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The Grizzly, October 24, 2019

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the grizzly

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Collegeville, Pa.

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Director of Residence Life accepts position at Franklin and Marshall

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Director of Residence Life and Assistant Dean of Students, Melissa Sanders Giess, will be leaving for Franklin and Marshall College, where she will serve as House Dean and Assistant Dean of Students. At Franklin and Marshall, there are five House Deans who work closely with the Faculty Deans to create a residential curriculum in each of the college houses.

"I'll be working closely with the student live-in staff there,

which is one of the most rewarding parts of my role here," she said. "I'm excited to learn a new campus and meet new students. Ben and I are also excited to buy a house and raise our kids in a neighborhood. As much of a family as we have here, and as close as our kids have become to many students, they really deserve a neighborhood full of friends their own age."

Giess joined the Ursinus community in 2006 as part of the Residence Life staff. During her time here, she dealt with housing



selection processes, crisis management, and student conduct issues.

Her accomplishments include working to create more inclusive living

See **Giess** on pg. 2

UC welcomes new Director of Disability Services

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Ursinus College and The Institute for Student Success will welcome Dr. Dolly Singley as the new Director of Disability Services and Section 504 Coordinator.

Prior to joining Ursinus, Singley worked in Disabilities Services at Cedar Crest College, Moravian College, and Chestnut Hill College. She earned her un-

dergraduate degree in Psychology from East Stroudsburg University, and a Doctorate in Special Education from Lehigh University.

She has always been passionate about what she does and what she can do for students, she said. "I have a passion for being an advocate for students... and for them to become an advocate for themselves. I want them to find their voice and their strengths in a world where they have

focused so much on what they can't do rather than what they can do."

Dr. Singley chose to come to Ursinus College because of how student-oriented the school is, she said.

Motivating students who feel as though they may struggle to achieve greatness because of learning disabilities is crucial, especially during the college years when students are preparing

See **Singley** on pg. 2

Made  -ON- Campus



Print made by Peggy Vilardo

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for their futures as well as choosing their career paths.

Here at Ursinus College, The Institute for Student Success helps students, including those with disabilities, to receive specific accommodations. They also help students to achieve academically, whether that means extra time, being able to take exams

in different rooms that eliminate distractions, or other forms of accommodations. The office also provides help with mental health, identifying learning disabilities, and focus issues.

The office aims to be a welcoming environment where students can go to get help and feel motivated to make a change in their education. Dr. Dolly Singley's

role will include educating, providing resources and helping facilitate the improvement of teaching skills.

"When students walk away from my office, I want them to leave feeling included... I want them to want to come back," she said.

Disabilities Services can be found inside The Institute for Student Success in Lower Wismer.

Giess cont. from pg. 1

environments for all students by developing gender-neutral housing options. Before coming to Ursinus, Giess served as a Community Director at George Washington University and the Coordinator of Student Academic Affairs at Franklin and Marshall.

Besides serving as Director of Residence Life, Giess had the opportunity to teach CIE, the fundamental course for Ursinus students. She then worked to integrate the course into the residential experience, which led her to create a residential curriculum for resident advisers tied to the Ursinus Quest.

"It's been rewarding to work with others on projects such as our new residential curriculum," she said.

As for who will take Giess' place, Vice President Heather Lobban-Viravong and Dean Missy Bryant have been working on finding a new Director for Residence Life. Bryant has spoken to Residential Advisers to get their perspective and share more about next steps.

"I'm confident the college will find someone amazing, there is so much good happening at Ursinus right now, and it's a terrific opportunity," she said.



Photo Courtesy of The Institute of Student Success



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The **GRIZZLY**

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All letters submitted to The Grizzly must not exceed 250 words in length, must be emailed, and must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Grizzly reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Grizzly becomes property of The Grizzly.

Staff Positions at The Grizzly are open to students of all majors. Contact adviser for details.

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Fit Check

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR TENURE REVIEW

In accordance with the Ursinus College Faculty Handbook, student comments on teaching effectiveness and student-faculty interaction are invited at the time of a faculty member's review for tenure. Although student letters must be signed to be considered, student names may be withheld, upon request, when their comments are shared with the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the faculty member.

