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Restructuring VP Positions

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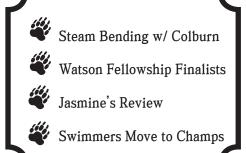
Over this past winter break, many Ursinus students were surprised to receive an email directly sent from Ursinus itself. Even more surprising than this was the information contained within the email. It detailed the elimination of two vice-presidents - Missy Bryant and Tom Yencho - as well as the admission that, in the email's own words, "Ursinus is facing a structural deficit that, if not addressed, could inhibit our ability to reach our strategic goals." Based on the large-scale nature

of these developments as well as the surprised reaction from some of the student body, The Grizzly reached out to President Hannigan in order to learn more about what these changes entailed and why they were being made.

For starters, President Hannigan described how many of these new developments occurred at the administration-level. She explained how the college's many student-facing resources - such as Academics, Student Affairs, and Athletics - now fall under the combined division entitled "Academic and Campus Life." Furthermore, the college's external-facing resources - like Communications, Marketing, and alumni engagement - have been combined into one division that President Hannigan referred to as "External Relations." Aside from these administration-level reorganizations, though, several alterations have also been made to staffing within the administration and the college as a whole as

well as to Ursinus's budget planning. When explaining her justification for these large-scale changes, Hannigan stressed not only financial considerations, but also the desire to gain increased efficiency "to really improve the student experience."

These administration-level changes have resulted in both new and familiar faces taking on recently developed roles and responsibilities. President Hannigan shared that the "Academic and Campus Life" division mentioned



prior will be largely overseen by Senior Vice President and Provost Gundulf Graml, while the non-academic wing of this division will be overseen by Vice President for Campus Life and former Director of Athletics Laura Moliken. In addition to taking over things like Student Affairs and Athletics, Moliken's new role will also result in her helping to manage Ursinus Dining, a job that includes overseeing the much-anticipated restructuring of both the design and menu of Lower Wismer. Other new changes include Vice President for Inclusion Heather Lobban-Viravong stepping into the newly-created role of Chief Inclusion Officer, which Hannigan described as not only giving her more oversight over student diversity, but also "more authority...[over]...personnel actions [and the] curriculum." Not only that, but President Hannigan also created the "President's Office," where herself as well as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and the Vice President for Inclusion as well as the Chief of Staff and the General Counsel can consistently meet in one. consolidated location. President Hannigan notes that these alterations to the college's leadership have been in the works "at least since last spring." In her own words, she emphasizes that the goal of this reorganization was to come up with "the best operation structure to get the most efficiency to really improve the student experience, sort of from the time you're recruited all the

Restructuring VP Positions (cont'd.)

way to the time that you graduate and well beyond." Unfortunately, many of these changes resulted in not just the reorganization of staffing, but the reduction of it, as well.

Amongst these many changes, President Hannigan executed a "Reduction of Force," which she described as the "reduction of additional positions beyond those two vice presidents... [including] 3% of our total workforce." While describing how this did not constitute a huge portion of Ursinus's total workforce, Hannigan admitted that it is undoubtedly significant, particularly "to the people that were directly impacted by it." These losses were felt amongst many of Ursinus's professors, faculty, and staff. For example, Media and Communications Professor Jennifer Fleeger lost colleagues that she worked next to in the library. When asked about the impact of these changes, she shared that, "I think many of us share a sense of loss. As a Myrin Library resident, I certainly feel that way."

In terms of budgeting, President Hannigan described how, under her leadership, Ursinus is starting a transition to a "zero-based budget," which she hopes will better account for the money being spent on the college's many individual projects. In describing this budgeting philosophy, she shared how it requires approaching every group on campus that utilizes a budget and asking them, "Build[ing] up from the ground up, what do you need? What is the absolute that you must have? And then what strategic investments would you like to make and what would be the positive revenue outcome if you were able to do that?" As a result of this new budgeting philosophy, Hannigan hopes that the college can better account for the timing of upcoming projects in order to "have more space to be able to invest into the things that we know we need to." Not only that, but Hannigan also hopes that by fiscal years 2026 and 2027, these changes will produce an Ursinus that is at "financial equilibrium, [where] the revenues equal the expenses."

