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Fantastic Strings Ensemble

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As the sun sets on Bomberger, some students are tuning their instruments, preparing for another meticulous practice in the auditorium. After a few minutes, Director Melinda Rice steps up, and the auditorium becomes silent.

Ursinus Strings is one of the four music ensembles open to every student at Ursinus. This semester, sixteen students joined Strings, with instruments ranging from violins, violas, cellos, double bass, and percussion. However, every member falls under the tutelage of Melinda Rice, a relatively new addition to the college, having joined this past January. Rice, a noted violinist and violist, hails from California, where she studied at the California Institute of the Arts. But Rice also grew up near the Collegeville community, in Spring Mount, and remembers visiting the college for concerts as a child. Her approach to directing the Ursinus Strings is simple: looking at the forest, not necessarily each tree. "I want the ensemble to know what others are playing," Rice stated, "and understand the flow of the music and emotion of each piece, especially how it all harmonizes."

According to second violinist Maia Mendoza '27, this approach has helped build her role in Strings and the Ursinus community. "[Director Rice's approach] feels more integrated with the music than my former directors. The way she works through the music is very intuitive and focuses on what everyone is doing rather than individuals. I know I am part of a group, and these are people I can be around."

While the smaller size of the ensemble can pose a few challenges, Director Rice also sees its benefits to each indi-

vidual. "A smaller ensemble has a level of intimacy," she noted. "What each person plays matters and makes a difference."

For violist Keelyn Fitzgerald '27, this aspect of the Ursinus Strings bodes well for her personal goals. "I have been playing the viola since 4th grade," she said, "and joining the Ursinus Strings is the perfect opportunity for me to continue my musical studies."

Ursinus Strings' meetings typically start with a warm-up, tuning the instruments appropriately to proceed with the rest of their practice. That includes playing their repertoire as a whole, then breaking off into sectionals to work further on the finer details before ending with some improvisation practice. This flexibility is one of the many reasons that Hayley Kane '25 loves performing under Director Rice. Kane, a first violinist and a member of the Ursinus Strings since her first semester, stated, "We love Director Rice! She is very flexible and accommodating to what pieces we want to play. We sometimes play crowd-pleasers, other times more challenging pieces, but all are rewarding." Occasionally, special guests may come and provide new insight alongside Director Rice. Recent guests included Min-Young Kim and Thomas Kraines, two members of the renowned Daedalus Quartet. The ensemble has been preparing for a concert centered around "fantasy." The performance includes pieces from Studio Ghibli movies - which "stirred [a] feeling of playful fantasy," Rice said - as well as from the Danish String Quartet. Earlier in the semester, the ensemble collaborated with the Film and Anime clubs for a Studio Ghibli concert followed by a



Celebration of Lights



Archives



Collegeville Italian Bakery



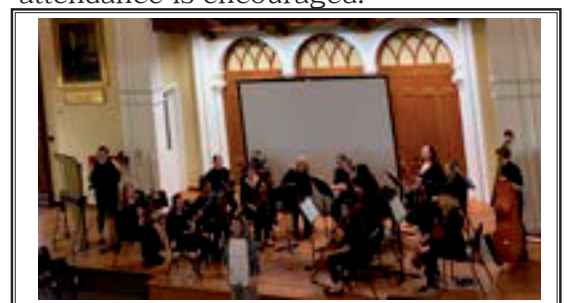
Football Post-Season

showing of My Neighbor Totoro. Director Rice hopes to hold a similar night in the spring semester.

As noted by every member interviewed, the sense of community in the Ursinus Strings Ensemble is strong. Unfortunately, the prospect of one's time ending in the ensemble is bittersweet because of this. One who is facing this dilemma is none other than the Grizzly Editor-in-Chief and percussionist Marie Sykes '24. "It's weird that I am being asked as a senior how leaving feels," Sykes laughed. "I'm definitely going to miss the community together, the other players, Melinda [Rice], and the songs, dearly."

The faint sounds of Bomberger Auditorium continue late into the day, with every member putting their best foot forward, practicing, being challenged, and enjoying the music, the latter being Director Rice's ultimate goal for the ensemble. "It's a great reason to be here, to make music: to have fun!"