This year, the following members of the faculty are being reviewed for tenure:

Meghan Brodie, Theatre and Dance

Jasmine Harris, Anthropology and Sociology

Oscar Useche, Modern Languages

Alice Leppert, Media and Communication Studies

Jennifer Round, Biology

Your feedback is strongly encouraged and will assist the Committee in its review process. Letters should be sent to Mark B. Schneider, Office of the Dean, by Oct. 31, 2018. Your comments can be sent electronically to deansoffice@ursinus.edu.

What Halloween costumes are you tired of seeing?

"I'm sick of the ignorant ones that are at the expense of other people, like when people dress up as Native Americans or in a sombrero and a poncho. Like the extreme ones."

- Abby Peabody, 2022

"I'm sick of the ears. The cat ears, bunny ears. All that."

- Kayla Gillespie, 2022

"There are some overused costumes like cats, ghosts, witches, but I'm of the opinion that if you have a creative take on a costume you can reinvent it and make it intriguing."

- Claude Wolfer, 2022

"Cops."

- Juliette Reinhardt, 2020

Dean Bryant starts “Mondays with Missy”

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At the beginning of the semester, Dean Missy Bryant started “Mondays With Missy,” a casual, periodic event where students are welcome to talk to Dean Bryant about life on campus. The Student Affairs-hosted talks feature food, drinks and give students the opportunity to share their thoughts, experiences, concerns, and ideas about student life.

Dean Bryant considers “Mondays With Missy” an idea driven by students. “This summer, [senior] Ben Minardi interned for us doing some data analytics, and one of the things we asked him to do was a focus group of students who were here over the summer, to ask for some ideas about orientation,” Dean Bryant explained. “I said in addition to that in my new role as Interim Dean, ‘what are ways that I can get in touch with students where it’s pretty low-stakes for them in terms of not having to come to my office?’ And so out of that focus group came this idea of ‘Mondays with Missy.’”

Wanting to speak with students in a casual format, Dean Bryant was determined to find a way to sit down with students that was easy and inviting. “Part of the reason I wanted to do ‘Mondays with Missy’

is that my sense is that a lot of students don’t necessarily want to take the time to schedule a meeting or come to my office,” Dean Bryant said. “That could be intimidating for some people, I recognize, so I wanted to find a way where I could be out and about that was easy for people to drop in, and really it’s a way for me to find out how things are going on campus. Like what are the things people are really excited about, what are the things that students would like to see done differently?”

Past meetings of “Mondays with Missy” included “Taco Talk” in the Kaleidoscope Lobby, as well as mac n’ cheese balls and other fun snacks on the IDC

“What are ways that I can get in touch with students where it’s pretty low-stakes for them in terms of not having to come to my office?”

- Dean Bryant

upstairs patio.

“I usually get a couple other staff members and Student Affairs to come along [to the meetings] just in case it’s a bigger group of students that show up,” Dean Bryant explained, “so that everyone has a chance to mix and mingle. And just to get a sense of what the vibe is right now with the stu-



Dean Missy Bryant, Courtesy of Rob Varney

dents. So it’s a nice way to be able to connect.”

There is always some kind of food included in the meetings. Dean Bryant emphasized that the next “Monday with Missy” on Nov. 4 will feature coffee and doughnuts. The meeting following on Dec. 2 will feature snacks. “The coffee and doughnuts [‘Monday with Missy’] will probably be more of a grab-and-go but still obviously time for conversation and things like that.”

As a result of these meetings, there have already been changes

“It’s a nice way to be able to connect.”

- Dean Bryant

happening on campus per the requests of students. Dean Bryant shared one instance from the first “Monday with Missy” that led to change in Upper Wismer. “Someone had brought up the fact that the dining hall opens at 7:30 in the morning Monday through Friday, but classes start at eight, and apparently large groups of athletes come in right after their morning lifts, and so often times this particular student wasn’t able to get in and get the food and get to class in time because of the way teams are coming in and it doesn’t given them enough time,” Dean Bryant explained. “So [the student] said ‘could it just open at 7:15,’ and I said ‘I don’t see why that

would be a big deal. . . . Luckily dining services was great, they were like ‘yeah, we can open 15 minutes earlier,’ so they started opening at 7:15 instead of 7:30,” Dean Bryant said. “So just little things like that I think that can make a big difference to make students’ lives better.”

Dean Bryant is open to students’ comments and suggestions in regards to “Mondays with Missy” and other student-based events. “My plan is to continue [‘Mondays with Missy’] through the spring as long as we continue to have interest.” Students are asked to RSVP to the meetings through a link sent by Dean Bryant via email.



