSA is an essential organization on campus, both teaching and practicing acceptance and loving people for who they are. GSA not only provides a safe space, but the organization also provides a platform that supports the voices of members of the LGBTQ+ community on Ursinus's campus. Additionally, GSA's emails are essential to everyone at Ursinus. Featuring Denrich's cat, Esmerelda, GSA's emails are spreading happiness every week. GSA, along with their adorable cat mascot, is an example of an organization on campus making a huge difference both by supporting members of the organization and by setting an example of acceptance and love for the Ursinus and Collegeville community.

# Senior Honors Project

Samantha Kiessling: sakiessling@ursinus.edu

Check out two of the Class of 2023's Honors projects.

**Name:** Kate Isabel Foley

**Major(s)/Minor(s):** English and Theatre / Creative Writing and Gender and Women's Sexuality Studies

**Project Title:** *Pride and Prejudice* at Pemberley College – a full-length concert reading

**Advisor Name:** Dr. Meghan Brodie

**What is the Project About and Why Did You Choose It:** In the course of studying LGBTQ topics in a queer drama class, I noticed a glaring omission in our readings: the "B." However, this lack of bisexual representation wasn't due to a poor syllabus, but to a dismaying lack of bisexual representation in theatre as a whole. This observation, as well as my own experience as a bisexual woman, motivated me to use my love of writing and theatre to fill the void. After performing in *Pride and Prejudice* at Ursinus, I knew Jane Austen's story was the key to me bringing visibility to an underserved, misunderstood, and often forgotten community. What better way to make bisexual women main players on the stage than to adapt an early feminist piece? Beginning as a Summer Fellows project, my research endeavored to answer the following question: "How can a writer use old stories to shine new light on modern issues, making the invisible visible?" So much of the criticism bisexual people face could be eradicated if there were less misinformation about bisexuality and more visibility as a whole. In order to decrease biphobia, we must increase and promote bisexual representation, especially media written/created by people who identify as bisexual. As a bisexual writer drafting a script with a bisexual protagonist, I'm taking steps to amplify bi voices.

See *Pride and Prejudice* at Pemberly College: a Concert Reading April 19 (COSA) at 7pm.



Courtesy of Kate Isabel Foley

**Name:** Laura Rothschild

**Major(s)/Minor(s):** Health and Exercise Physiology / Biology, Science and the Common Good

**Project Title:** Associations between Sex Hormones and SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies

**Advisor Name:** Dr. Nicole Ivaska

**What is the Project About and Why Did You Choose It:** The purpose of this study was to determine the association between sex hormone levels and the presence of COVID-19 antibodies. Previous research indicated that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted me... Thus, I wanted to see if the antibody presence, or the immune response to reinfection was greater in one sex versus the other. I chose this study because as I worked at the hospital throughout the pandemic, I noticed that almost all of my severely ill COVID-19 patients were men. This furthered my interest in understanding how the virus impacts individuals differently based on sex hormones.



Courtesy of Laura Rothschild



The Annual Student Exhibition showcasing student artwork in the Berman Museum opens April 19 (COSA). Join the Reception from 5pm-7pm



## What renovations do you want to see in Lower Wismer?

Layla Halterman: lahalterman@ursinus.edu

We surveyed Ursinus students about what renovations they would like to see in Lower Wismer:

“A more modern look, a boba station, more healthy options, better convenience store (much bigger).”

- Amelia '26

“Get rid of that weird wood wall behind the booths near the pit, that alone would make it a nicer and more modern space!”

- Jake Kosa '25

“Healthier options and more vegetables.”

- Dora '24

“Repainted walls, brighter tiles, more windows, updated furniture.”

- Hizra Ahmad '26

“Comfier seating for studying.”

- Emily Carkhuff '25

“Better food.”

- Conner '26

“More structure in ordering and picking up, more bigger seating options, better food/food options.”

- G. Falen '25

“More natural light, maybe some greenery and natural wood accents. It'd also be nice to see a terminal design (for ordering food) that doesn't disconnect on the regular.

There's got to be a better way to streamline the process of ordering food better than it is now.”

- Aaron G. '24

“Open later. Soda machine always working because a majority of the time things that aren't soda such as Gatorade and lemonade are just water.”

- Jimmy Lefchak '24

“Maybe some other food options. Like if it wasn't just all greasy food. But also if Jasmine's stayed open and offered more bakery options and teas. That may lighten Wismer up.”

- Madison '26

“More food options, maybe a BBQ food option at the grill.”

- Zach '23

“More vegetarian options and high nutrition options.”

- Adrian '25

“A pool.”

- The 2019 UC Swim Team

“I have been pleased with Lower Wismer, but I would like them to stop serving cold breakfast sandwiches in the morning.”

- Jayden '25

“I would love there to be more daylight! It often feels dark and dingy inside of Lower. Also, the kiosks and some of the seating should be updated. The food options in Lower are good, and it can be a good place to meet friends or do work, but a lot of the physical space just feels dark and outdated.”

- Isabel Wesman '23

“Slot machines.”

- Marie Sykes '24

“A UFC octagon.”

- The Wrestling Team

“More green beans.”

- Bella Orsini '23

“Expansion of the C-Store that have more health food options, and overall a more modern and clean look in lower wis like the commons has, better seating options, as well as more health food options.”

- Veronica Filippone '26







## Cont. from page 8

They have grown into their roles and continue to grow throughout the season.