Despite all of these alterations, though, President Hannigan stressed that she would still like to keep many familiar aspects of the college around, particularly when it comes to the student experience. Students may remember "Mondays with Missy," in which former Vice President Missy Bryant would set aside an hour of her day to connect with students. Bryant worked to foster connections and open communication with students, making efforts to stay accessible to them and remain actively involved with the student experience. Due to Hannigan's decision to merge the divisions of Student Affairs and Health and Wellness into a new division of campus life, now being overseen by Vice President Laura Moliken, Bryant's position was eliminated. As a result, this does mean the end of "Mondays with Missy," but does this mean the end of a personal connection with those overseeing Student Affairs for Ursinus students? Hannigan says, "No." With Vice President Moliken overseeing the non-academic portion of Campus and Student Life, there are now three leads of the division. These include Lauren Finnegan-Martin, who is the lead for Health and Wellness, Erin Stroble, who is the lead for Athletics, and Ellie Ash-Bala, who is the lead for Student Affairs. According to Hannigan, "You will have access to them as you always did and then you'll have Laura. I'd imagine that Laura will roll out some sort of connector, but Ellie will probably do the 'Lunch with Ellie' kind of thing." Although the names of the events may not have the same ring to them as "Mondays with Missy," Hannigan claims that the students will not be at a loss when it comes to forging personal connections with administrators, even with these many changes.

Admittedly, some Ursinus students may not care too much about administration-level changes at their college. To that, President Hannigan responds, "I think you should always be watching because this is your college. You're getting a degree from here and you're going to leave here, and you want to

know that the administration is good stewards because the reputation of your degree hinges on the stewardship of the leadership." She asserts that it is important to understand why things are happening in the specific way that they are happening in order to have confidence that nothing negative is happening to Ursinus students' alma mater. Additionally, Hannigan believes that it might be a learning moment for students. She emphasizes that, "You're going to be leaders someday and now you know someone who has done some stuff, if you needed advice you could call me!"

President Hannigan went on to mention, "I find that there's nothing that we're doing that should be secret and the more transparent I can be about what's happening the easier it is to understand when a decision gets made." Although she recognizes that the students attending Ursinus and any other college are inherently transient, she emphasizes, "They're here now with me, and so I always want to keep the students as partners in that communication." She emphasizes the importance of participation in student government. One of Hannigan's passions is "working with student government to really elevate the role of student government in governance," and she wants students to know that their involvement can actually affect change. Hannigan asserts that "this president wants to work with students to get things done."

All in all, the email addressed to students over this past winter break indicated large-scale, future changes to Ursinus that go beyond even the elimination of two vice presidents. They included not only the creation and shuffling of new faculty positions and divisions, but a wholesale alteration to the college's budget planning for both the present and the future. Hopefully, for faculty, staff, and students alike, these changes will bring on their desired results in order to enhance the Ursinus experience moving forward.

Steam Bending with Adriane Colburn

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There's an art to steam-bending wood, and Adriane Colburn has it on display at the Berman Museum of Art, exhibit opening February 8th. Colburn is the Berman's artist-in-residence for 2024 and has spent the last month installing since December her sculptures across the bottom floor. Visit her as she explores the lines between where nature becomes a resource, and how she bends wood to depict concepts.

One of the Berman's first events of the semester was Colburn's wood steam -bending demonstration, open to Ursinus and the general public on January 27th. Though based out of San Francisco and New Jersey, she highlighted that she wanted to work with woods with meaning to Ursinus and Pennsylvania. She examined wood felled on Ursinus grounds, like a walnut tree from a few years ago ("aged wood") and cherry and

ash from the last few weeks ("green wood"), and explained her process.

When it comes to wood that has been cut and milled, there is green wood and aged wood. Green wood refers to freshly cut wood, so it is much wetter and heavier than the aged or dry wood you would find ready-to-use. To dry the wood, it must sit out to air dry for two-three years (depending on plank thickness) or it must be dried in a kiln. She prefers the aged wood to steam bend.

To steam bend the wood, she cuts thin strips of wood and places them into a long PVC pipe that she pumps steam into. The wood stays in place for an hour per inch, though typically these are about half an inch thick. Once the ligaments in the wood are heated, she curves them as in the images, using pegs and molds as supports before she clamps them to cool overnight.

Seeing the process behind the art adds perspective to the exhibit, which you can find in the lower floor of the Berman beginning February 8th at the official opening of the museum's spring exhibits at 5pm.

