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## The Grizzly, September 22, 2022

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# The Grizzly

Collegeville, PA.

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- » Lack of Traditions
- » Hannigan's First Hurrah
- » Rush Week Changes
- » Coaches Needed

## A Look Ahead:

At *The Grizzly*, we strongly 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.

- » Harping on Hobson
- » Student Shortage: 2026
- » Meet D-Bone
- » College Culture Shock

## Fire in Wicks

Erin Corcoran: ecorcoran@ursinus.edu



Courtesy of Julia Paiano

On August 31, a peaceful evening in the first week of classes turned into a chaotic one for residents of Wicks. The Main Street house's oven caught fire after a student heated it with a metal soup can on a plastic plate inside. The student, who was unaware of the leftover soup can, preheated the oven, began smelling smoke and contacted Campus Safety. Assessing the scope of the situation, Campus Safety notified the Collegeville and Perkiomen Township Fire Departments for additional help. The departments evacuated the building in a timely manner, and the fire was contained to the oven and did not spread elsewhere.

Wicks resident Dora Zeibekis '24 recalls, "It was confusing to wrap my head around what was going on, but as soon as I saw the smoke..I frantically reached for my phone and called campus safety." Sophie Louis '24 added, "I'm glad nobody got hurt," and said she was "shocked" after learning the source of the fire.

Campus Safety advises students

against storing items of any kind in the communal ovens. Further, make sure to check the ovens before cooking in the event an object is left inside. The Perkiomen Fire Department echoed these sentiments and shared more cooking fire safety tips in an Instagram post.

As residential students, we all have responsibilities to keep our communal spaces safe and clean to protect ourselves and the campus at large. Especially at the start of the semester, re-adjustments to residential living can be difficult, and vigilance is essential to the success and safety of shared spaces. In the case of a fire, or evidence of one, pull the nearest alarm and evacuate the building if possible. Campus Safety defines evidence of fire as "sight of smoke or fire, odorous evidence of burning, or concentrations of flammable gasses."

Questions or concerns about shared spaces can be addressed to Campus Safety, Residence Life, or your hall's RA. Have a safe semester, Bears!





# Rush Week Changes - Yay or Nay?

Ava Compagnoni: avcompagnoni@ursinus.edu

Fall 2022 Rush Week has come and gone. In the midst of the first few weeks of school, Greek Organizations scrambled to put together a successful week of events, and sororities and fraternities across the board have deemed this Rush Week successful. It began Friday, September 9th, and ended a week later, Friday, September 16th. With over half a dozen events, organizations put their best foot forward to engage with as many sophomore, junior and senior potential new members as possible.

Student Engagement removed two historical and universal events from the weekly agenda. In the past, to kick off rush week, an Ice Cream Social — provided by Student Engagement — was always the first event of the week outside of Lower. This was shifted to a ‘Greek Fair’ - without ice cream - that occurred Wednesday, September 14th, significantly later in the Rush Week process. Most Greek organizations were upset about this shift in the rush week process.

The second major change to Rush Week was the removal of the Round Robin event. Historically, all potential new members would meet all of the Greek organizations on campus, whether you were interested in rushing them or not. This contributed to the overall Greek unity presence on campus. Organizations do not seem to have noticed a significant change in the success rate without this event. Senior Jake Nowacki, Rush Coordinator of Delta Pi Sigma, supports this claim. “I never had a Round Robin since I rushed during the 2020 Fall COVID year and last year it dropped off.”

Throughout Rush Week, Rush Coordinators must plan, organize, budget, and attend all events — a lot to endure. Conscious of these responsibilities when running for this position in the previous Spring semester, all Rush Coordinators showed confident composure at the Greek Fair. Senior Tau Sigma Gamma Rush Coordinator, Isabella Villegas, stated, “I feel like it is going great, we’ve got a really good group of interested girls. [But] I definitely

think this event should have been earlier. A lot of potential new members who are trying to mix and mingle about where they want to go is difficult with only two events left after tonight.”