The Ursinus Strings Concert will be on Sunday, November 19th, 2023, in the Bomberger Auditorium at 4 p.m. The concert will be less than an hour, and attendance is encouraged.

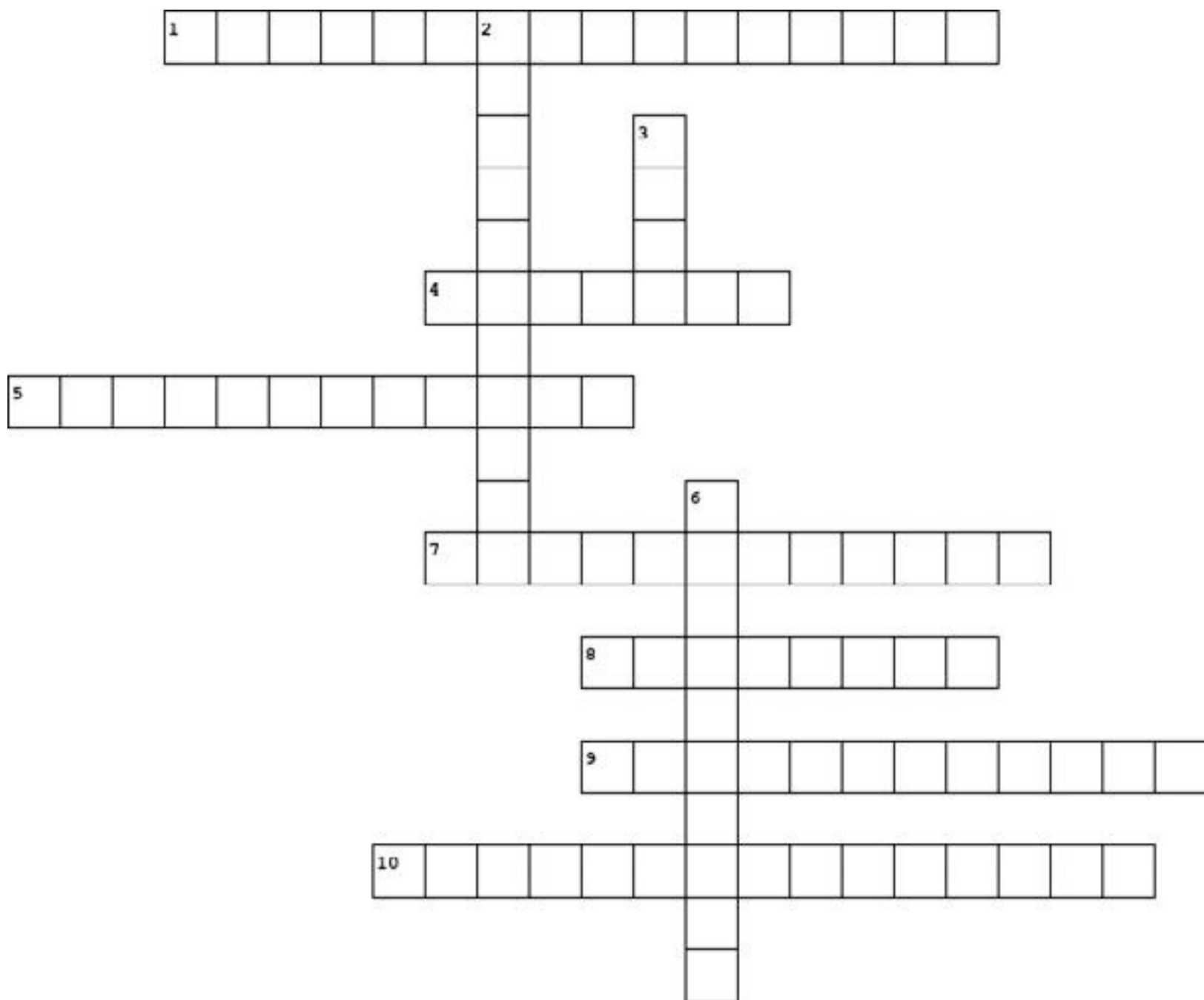


Strings Halloween Concert Credit: Hannah Conley



Crossword

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Across

1. Year that Myrin Library was flooded
4. Name of this year's Environmental Sciences' Capstone Course is Sustainability in the ____
5. Cafe 2020 is now serving this mysterious beverage
7. Lenape word for Pawpaw
8. Quartet that has had multiple guest performers at Ursinus this year
9. Seminary that was once on Ursinus grounds
10. Lenape word for Sumac