Popular biology course returns for Spring

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The new bio class “Biology and The African Diaspora in America,” which has been popular with students and has a waitlist, is returning for the Spring semester. On the Ursinus course catalog, the course can be found under “Bio-350 Selected Topics.”

The course covers topics that contain biology as a context, and connects it to the historical past; misconceptions that were caused by scientific racism are also addressed. The course description states, “Students will explore genetic and evolutionary basis for the variety of skin pigmentations. A focus will be placed on popular ancestry testing and understanding the relationship with race and phenotype.”

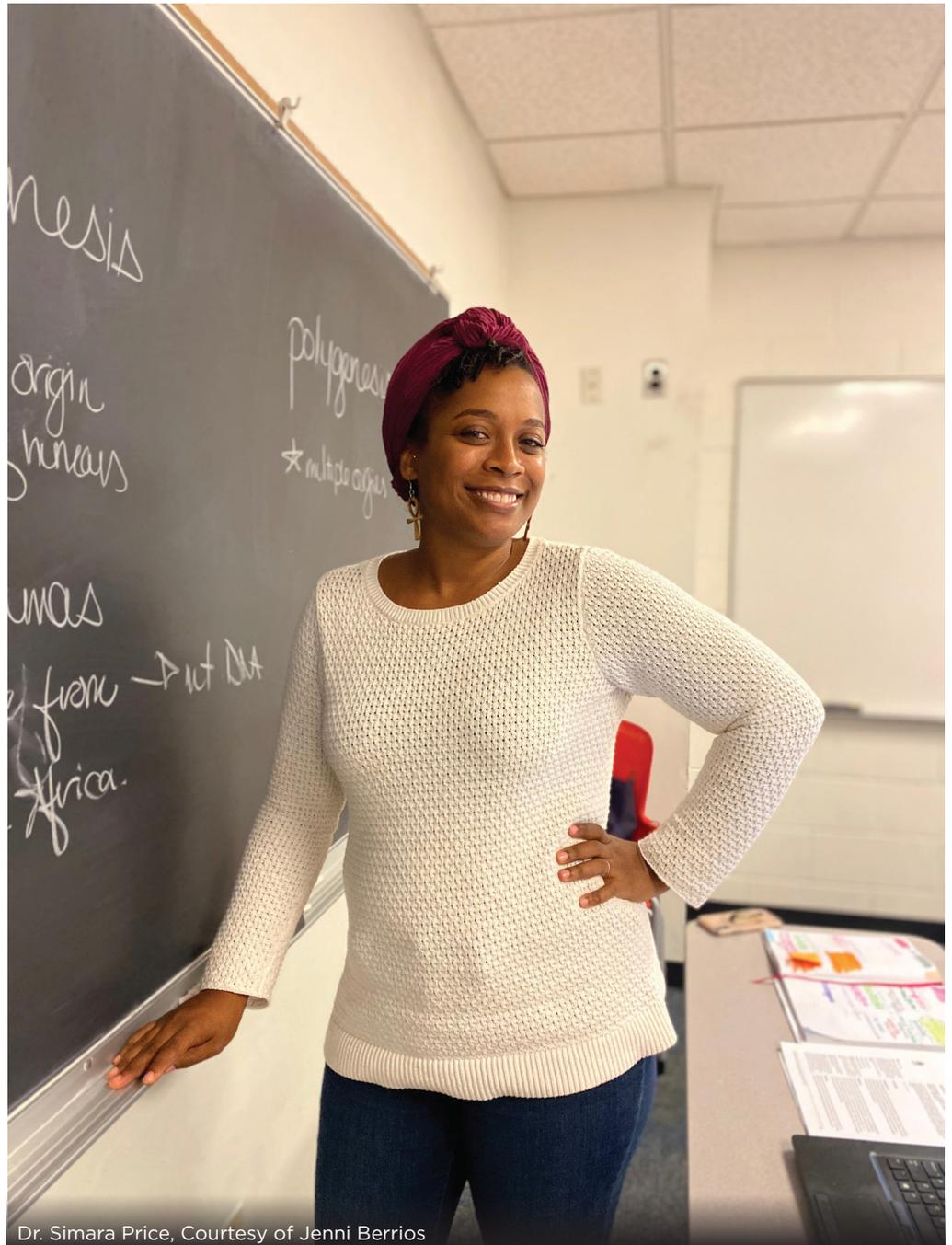
The course aims to teach biology in a whole different way. The course description further explains, “Students will study how the evolution of skin pigmentation affected the experience

of people of the African diaspora in America resulting in unethical practices and health disparities throughout history.” Some topics discussed in the biology course continue to be relevant today, such as limiting pain relievers for black people, sickle cell and terrible science experiments done on the black community.