The majority of Greek organizations on campus are local organizations, as opposed to national organizations, but according to the Ursinus website, Tri Sigma is the single national sorority on campus. Local means that a Greek org is only on Ursinus’ campus; whereas, national means the Greek org is across colleges nationally and/or globally. Therefore, national organizations have certain rules that must be passed by the headquarters of their organization. Senior Rush Coordinator of Tri Sigma, Coco Carosella, elaborates on this process. “Since we are a national sorority we are held to national standards and what comes with that is that we had our plans finalized in February.” This saves Carosella from some summer stress. However, she and the other Rush Coordinator find the balance between school work and extracurriculars to be difficult during Rush Week.

There was a significant change to protocol this year. All students interested in rushing Greek life had to fill out an interest survey by Sunday, September 11th, by 11:59pm. Greek organizations expressed mixed feelings about this new change. “I think Sunday was a good happy medium, the school has to make sure people are eligible. I know other colleges have mandatory pre-rush sign-ups. This year it is a big adjustment, but in the coming years it will be more helpful,” says Villegas. However, having the deadline before the bulk of Rush Week with only the first three days of events over the weekend to decide on. Omega Chi’s Rush Coordinator, junior Ella McCarthy, feels this quick commitment could be too much for interested students. “I think that puts a lot of pressure on students to decide if they want to rush or not. It makes us question the need for this form and when has there ever been a form before?”

For the future of Greek life, there are

potentially exciting new proposals to bring back an organization and welcome new ones to our college campus. “The school is trying to bring on two greek life organizations, Sig Rho and one of the Divine Nines. The Divine Nines are the first nine African-American Greek life organizations,” Villegas informs the Grizzly. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. is a part of the Divine Nine, and hopefully a Divine Nine sorority may be joining our campus soon. The future of Ursinus Greek life is exciting, and hopefully the new changes will have positive effects in the coming years.

# Class of 2026: Sentiments on Family Weekend

Jenna Smith: jesmith@ursinus.edu

“It’s great seeing everyone’s families come together to show spirit, and honor our tight knit community!”

Annabelle Neibuhr ‘26

“I enjoyed family weekend and tailgating. Despite my whole family not being able to make it, it was nice seeing my brother and sister.”

Nicholas Grahame ‘26








“Showing my family this great community of people and the sports that go on here and getting closer to everyone is a great opportunity.”

Meghan Vizian ‘26

“I loved showing my family around the campus and getting to meet all my team-mates families. It’s a great day!”

Abby Burkholder ‘26

## SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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11 	12	13 	14	15	16 	17
18	19	20	21 	22 	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	



## New Exhibitions at the Berman

Sean McGinley: semcginley@ursinus.edu

The Berman Museum of Art is excited to announce several new artistic exhibitions and events planned for this fall semester at Ursinus, all open to the Ursinus community. Sanya Grace Kunicki, Communications Assistant for the Berman Museum, provided insight on the events to come

The Berman has several scheduled events for this October, its busiest month. Two of these are related to the work of Andrea Modica, an analog photographer whose work is currently being shown in the museum's upper gallery in an exhibition entitled *Theatrum Equorum*. The series documents a veterinary center designated for horses and showcases different aspects of that type of work, such as the tools used for horses in recovery. The first of the two events, occurring October 6th, involves a conversation with Modica herself hosted by Deborah Barkun, Associate Professor of Art History. The event takes place in-person at the Print Center of Philadelphia although interested students may participate online via Zoom where they will have the opportunity to "talk to [Modica] directly about her work and her creative process." In addition to this, the Berman will host a walk-through hosted by Modica in the upper gallery later on in the month on October 26th.