Down

2. Formal name of The Archives
3. Number of musical ensemble at Ursinus
6. Day that the Sting Ensemble has a concert



Celebration of Lights (In Photos)

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On November 9th, the campus community joined together in Bomberger Auditorium for the annual Celebration of Lights. This yearly tradition sponsored by STAT is a way for students to share and celebrate their culture's holiday customs. This year's event started with a rousing

performance from the Seismic Step Team, the Fullbright Fellows shared the holiday traditions from their home countries, Marcie Thanh-Guyet shared a poem, Universal Sounds sang a song of praise, members of the Muslim Student Association read a passage from the Quran, the Hillel executive

board discussed the basics of Haunakah, and the Spiritual Life Leaders performed a routine. The night culminated with each person in attendance lighting another attendee's candle, while Reverend Betty Wright-Riggins and Brandon Winfield led the group in singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Photo Credits: Zachary Hassett '25:

L-R: Spiritual Life Leaders, Candle Lighting, Fullbright Fellow Carlotta Corral Elejabeitia, Rev. Betty leading Candle Lighting, Raffle Winner Mari Yamamoto



A Conversation With Ursinus' Archivist, Carolyn Weigel

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In the Myrin Library, unnoticed by the diligent students working on their various assignments, there is a small, unassuming room tucked away on the second floor. This room is the definition of a hidden gem and one of the most important places in all of Ursinus College: the Archives.

The formal name of the room is the Ursinusiana, but it is most often referred to as simply the Archives. As the name suggests, the Ursinus Archives hold records, mementos, and artifacts collected throughout Ursinus's 154-year history. Some of these include editions of past student publications like the *Lantern*, *Ruby*, and *Grizzly*, as well as sporting records.

Maintaining the records is a crucial task and one that fittingly falls onto a long-serving staff member at Ursinus, Carolyn Weigel. Weigel, who recently celebrated her thirtieth year here at Ursinus, was not originally the archivist. "I started out cataloging here," she laughed. She switched to working in the Archives in 1995 after two years as a cataloger, took additional archival courses through Temple, and became Ursinus's official archivist in 1999. Weigel, an Illinois native and Southern Illinois University alum, has made the Collegetown area her home over the past thirty years. When asked why she has remained for so long, Weigel stated, "I love the campus, students, and faculty. Additionally, I live close to the area. Ten minutes to arrive in the morning and ten in the evening."

The daily happenings of the Archives are varied. "Some days are busier than others," Weigel shared. According to Weigel, her day typically consists of responding to emails and answering

inquiries about specific topics in the Archives. On her busier days, she hosts classes, namely history, and lays out documents on the central table for examination. These group reviews of the Archives are one of Weigel's favorite parts of her job. "I get enjoyment when classes join," she said. "Typically, the classes read aloud and make insightful comments. Despite being here for thirty years, I still learn a lot because it is impossible to read every single document here."

The work of an archivist is not easy. As Weigel mentioned, many documents are stored in the Archives, and some inquiries take longer than others. It sometimes takes Weigel a week or two to find a desired answer. And, as with all history, some answers may not be found. "What is here is here," Weigel commented. "The Archives is a physical presence. If it is not in the Archives, then it is often forgotten." Andy Prock, the Associate Director of Preservation, Digitization & Discovery Services, and others have worked to digitize as many documents as possible, but the process is ongoing.

Nevertheless, the Ursinus Archives contain interesting relics and tidbits about Ursinus's history. In the office, a large grandfather clock stems from the Shaw Bernard collection in the 1920s. It rings every fifteen minutes and plays a lovely symphony at the top of each hour. The low exhibit cases, one on the first floor and the other on the second, are also from that collection. While in good condition, the clock is slightly damaged from another event in Ursinus lore: the Myrin Library flood of 2003.