To end, Colburn spoke on how she uses wood as a medium. "I'm using it as a drawing tool," she stated during the demo. "Artists just make things up... somebody else who's making furniture is going to have a very different approach to steam bending." In this process, she works to "make intricate shapes" of the wood "but also respond to the piece of wood and how I see it bending." Meet Adriane Colburn at the opening or check out her work displayed at the museum.



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2024 Watson Fellowship Finalists

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This year Ursinus has four Watson Fellowship Finalists! The following finalists for the 2024 senior class are Tia Alan, Justina Holahan, Jessica Schnur, and Joey Nolan! Each finalist was interviewed so we could gain insight into why they applied for the Watson and what they hope to accomplish with the grant.

For those who don't know, according to the Ursinus College website, the Watson Fellowship is "a one-year grant for purposeful, independent exploration outside the United States, awarded to graduating seniors nominated by one of 41 partner institutions" (Ursinus College). One of the four finalists will earn the privilege to spend a year abroad to achieve their dream project.

Each finalist was first asked why they decided to apply for the Watson Fellowship. Tia Alan started off by saying, "The Watson process is incredibly involved. While I would recommend for anyone interested to apply, it lasts close to a year. Around April of Junior year is the initial part of the application process, but the majority of the legwork happened during the Fall of senior year, which was my most stressful semester in undergrad because of the classes and projects I was doing. It includes two essays, mentorship meetings for revisions, a budget, and a contact sheet. The majority of the effort is the emotional investment - personally, I felt like I was spending a lot of time talking about or thinking about the Watson even when I wasn't working on my application. While the process sounds scary, it was also a rewarding experience, as it forces you to sit down and reflect upon your

life." Holahan followed up and admitted that the decision to apply was last-minute. Holahan explained, "Dr. Argondezzi sent out an email to announce that there was still one position open for the November deadline. This was probably mid-October. I am the kind of person who loves to try everything, and I've always wanted to travel, both to continue improving my Spanish, and to expand my perspective in general. I thought, 'why not?' and went for it."

The finalists were then asked what they would do with the grant if they won. Nolan expressed that his plan incorporated both his knowledge of the environment and his love of theater, "Theater can tell us how people all over the world are struggling to balance human development with environmental protection and carbon-use reduction. During my Watson year, I would travel to 5 countries and engage with different forms of theater to see how it reflects their relationship to the Earth. Through the lens of drama, I will explore how different communities learn about and grapple with their ecological footprints." The fourth finalist, Schnur, is going a different route with her fellowship as she says, "For my project, I would like to travel the world and meet groups of documentary filmmakers via different festivals. Film as a medium is like a language; different cultures shape different ways in how we tell stories. I'd like to meet people around the world who share my passion and learn about how to become a better artist." Each finalist has different countries in mind for their projects. Alan, whose project centers on sexual assault survivors

finding peace, plans to travel to Greece, Argentina, Thailand, Morocco, and the Netherlands. Holahan, who will use the grant to study the psychological effects of social isolation, plans to go to Argentina, Panama, Sweden, India and Tanzania. Schnur wants to go to Japan, Italy, Scotland, India, South Africa, and New Zealand. Nolan wants to go to Japan, Greece, Bhutan, New Zealand, and Indonesia. All these finalists have amazing goals and amazing ideas for their trips that we hope they see to fruition!

For those thinking of applying to Watson, Alan has advice for those interested. Alan says, "Follow something you're truly passionate about. This fellowship doesn't seem to care how studious you are, how good your grades are, or how smart your project seems. They care about how passionate you are about what you're doing. Some people have gone off and studied wild subjects, from puppets to yogurt - even if it doesn't seem academic, follow wherever your passion takes you. If you do not know where to start with your project statement, think about the four core questions of Ursinus. If you have a hobby, an experience, or anything that is a large and impactful part of your life that you would be happy to explore every day for a year, you've got your project."

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Logo



The Writing Fellow Experience

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As of January 29th, Ursinus' Center for Writing and Speaking is open for the Spring 2024 semester. The Center supports students in all aspects of written and spoken communication, doing so through one-on-one appointments with extensively trained Writing Fellows. Writing Fellows spend a whole semester learning and practicing for the position in a required course called "Writing, Pedagogy, and Society." While it may seem like just a job on campus, being a Writing Fellow is much more than that. It is an experience, one that is unique and rewarding in every way.