“I am not a science major at all, but this class is so easy to follow.”

- Cristal Amenzquita

Dr. Simara Price, the course instructor, took the class herself when she was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland and was inspired to bring it to campus. Dr. Price is passionate about this class, and she understands that students taking it are not biology majors, which is to say that she will explain the biology. This is the second year that Dr. Price is teaching the course, and students loved the class the first



Dr. Simara Price, Courtesy of Jenni Berrios

time around.

Sophomore Cris Moreno gushed about the science class being “so real in teaching me

not only the African Diaspora, but how it ties to biology.” Sophomore Cristal Amenzquita added, “I am not a science

major at all, but this class is so easy to follow and as an added bonus the labs make me feel like a scientist.”

Happening on Campus

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Wellness Fair	Hershey Park	150 Carpenters	Choral Concert	Office Hours with President Blomberg	Biology Seminar	English Halloween Party
11:00am-2:00pm	7:00pm	All Day	4:00pm	9:00am - 10:30am	12:30pm	4:30pm
Floy Lewis Bakes Center		Berman Museum	Bomberger	Corson Hall	Pfahler Auditorium	Olin 104

I saw “Joker” and it was just OK

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We are absolutely inundated with superhero-centric media these days, and some members of the viewing public are feeling fatigued by it. Esteemed filmmaker Martin Scorsese chimed in on the debate recently when, in an interview with “Empire” magazine, he denounced the most recent wave of big-budget superhero movies as “theme park rides.” Though Scorsese engendered plenty of controversy with his comments, his timing couldn’t have been better. Concurrent with Scorsese’s remarks was the release of a

superhero movie that borrowed quite liberally from Scorsese’s bag of stylistic signifiers.

Live wire performances from Joaquin Phoenix and Robert De Niro, a gritty New York backdrop, and a decidedly R-rated streak of violence and brooding nihilism: Todd Phillips’ “Joker” promised to get under people’s skin. And it worked: before it even came out, media figures were fretting that the film might encourage members of the “incel” population — some of whom see the Joker as a quasi-ironic representation of their own disenfranchisement — to commit acts of violence.

The theater where I saw “Joker” even had a cop car stationed out front and a police officer standing watch in the lobby.

In the end, all that fuss wasn’t for much: “Joker” is as conventional as the worst entries in our current comic-cinema canon. Phoenix acts his butt off in service of a fairly one-dimensional portrayal of mental illness. The film seems more occupied with shocking the audience and giving edgy teenagers a cool loner character to relate to than engendering any sort of sympathy for society’s outcast and downtrodden. And in contrast

with other portrayals of the Joker such as Heath Ledger’s, where the lack of backstory for the character is what gave him such an edge and made him more compelling as a character, most of “Joker” feels depressingly expositional.

A few bits of brilliance rise to the surface: Phoenix cuts a genuinely imposing figure when he assumes the Joker persona, projecting a kind of off-kilter charisma that is best embodied by his now-infamous dance atop an outdoor staircase. I found the most compelling part of the film to be the side plot involving a mass army of clown-mask-wearing

proles who, emboldened by Joker’s vigilante killings, take to the streets lighting cop cars ablaze. I cannot fully hate any movie where this happens, but Phillips doesn’t seem to know what to do with this genuinely anarchic plot turn.

Society could use a break from superhero movies for a little bit, if “Joker” is any indication. It’s depressing to consider that the only way to get major studio funding for a dramatic character study about mental illness and the subjugation of the lower-class is to make it about the guy in clown makeup who fights Batman.

Chile protests add to issues in Latin America

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Last week, students in Chile began protesting a four-percent hike in subway fares. By the weekend, the protests shifted from students chanting, evading fares, and spray-painting walls to large-scale demonstrations on the streets.

Chile has a large middle class and a low rate of poverty due to decades of steady economic expansion. That said, according to the National Statistics Institute, half of the country’s workers earn \$550 or less a month.

When the protests broadened, the issue went from the fare hike to a broader sense of economic inequality and

a rising cost of living. The protest targeted public transportation, with buses being burned and fires started near subway entrances.