"On December 26th, a pipe burst," Weigel recalled. "The burst size was

no larger than a quarter, but nobody noticed for sixteen hours! It took until around spring 2005 for the library to fully recover." She then pulled out a *Grizzly* article from that time, covering the flood on the first page.

Another interesting bit was the Freeland Hall bell. "Freeland Hall used to stand where the [Myrin] library is now," Weigel explained. "It used to be a seminary before that as well. When the building deteriorated in the 1960s, Freeland Hall was razed, and the [Myrin] library is here now." The old Freeland Hall bell now sits on the library's second floor, a remnant of a bygone era.

In the Ursinusiana, Carolyn Weigel has seen Ursinus change through the years. "The physical buildings have changed; the students have changed," she reflects, "but the spirit has stayed the same - that sense of belonging and pride. Ursinus personnel have gone on to make marks on the world. Whether it be John Mauchly [co-inventor of the first purely electronic, digital computer] teaching physics here or J.D. Salinger [author of *The Catcher in the Rye*] spending a semester here, there have been a lot of interesting people at Ursinus."

Weigel had two messages when asked what she would tell the student body. "It is fun to come and touch the items [at the Archives]. You are unaware of how special it is until you do it. I want to show you what's here and answer questions about the college. Additionally, cherish your days here at Ursinus."



Featured: Ursinus Archives





Food Forest Continues to Grow

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Calling all green-thumbed Bears! Ursinus' Food Forest continues to grow into the future.

The Food Forest, located a short walk from campus, is a 1.5-acre site for the campus community to grow native and non-native plants, trees, and food. Per the Food Forest's website, "food forests mark a commitment to building reciprocal relationships with the region's many food-producing native trees and shrubs as well as myriad other ecologically beneficial native and nonnative plant species." The mission of this forest is larger than that, however. Dr. Patrick Hurley, Chair of Environmental Studies and the Food Forest Guardians, students who assist the Forest for academic credit, strive for the forest to help people reconnect with nature and provide opportunities for students to explore unique foods.

The Forest was created by an Environmental Studies (ENV) capstone course in 2017. Since then, there have been two more capstone classes that focused on planting, one in 2019 and the other in 2021. This year, the capstone course, Sustainability in the Suburbs, is continuing this planting initiative but also working with community partners, such as Philadelphia's Friends Select School and the Lenape Tribe.

Along with departments on campus, the Food Forest also works closely with the Welcome Home Project. Hurley, states, "A key feature of the Welcome Home Project is the College's commitment to 'reconciliation

among all our communities,' a point that we at the Food Forest specifically take to mean the inclusion of plant species that are culturally important to members of the Delaware Tribe (one of the officially recognized communities of the Lenape people). Beyond simply including species such as smooth sumac (*kĕlĕkĕnikwĕnakw* in Lenape, which has a flower bundle that can be used to make a lemonade-like drink) or paw-paw (*mahchikpiawk* in Lenape, which has a wonderful fruit) that allow us to talk about these people/culture-plant connections, we actively work to include species to support the future of the Lenape Culture." This past Indigenous Peoples' Day, students observed the holiday by planting tulip poplar and cranberry with members of the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

Currently, Food Forest Guardians are also working to ensure the plants have long-term survival.

Additionally, the Guardians help with harvesting fall crops, such as elderberries, hazelnuts, plums, and pecans. Most planted species are still growing, as they take an average of 4-7 years before producing their consumable parts. A future goal of Hurley and the Guardians is to serve some of the harvested food in Wismer. ENV and other departments collaborate in several

disciplines to advance the mission of the Forest. Some courses in Food Study and History have integrated the Forest into their curriculums, with more interdisciplinary work incorporated each semester

Interested students can get involved during annual weekend work once the weather warms up again in Spring. Activities on these days include planting new trees, mulching, and harvesting. Hurley emphasized, "It's a great way to get away from campus for a while and hang with great people and see some birds!" Food Forest Guardians also include more than students participating in hands-on work. Some Guardians interested in Communications and Arts work on outreach activities, Science-focused students collect data for the Forest, and the Guardians are given the chance to engage in leadership positions. Also, interested ENV students can keep an eye out for Hurley's ENV-338: Forest and People course, running in Fall 2024 (note: multiple ENV classes before then will be interacting with the Forest).