Through their working experience, Writing Fellows provide support for other students, but they also learn from the students that they are helping. Every appointment is a learning opportunity for both the student and the Writing Fellow. According to Cici Chagnon '25, "Working as a Writing Fellow has totally changed the way I look at my own writing. Working with people with all different writing styles has helped me push myself to look at writing assignments differently and to experiment more with my own style." Appointments in the Center for Writing and Speaking provide opportunities for academic growth but also for personal growth. Chagnon says, "To me, being a Writing Fellow means having the opportunity to make connections with people I might not have met otherwise, while also being a resource that people can feel comfortable reaching out to." Appointments in the Center for Writing and Speaking create a space for valuable conversations to take place, with Writing Fellows and students building connections based on their similarities and learning about new perspectives through their differences.

It is common for students who have never visited the Center to view ap-

pointments with Writing Fellows as intimidating. Students may initially think that it will be uncomfortable to share their writing with a peer, especially if they are not feeling confident in their work. Writing Fellow Evan Chartock '25 says, "I understand that it can feel like there is a weird power dynamic when a student (who is potentially younger than you) is helping you with your academics. I can assure you that in these sessions, students are surprisingly the ones with the power and autonomy over their own words." He asserts that "Writing Fellows are simply there to guide everyone towards greatness." Chagnon encourages students to come to the Center, saying, "It's not as scary as it might seem! I had to use the Center for a class I took my freshman year and the idea of having to show my writing to someone I didn't know was intimidating, but my Writing Fellow was super nice and helpful. I wish I had gone to the Center more in my first year."

Even more than being trained and prepared, Writing Fellows are excited and enthusiastic about having the opportunity to help and support other students. After just recently completing their training for the position, a handful of new students have joined the Center's team of Writing Fellows this semester. One of the new Writing

Fellows, Luke Peloquin '26, is very enthusiastic about getting to help students in the same ways that other Writing Fellows have helped him. He says, "I take most of my essays to the Writing Center before I turn them in, because it's so helpful to have another set of eyes on my writing, and I'm excited to pay that forward!" Through his training, Peloquin says that one of the most important things that he has learned is that being a

Writing Fellow is not just about writing. "I thought that training would be grammar-and-mechanics centered, but it was mostly about connection, support, and the dissolution of barriers," explains Peloquin.

Even from an outside perspective, it is evident that being a Writing Fellow is a special experience. Within the first two weeks of arriving at Ursinus during his freshman year, Chartock knew that he wanted to be a Writing Fellow. He worked incredibly hard to make connections with faculty and staff in hopes of being nominated. He spent hours on the application process and wore a suit to his interview. Chartock says, "Being a Writing Fellow is a reminder that I am a driven and determined individual who is passionate about writing and speaking, and I hope to bestow these feelings onto all of my clients."

Chartock asserts that "the Writing Center is a wonderful environment to work in, and much of that is because of our incredible boss, Dr. Talia Argondezzi." With Dr. Argondezzi's leadership and the dedicated work of every Writing Fellow, the Center for Writing and Speaking is not just an academic resource, but is a supportive community, providing help and encouragement for every student to become a better writer and speaker.



Photo Credit: Ursinus website



Jasmine's Journey of Sushi

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Craving some great tasting sushi in the Collegeville/Trappe area? Well Jasmine's Asian House is the place you're looking for. Located in the Trappe Center, less than a mile away from the Ursinus College campus, Jasmine's serves up the best sushi around, with plenty more to offer, including all you can eat! For me, all you can eat will be for another time, so on my first visit I dove in on a few appetizers, a sushi entree, and some delectable dessert!

For a Saturday night, this place was jam-packed! There was only a fifteen-minute wait for a table, which was no issue at all. The service was nice as I respected them for hustling from table to table and busting out order after order. The house is a big dining room with a sushi bar in the back. It's a very comfortable environment where you can sit back, relax, and enjoy some sushi! I've heard a lot of hype about Jasmine's and I haven't had sushi in a while, so I was pretty excited.