The government responded by instating curfews in the capital and two other cities. It has also limited the rights of movement and assembly. Security forces have thrown tear gas and shot rubber bullets at protestors. The government announced it would reverse the subway hike, but that does not solve the larger issue of economic inequality that the protests have become about.

Not too long before protests started in Chile, the country of Ecuador was undergoing civil unrest. President Lenin

Moreno announced that fuel subsidies that were in place would have to be rolled back. Oil exports account for roughly a quarter of the government’s revenue, however, with the tumbling price of oil, Moreno decided to end the 40-year-old subsidy, which was estimated to cost the government \$1.4 billion a year.

This was an austerity measure he was required to put in place because of loans totaling \$10 billion taken out earlier this year from lenders such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development bank.

The almost immediate increase in fuel prices would hit farmers and

those less well-off the hardest, which prompted transport unions and indigenous groups to protest. The protests went on for 11 days, with demonstrators blocking streets and burning oil fields. About a thousand injuries and arrests later, Moreno announced that the subsidy would be reinstated and he would instead attempt to find an alternative economic reform policy.

Chile is often heralded as a successful example of a capitalist country in Latin America. How a Latin country can look when market-friendly approaches are used. Ecuador is on the outside looking in: Moreno’s predecessor governed from a left-wing standpoint. Mean-

while he has attempted to steer Ecuador’s economy more towards the private sector.

What has become more glaring is the discontent with stagnating economies. Latin America’s GDP growth rate rose to six-percent in 2010 but was a meager 1.4 percent in 2018. Dissatisfaction with the government has grown in multiple countries. Chile, Ecuador, and Argentina have all had protests that succeeded in forcing their governments to make concessions. What that is showing more than anything is that having market-friendly presidents and governments aren’t the main solution.

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made this fall at the ITA Southeast Regional. “We knew we were playing solid opponents so we just talked about playing loose and having fun with it.” He also is determined to use this tournament as a stepping stone into the spring with doubles partner Groff. Fontanese says, “this tournament solidified our confidence with each other on the court.”

In the singles tournament, Fontanese was able to reach the semi-finals in B4 singles before being stopped by an opponent from Goucher

College. He had a great run, beating opponents from Stevenson College and Bridgewater College.

The ITA Southeast Regional at Mary Washington concludes the men’s tennis team’s fall season. Their spring schedule opens in February against Centennial Conference rival Swarthmore. They hope to get help from senior Connor DeFaber-Schumacher as well as other underclassmen to avenge an 8-11 2019 campaign.

WRITERS WANTED

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Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. Ritter 141

Swimming cont. from pg. 8

goals for this season: “Definitely [to] place top 3 in the conference and go for the best dual meet record in men’s history,” which stands at a CC dual meet record of 4-2.

Krawetz shares the men’s greatest strengths this season as they look to be a threat in the CC: “The depth of the team across all strokes and every swimmer is capable of making top sixteen in the conference [at champs].” With such depth, the men should be able to score big points in all events in dual meets and come out on top.

On the women’s team, the Lady Bears are looking to defend their reigning crown and capture their 7th straight Centennial Conference Title as the powerhouse of the conference and continue to be a presence in the NCAA rankings, in which they finished at No. 17 rank last season. Although the women graduated class of 2019 All-Americans Clara Baker and Peyton Lyons, they have three returning All-American swimmers: senior Haley Sturla, junior Sophie May, and sophomore Sophie Lear,

along with the addition of five eager first-year swimmers: Katie Champagne, Charlotte Driver, Abby Ferguson, Jess Gutekunst, and Katie Sanfield.

The team’s co-captains this season are seniors Margrethe Leis and Haley Sturla. Leis shares what she believes will be the women’s team’s greatest strength this season: “Our greatest strength is how close we all are with one another. With a smaller roster of sixteen women, our team feels more close-knit than it ever has. The freshmen have integrated quickly, which shows that our smaller roster is beneficial for the team’s dynamic.”

Sturla shares what she believes will be the women’s biggest challenge, as they have the ultimate goal of dominating the conference with an undefeated dual meet record and placing first overall at champs: “Our greatest challenge will be just taking it meet by meet because we are so excited for champs and we are excited for that end goal, but we need to focus on each meet one at a time.”

The Bears begin their season on Oct. 19th vs. Cabrini in Elliot Pool.