For latest updates on the Food Forest, follow the Instagram @ursinusfood-forest. Students interested in becoming a Guardian or coming to a weekend event can contact Patrick Hurley at phurley@ursinus.edu.



Featured: Ursinus' Food Forest
Photo creds: Ursinus website

The Creative Collegeville Italian Bakery

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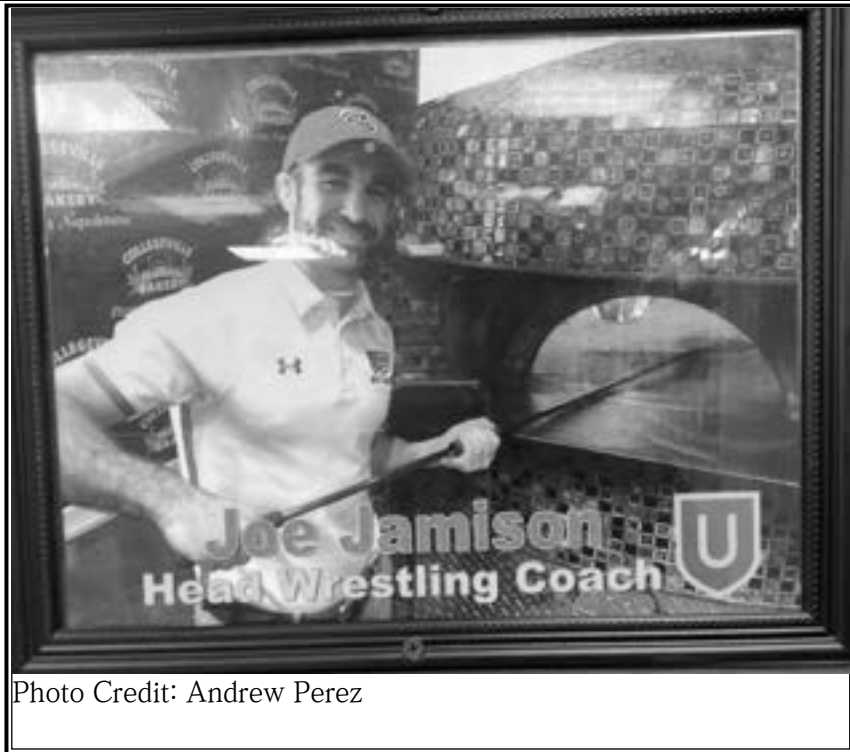


Photo Credit: Andrew Perez



Photo Credit: Andrew Perez

The Collegeville Italian Bakery is a very popular and well-known spot amongst most Collegeville residents and students at Ursinus College. The bakery takes pride in its connection to both the Ursinus College community and Philadelphia sports teams by sharing their love through their menu items like the “Joel Embiid shake” and through social media posts of them providing catering to Ursinus’s many sports teams. They bring many iconic people in from all over the area to experience the bakery and take an iconic picture in front of the pizza oven, posting these pictures up on the walls of the inside of the restaurant. For example, they have pictures of coaches from Ursinus, professional sports players, and Joey Grazaudeu from Season 28 *The Bachelor*! The Collegeville Italian Bakery is a super supportive and fun restaurant all around, and their great food brightens the place up even more. All in all, I see the Collegeville Italian Bakery as the heart of Collegeville, so you definitely don’t miss out on what I have to say about it!

Before even getting to the sit-down portion of the restaurant, I started with the bakery and deli section, which has wide selections of goodies and treats

that do not disappoint. For example, their mini donuts are amazing and undeniable. On the restaurant side, I think their food-ordering system is great. You pick a seat anywhere you want, ask for a menu, and when you're ready to order, you bring it up to the cashier, pay, and they'll give you a number to put on your table so they can bring out the food to you. This system allows you to take all of the time you need with zero rush.