Beginning with appetizers, my family and I ordered edamame and the Dim Sum Sampler, consisting of shumai, vegetable, and pork gyoza. You can order them pan fried or steam, and they come out in six, two of each kind. These dumpling-like starters were fresh

and piping hot with the outside having a light crunch with the inside packed with flavor. They were very enjoyable and I recommend getting them pan fried. Having this paired with edamame was the perfect match, as they were a nice starter to snack on.

As for the main event, I decided to go with the three rolls combo under sushi and sashimi entree. Leading off the menu description with a pink lady roll, followed by a choice of two rolls from california roll, shrimp avocado roll, salmon roll, tuna roll, spicy tuna, spicy salmon roll, Philly roll, shrimp tempura roll, spicy crabmeat roll, mango avocado roll, salmon avocado roll, and tuna avocado roll. I got the shrimp tempura roll and the spicy crabmeat roll. Let me tell you, this was the perfect deal! Three rolls for \$22 you can't beat whereas other places the total price could add up to \$40 or more! It's a big and filling portion full of sushi paradise. Inside of a pink lady roll, you have yellowtail and crunch on the inside, topped with tuna, salmon, and avocado. The fish on the pink lady roll was divine, especially with salmon and avocado being the perfect pairing. The shrimp tempura was crispy and had soy sauce drizzled on top to give it that pizzazz. As for the spicy

crabmeat roll, it wasn't that spicy nor enjoyable, so I probably won't order it again. Overall, this was great sushi! Not the best because the rice was sticky and such, but it still did its job by satisfying my craving!

"The shrimp tempura was crispy and had soy sauce drizzled on top to give it that pizzazz"

I couldn't leave without getting some dessert, which was to die for. The red bean ice cream is where it's at. So creamy, smooth, and melts in your mouth. Along with whipped cream and chocolate sauce on top, this dessert ended the night on a high note. Like I said before, Jasmine's doesn't lie about their portions. Three scoops of the red bean ice cream come in an order for three dollars - that's one dollar a scoop!

It's a good thing to know as a college student that there is a solid sushi spot near campus that has reasonable prices and a reason to keep going back. One thing I think this place can improve upon is the quality of their rice. Whether it's preparing it or depending where they get it from, bettering it may make a significant difference in taste and texture. But altogether, I suggest you get away from campus for an evening and grab your friends to go check it out for yourself!



Photo Credit: Andrew J Perez

3 Rolls Combo: Pink Lady Roll, Shrimp Tempura Roll, and Spicy Crabmeat Roll



Swimmers Gear Up for Champs

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The rafters shook with nervous excitement on Saturday, with a packed house holding their breath. Both the men's and women's teams were holding onto close leads, in desperate need of relay wins in order to put away a non-conference powerhouse in Stevens Institute of Technology. But as the tension increased, the Bears seemed unfazed. A steadiness could be seen behind the blocks, a confidence uncommon in moments of such adversity. With the stakes high, the Bears pulled out two major victories, taking down the Ducks at home to improve to 7-3 and 6-4 respectively. "You can't teach heart" exclaimed Jake Hennagan '25. "It was a great team win," a moment that culminated weeks of training and hard work for this team, as well as the last home meet for the team's eight seniors, a true spectacle of emotion. What seemed like just two wins, meant so much more.

There could be many words used to describe this senior class of swimmers: intelligent, dedicated, and personable. But to put it simply, I think one word describes this class perfectly: perseverant. The group encountered a serious challenge coming in, dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic throughout their freshman

year. Being unable to compete, the coaches put together "stroke clinics" instead, working on technique and improving culture rather than heavy training. "When it was time to ramp up again, we had a closer, tighter team who was swimming technically better" exclaimed Coach Feinberg, stating that the "hard work and patience paid off". The results showed in the pool during the 2021 season as well, with multiple finalists in their respective events during a season Feinberg described as "what may have been the best results I've ever seen in a conference meet." Success would continue for two more years, as both teams managed to make history due to large contributions from the senior class. Multiple seniors have contributed top-ten times in Ursinus history, alongside a plethora of achievements outside of the pool. To me, this class's leadership has been a guiding force throughout the team's success this season. The leadership they show on a daily basis, whether it's motivation through a workout or a passionate speech mid-meet, represent an example for all involved in the program. Their ability to "make a commitment and help lead a culture we can be proud of," according to Coach Feinberg,

has created an opportunity for success for the entire team.