Mason Groff (Left) and Matthew Fontanese, Photograph Courtesy of David Morgan

Scores as of Monday, October 21

Football	Volleyball	Field Hockey	M. Soccer	W. Soccer	Golf	Swimming
Ursinus 21 at #6 Muhlenberg 45	Ursinus 0 at Muhlenberg 3	#12 Ursinus 3 at Muhlenberg 0	Ursinus 0 at Scranton 0	Ursinus 2 at Muhlenberg 3	Men's at Revolutionary Classic 5th of 9	Men's 114.5 vs. Cabrini 82.5
			Ursinus 0 at Muhlenberg 1	Ursinus 0 at Gettysburg 3	Women's at Revolutionary Classic 8th of 9	Women's 107 vs. Cabrini 89

Tennis duo makes history in Virginia

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This past weekend, the Ursinus Men's tennis teams traveled down to Fredericksburg, Virginia for their annual fall opener. The ITA Southeast Regional at Mary Washington hosted some familiar faces from around the Centennial Conference. Ursinus was joined by Johns Hopkins, Swarthmore, Haverford, Franklin & Marshall, Washington College, Dickinson and Muhlenberg. The UC men's tennis team wasn't fazed.

Juniors Mason Groff and Matthew Fontanese were quite the dynamic duo in Virginia. On Friday, they beat Centennial Conference rival Haverford to become just the second doubles team to reach the round of 16 in the tournament. The very next day they made history again by beating Capital Athletic Conference tennis powerhouse Christopher Newport University to advance to

the quarterfinals, becoming the first duo in Ursinus College Men's Tennis history to reach this mark.

Groff and Fontanese hope to be a force this spring as doubles partners. Groff believes "As roommates, we have a strong connection and friendship that carries into our gameplay on the court." The roommate chemistry looks to be paying dividends now as they prove to be a wrecking ball wreaking havoc in conference play. Groff adds, "We hope to carry this momentum from the fall into the spring together."

In doing so, Groff reached his 30th doubles win to become the 11th player in Ursinus history to reach 30 wins. He'll aim to break more records throughout his junior season.

Fontanese is excited about the noise the duo

See **Tennis** on pg. 7



Photograph Courtesy of David Sinclair

Swimming looks to fill pool with more championships

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Once again, the Ursinus College men's and women's swimming teams kicked off their season at their annual "Midnight Madness" practice that began when the clock struck twelve on Monday, Sept. 23. Each year, the Bears are the first team in the Centennial Conference in the water and putting in work. The late night practice (or early morning, I should say) consists of an introduction of each swimmer by class year, followed by a few laps of sprint freestyle, and to wrap up the night, a crowd favorite, a belly

flop competition scored by Ursinus student spectators.

Since the season's official start, the Bears have been grinding out practices in the pool and putting in work in the weight room in preparation for the first meet of the season vs. Cabrini on Oct. 19.

After graduating fourteen swimmers last year, eight men and six women, UC has added plenty of talented men and women to their respective rosters who will make huge contributions to winning dual meets and scoring points at the Centennial Conference Championship meet (champs) in February.

The men's team, despite graduating eight strong swimmers, is returning three of the four All-Centennial Conference swimmers from last season: first-team senior and co-captain Jake Menzer, honorable mention junior Mikey Prior, and honorable mention sophomore Ryan Carkhuff, along with six skilled first-years: Trevor Milsan, Ryan Morris, Ryan Schreffler, Sam Tafet, Max Valeriano, and Liam White.

The team's co-captains are seniors Jake Menzer and Jared Krawetz. Menzer shares the team's

See **Swimming** on pg. 7

Upcoming Games

Tuesday 10/22	Wed. 10/23	Saturday 10/26	Sat. Cont.	Sat. Cont.	Monday 10/28
Men's Soccer at Penn St. Berks	Women's Soccer at Rutgers Camden	Men's Soccer vs. <i>Johns Hopkins</i>	Women's Volleyball vs. <i>Johns Hopkins</i>	Women's Soccer vs. <i>Johns Hopkins</i>	Men's Golf at Aracadia Invitational
	#12 Field Hockey at Catholic	Women's Volleyball vs. Widener	#12 Field Hockey vs. #10 <i>Johns Hopkins</i>	Men's Swimming vs <i>Dickinson</i>	Women's Golf at Aracadia Invitational
		Football at <i>Susquehanna</i>		Women's Swimming vs <i>Dickinson</i>	