The food menu at the bakery is gigantic. On the savory side, they've got breakfast sandwiches, wings, salads, burgers, sandwiches, and their famous pizzas. The list of their pizzas are ridiculous, as it takes up half of a page. While I have not had their pizza yet, I decided to grub out on their most famous sandwich, the “Bangin’ Cutlet Sandwich.” According to their menu, this sandwich includes “homemade rosa sauce and fresh burrata drizzled with Mike's Hot Honey all piled high on...fresh-baked bread!” This signature sandwich is outstanding! The rosa sauce and Mike’s Hot Honey make it taste sweet and it all soaked nicely into the bread. The cutlet is lightly breaded and makes the perfect base for the sandwich. And of course, that fresh burrata cheese is milky and adds a nice com-

plement to the sandwich. This sandwich is a stand out, so it is no wonder that it is listed as their most famous! I also had an order of french fries and mozzarella sticks which were pretty solid. The cheese within the mozzarella sticks had a great pull and the fries were very crispy. The only thing about my overall experience that bugged me was my sandwich coming out 10 minutes before the appetizer. Next time, I would suggest that they make sure to bring everything out in order instead of all at once.

This menu also has so many desserts like ice cream sundaes, milkshakes, *açaí* bowls, crepes, and even a nutella bar! I had their Moose Tracks ice cream last week and it was off the charts. It was super creamy and smooth with fudge swirls and some mini peanut butter cups. My first time out at the Collegeville Italian Bakery was fantastic and I can’t wait to come back to try so many more things off of the vast menu! I love the unique and friendly environment that it brings to the town of Collegeville, from their TV’s playing Philadelphia sports games to their signs welcoming different Ursinus teams. This place never fails to show off their positive spirit.



From Opponent to Family Member: Natalie Mehl's Journey

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For many athletes their sport is the way they escape the stress and hardship of their everyday life. When you step on the field or court everything else fades away because you get the chance to do something you are truly passionate about. This could not be more true for collegiate basketball guard Natalie Mehl.

Flashback to 2019. Heading into her freshman year at McDaniel College, Mehl was eager to hit the ground running and watch her dreams of being a collegiate athlete come to fruition. Her initial vision was quickly spoiled when the coach retired, throwing the situation with the team into flux. Other problems compounded the stress. "My mental health started to decline and I fell out of love with the game of basketball. I tried to hide my mental health and force feelings of love for basketball, but it soon became too much for me to handle and right before Thanksgiving break I decided to quit the team and enter the transfer portal."

Transferring was a breath of fresh air for the lost player who once was driven by the opportunity to step onto a court every day. Natalie decided on Ursinus College and al-

though she was very reluctant after just a few short weeks she found herself in the same position she was two years prior, eager to start a new journey. Natalie said that initially she had a tough time trusting her new teammates. But quickly that passion and love for the game that she thought had disappeared ignited in her once again. She emphasized this by saying, "Ursinus and this program has allowed me to find the fun in basketball again. It has given me my best friends and people that I will consider family after I graduate."

When sitting down with Natalie I got the chance to ask her a few questions about how this change has influenced her life and if she would do it again if she had the chance. In response, she tilted her forearm over and pointed to her tattoo that read, "And if you never bleed, you're never gonna grow." She then went on to explain how meaningful this tattoo is to her. The arm tattoo is a lyric from a Taylor Swift song that sums up Natalie's feeling that change is often hard to accept, but that it taught her valuable lessons and made her the player, friend, and teammate she is today.

After this conversation with Natalie I had the opportunity to speak with her teammate, Kelly Grant, on the topic of this change in Natalie's life. Kelly said "Despite all of her hardships in her years of collegiate basketball, she has persevered through so much and has still continued to show her love and dedication for not only the game but her life as well."

Natalie not only wants to share her love of the game to her teammates but everyone she has the opportunity to cross paths with. She aspires to one day be a head women's college basketball coach somewhere where she can do just that. She wants to show her players that your mental health should always come first and that you're not letting your teammates down if you are not in the mental state to perform. She highlighted this when she explained "The biggest takeaway I've had is understanding the importance of mental health as well as finding out the type of coach I want to be for my future players. Because of the situation I was put in, I have made it my goal to be the type of coach that I needed during those hardships."