With just over three weeks left until conference championships, both teams continue to work steadfastly in preparation. The group took their yearly trip to Fort Lauderdale, Florida three weeks ago, training twice a day in order to get in maximum shape for the upcoming stretch. Feinberg pointed to the team being "at the next level of their training physically" after this trip, but more importantly becoming "closer as a family," a key aspect of any team gearing up for a championship meet. Such development has been important for a team that is the youngest Ursinus has had in years, with over a quarter of the roster being first-year student-athletes. However, the coach referred to the "fun energy" and "balanced environment" which the underclassmen have created, setting the team up for years to come. Through the leadership and preparation they've gone through over the past months, this group feels prepared for their first ever conference championships, with their success vital to the team's. The Bears are feeling dangerous, at the best possible time.



Photo Credit: Georgia Gardner



Photo Credit: David Morgan (Stylish Images)





Senior Day Sweep: Ursinus College Men's Wrestling

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Entering their final regular season meet of the season on the verge of a Centennial Conference sweep, Ursinus College Men's wrestling was determined to emerge from Saturday's contest with two victories against the Gettysburg College Bullets and the McDaniel College Green Terror. Celebrating seven seniors that day: Shawn Marchesano, Dante Monaco, Jagger Clapsadle, Will Schwartz, Jackson Brandt, Jake Ahmad, and Frederick Greene; the team rallied behind the leadership of their upperclassmen and secured a 34-9 victory over Gettysburg and a 22-20 victory over McDaniel.

The day began with a back and forth contest between the Bullets and the Bears that tied at 9 after the first five bouts. Victories from seniors Will Schwartz and Dante Monaco kept Ursinus alive despite the early success of the Bullets. However, the highly competitive nature of the first 5 matches quickly took a turn in favor of Ursinus. The Bears decided to take matters into their own hands and did so in an impressive fashion, collecting five straight victories against the Bullets. Senior Shawn Marchesano kicked off this rally with a 21-2 victory in the 165-lbs weight class. Succeeding Marchesano, two first-year wrestlers, Sean Cowan and Maxwell Borton, asserted their dominance on the mat earning an 18-1 technical fall

and a pinfall respectively. Additionally, Sophomore Nils Updale contributed a pinfall of his own in the 197-lbs weight class, and last but not least, Senior Jake Ahmad wrapped up the first competition of the day with a heavy weight victory by decision to seal a Bears victory at 34-9.

Following their convincing win over Gettysburg, the pressure of the moment inevitably caught up to the Bears as they found themselves down ten points (17-7) to the Green Terror with only four bouts remaining in the match. Although the Bears got off to a rough start in the first half of the competition, Junior Franco Mazza and first-year Andrew Schaen kept the Bears alive, acquiring the first seven points of the contest for Ursinus with two wins by decision. Ensuing their initial deficit, first-year Sean Cowan made yet another triumphant appearance that changed the tide of the meet for the Bears. Cowan won his second match of the day by pinfall in the waning moments of his contest to put the score at 17-13. Cowan's win by pinfall sparked some life into his teammates as Maxwell Borton won the following match by decision to propel the Bears to only a one-point deficit. However, McDaniel refused to go down without a fight and collected a three-point victory in the second to last match of the day. With the score at 20-16 in favor of the Green Terror,

all of the pressure to save the undefeated season was bestowed on Senior Jake Ahmad, who had already won by decision earlier that day. Needing a victory of at least four points to walk out of Saturday's doubleheader undefeated in the Centennial Conference, Ahmad did not disappoint. In the first minute and seven seconds of the match Ahmad won by pinfall to clinch an undefeated season for the Bears with a 22-20 victory over McDaniel College. Poetically, Senior Day for Ursinus Men's wrestling ended with a game winning victory by one of our very own Seniors to cement the 2023-2024 Ursinus Men's Wrestling Team as undefeated in the Centennial Conference for the second season in a row.

But the season is far from over for Ursinus College Men's Wrestling. On February 10th, the Bears will travel out to Westminster Maryland to compete in the Centennial Conference Championships at McDaniel College. Additionally, on March 1st and 2nd Men's Wrestling will be competing in the NCAA Mideast Championships to continue their success on a national level. The sky is the limit for this team and we look forward to seeing how our Bears wrestle when it matters most: in the postseason.



Photo Credit: David Morgan (Stylish Images)