The freshmen have set the foundation for their remaining three years,”

Machado explains.

The Ursinus College women’s lacrosse team is nothing short of exceptional and continues to pursue a playoff spot and a winning record. Their next matchup is on Patterson Field this Saturday against Bryn Mawr

when they will celebrate their seniors in a senior day celebration. Head out to support your lady bears at 1 pm on Patterson Field and follow the Ursinus College Athletics social media to keep up to date with all Spring sports competitions!

## Playing Ball Like a Girl

Brian Tague  
brtague@ursinus.edu

In the spring of 1993 “The Sandlot,” hit theaters and with it came the line “You play ball like a girl!” Spoken by fan favorite character Ham as a way to insult a group of fellow young baseball players. playing ball like a girl is a supposed insult that many baseball players have likely heard throughout their careers. However, to those who still use it Alexis Miller says, “To those that say it I would like them to step on the softball field and try to play for just a second.”

Miller, a senior pitcher on the Ursinus softball team, takes great pride in her team and the sport she plays. Having played the sport since she was 5 years old and with a younger sister who is also a college softball player, softball has become a major part of Alexis’s life and who she is as a person.

A standout on the mound at her high school, Miller came to Ursinus to further her academic and athletic career. “One of the reasons I played softball at the collegiate level is because I love being an athlete.” Miller said in an interview “I didn’t want to give it up just yet. I like to compete so being able to compete at a higher level was and still is exciting to me.” While on the mound Miller’s competitive side bubbles up to the

surface, where she can be seen firing pitches past batters. Her teammate Stephanie Wichman describes facing her as “Terrifying. It’s honestly terrifying to face her because she throws it tight and has no fear of putting a runner on.” Along with fearless pitching style, her emphatic reactions on the mound illustrate just how much she puts into not only her performance but how much she cares about her teammates. Each time her team records an out, whether it be a strike by her own hand or a putout in the field, Miller can be seen cheering on her teammates. Miller isn’t all show either as she has worked her way into becoming one of the team’s most reliable arms, earning All-Centennial Conference honors her sophomore year, and in her junior year lead the team in complete games while also leading the conference in saves. She has started off her senior year on a similar note, ranking in the conference top 10 in wins, strikeouts, and saves.

Being an athlete is only part of a student athlete’s responsibility and Miller takes her role as a student just as seriously as she takes her athletics. With hopes of pursuing a career in marketing, Miller took matters into her own hands. When she learned that Ursinus did not offer a dedicated major for marketing she worked with the school to create a self-initiated

major, combining courses from the Communications department and the Economics department. She takes as much pride in her academics as she does in her pitching, as she is a two-time NFCA Scholar athlete, a two-time Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll member, and has earned Academic All-Centennial honors throughout her time at Ursinus.

Miller’s style of play and confidence is why she welcomes anyone who still thinks of “playing ball like a girl” as an insult to square off against her on the field. Because she’s more than willing to show you that it certainly is not.

**“Terrifying. It’s honestly terrifying to face her [Miller] because she throws it tight and has no fear of putting a runner on.”**

**- Stephanie Wichman ‘25**



## “Raising the Bar”: Ursinus College Women’s Lacrosse Team

Katie Cressman

kacressman@ursinus.edu

The Ursinus College Women’s lacrosse team has completed around half of its season. Currently at 6-6, the team has produced multiple upsets and big-time wins. As they fight to keep playing, it’s worth asking who, or what, is the driving force behind this successful season for the Lady Bears?

Led by head coach Rachel Howard-Franklin and assistant coaches Fran Knebels and Izzy O’Connell, and containing about 24 players, 9 of whom are first-year students, the Lady Bears have depth. These first-year players include at least four consistent starters. Ashley Noto, a starting offensive first-year player for the Bears, currently sits at second on the team in points with 32 and leads in assists with 19. Megan Vizian, a first-year midfielder has 36 draw controls and 18 points including adding double digit goals of her own. The Lady Bears also have a returning Centennial Conference second team

member in Maeve Leonzi, a sophomore offensive player with 21 goals and 27 points. The Lady Bears also have a heavy leadership presence, returning two captains in senior midfielder Emma Wood and second-year senior offensive player Reilly Morgan, as well as two more four year defensive starters in Julie Cherneskie and goalkeeper Alexa Machado.

I sat down with senior goalkeeper Machado for an inside scoop on the team. “Our team’s motto this year is to ‘raise the bar.’ The whole team this year has bought into raising the bar. I think that’s what has brought us so much success compared to other years. Our team is resilient, and we chose to never give up; that’s what has brought us success this far and it will continue to for the rest of the season,” said Machado.

With ‘raising the bar’ as their motto, the Lady Bears have been able to tackle multiple opponents this season whom they struggled against in past years. For example, in a heated

Centennial Conference matchup between the McDaniel Green Terrors and your Ursinus College bears, the Lady Bears prevailed with a dominating score of 21-9. The offense was balanced and effective, and the defense held strong. When transfer Junior Mia Gifford found the back of the net with just seconds left on the clock, the Bears celebrated big. Last year at this same matchup, the Bears lost to the Green Terror 17-20 - proving that they are living their motto and continuously raising the bar this season.

So, what do the upper-class students think of their first-year teammates? Well according to Machado, they think they make a massive impact on this consistently improving Ursinus College team. “Our freshmen this season have really set the bar for our play. They came in ready to work and willing to learn from the very beginning.

**Continued on page 7**



Courtesy of Stylish Images