Photo Credits: Ursinus Athletics



Ursinus Football Punches Their Ticket To The Postseason

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The 2023 season for the Ursinus College Football Bears has been a roller coaster full of dominant victories and heartbreaking losses. Going into what was potentially their final game of the year against a formidable rival, the Dickinson College Red Devils, the Bears knew that in order to secure themselves a spot in the Centennial-MAC bowl series and finish with a Centennial Conference record of 3-3, they needed a win.

Before entering this contest the Red Devils had demonstrated that they were the favorites in this matchup, with a conference record of 3-2 coming off of a respectable loss the week prior to the 10-0 Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays, in which they sustained a lead for a majority of the contest. To put it simply, the Bears had their work cut out for them.

The game started off with a scoreless first quarter for both teams due to some costly mistakes on offense and special teams. For Ursinus, it was an interception thrown on the opening drive in the red zone that prevented them from getting on the board. For the Red Devils it was a missed field goal on their second offensive drive of the quarter that kept this contest at 0-0.

However, what many would have considered to be a defensive battle in the first quarter quickly became a shootout between offenses. The Bears were the first to strike in the 21 point second quarter with a methodical drive that was capped off with a four yard Dawson Fresses touchdown carry. Shortly after, the Red Devils responded with an impressive drive of their own carried by the conference's leading rusher, Diante Ball, who put them in scoring range with a 31 yard rush up the middle that gashed the Ursinus defense. On the following play, Dickinson had some tricks up their sleeve and decided to run a double pass with senior wide receiver Princeton Douglass, who caught a lateral screen well behind the line of scrimmage and threw a perfect jump ball to the player who made

a splash on the previous play, Diante Ball, who made a brilliant contested catch in the endzone.

With the game now tied at 7 and only 5 minutes remaining before halftime, the Bears offense knew they had to respond quickly. Ursinus' Quarterback Jalen Bradford strapped up his helmet and marched the Bears downfield with a brilliant passing attack to his arsenal of weapons. Notably, Junior Cameron Dennis and Sophomore Cody House were the primary targets on this drive. But the individual who inevitably found the endzone was the 2022 All-Centennial honorable mention Justin Collier, who caught a 15 yard touchdown pass in the left corner of the endzone.

Following a successful go-ahead drive for the Bears there was no time left in the quarter for either team to sustain an offensive drive, so the first half came to a close with Ursinus on top at 14-7.

As a result of Dickinson winning the coin toss and electing to defer at the beginning of the contest, they received the ball going into the third quarter. Despite the time they had during halftime to prepare for their upcoming drive, they were forced to punt yet again by this suffocating Bears defense. The third quarter as a whole for both teams appeared eerily similar to the first, as both Ursinus and Dickinson traded punts and were scoreless going into the fourth.

Although both offenses appeared relatively anemic heading into the final 15 minutes of the game, Dickinson found some life on their first drive of the quarter and gradually marched down the field on the Bears. However, despite their success in the run game with Diante Ball, who marched them down the field almost single handedly for the second time in this game, they elected to pass the ball three consecutive times on the goal line. After three unsuccessful passes, the Red Devils were forced to kick a field goal in order to walk away with some points after what appeared



to be a promising opportunity to score.

To say that the field goal lit a fire inside of the Bears offense would be an understatement. After a multitude of unsuccessful drives that resulted in punts, this unit came out of the gate swinging with a rushing tandem of Tony Holden and Dawson Fresses paving the way. This duo carried the offense down the field on nine consecutive plays and collected Fresses' second rushing touchdown of the day.

With the Bears up 21-10 with roughly five minutes left, the mission was simple: get a stop and run out the clock. That is exactly what Ursinus did on the following two drives. The Bears defense stayed true to what they had been doing all day, which was getting to the quarterback and breaking up passes downfield. This resulted in a turnover on downs for Dickinson with merely three minutes left in the game. The following three minutes were yet another rushing clinic by Holden and Fresses, with a little help from Jalen Bradford who captured two first downs and ran out the clock.

The Bears walked out of this rivalry game with a massive W that moved them to fourth in the Centennial Conference standings and granted them an opportunity for a home bowl game against Stevenson University in the MAC Conference on November 18th. Come support our Bears as they look to add yet another game to the win column this season!