The Berman also offers hands-on activities both within and outside the realm of art-making. For example, the museum will host a natural dye textile workshop on the front lawn on October 12 during the inauguration of President Robyn Hannigan. Kunicki says that for the museum, the goal of workshops like these is to get students exposed to different artistic outlets in a stress-free environment no matter their skill level. "It shouldn't be limiting if you feel like



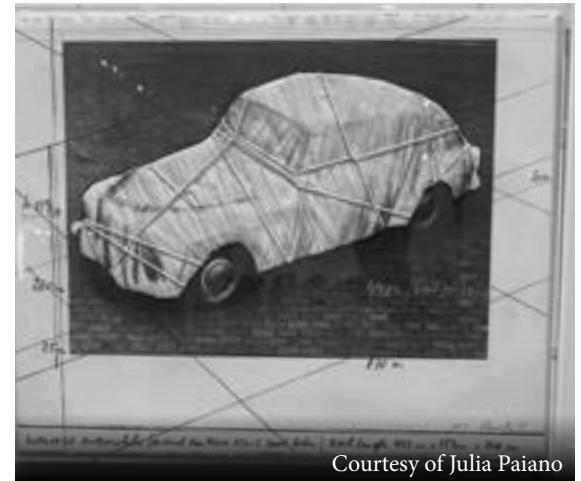
Courtesy of Julia Paiano

you don't have a skill because it's the process itself that's enjoyable," she says. Kunicki also said events are an easier, more comfortable way for students to get used to the Berman and its offerings and "can be a little bit more engaging than tours for hands-on learners, and they can be a little less overwhelming as well."

Tours and guided walkthroughs are also available whenever the museum is open. They provide students with the opportunity to have the Berman's many exhibitions made more easily understandable for the average museum-goer. For the tours, like the events, it was emphasized that one does not need to go in with a plethora of knowledge on art or art history. When speaking on their *Immigrant Flora* exhibition, for example, Kunicki stressed, "you don't have to dive into that intellectual experience to really appreciate just how cool it looks. You can just experience it for what it is."

The Berman isn't just a space for the visual arts though, and Kunicki reminded the community that "The Berman always exists as a venue for anyone with club activities or just new events that they want to host. We have a huge amount of space and it's a gorgeous building, so we're always excited to be a venue for anyone who wants to host there." Other events hosted by the Berman include the "Welcome Back Ursinus" concert, an upcoming music night, and yoga classes available upon registration for the community Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 P.M. on the museum's front lawn.

Along with these new in-person events and initiatives, the Berman has expanded its online presence dramatically. For many museums and event spaces nationwide, the COVID-19 pandemic provided a much-needed notice in terms of the need for better virtual accessibility, and the Berman Museum was no different. As a result, the museum continues to work to permanently digitize the entirety of its collection, with much of it available now on the Berman's website. Just like with the events and guided tours, virtual accessibility provides the museum with the ability to become a more welcoming and less overwhelming space for those interested in visiting. Like many others have in the past, Kunicki emphasized the



Courtesy of Julia Paiano

"reputation of there being art snobs and you need to have this certain level of education in order to appreciate it or to understand it." With the museum's new online initiatives, though, she and the rest of the staff hope to combat this. She pointed to the museum's new upcoming website as a way to make everything "much less intimidating for people to enjoy what we have to offer because they don't have to go through the anxiety of coming into the space if that's something that scares them."

A renewed online presence and the continued scheduling of new events and exhibitions seems to be just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what the Berman Museum will have to offer Ursinus this upcoming school year. Other initiatives mentioned during my conversation with Kunicki included a more expansive conservation process for the campus's outdoor sculptures as well as the addition of more blog posts and articles in the museum's online space. She was also quick to credit the museum's new director, Lauren McCardel, as a huge part of the impetus for these new changes. She stated that McCardel "does a really good job of analyzing the situation and finding practical solutions to it as ways to get people more engaged."

Everything taken together, Kunicki emphasized that "We have a new brand, a new face, and a whole new digital accessibility for people." It will be exciting to see the result of these new initiatives by the Berman Museum and its staff in the coming months. For more information on the Berman, visit <https://www.ursinus.edu/berman/> or follow them on Instagram @bermanmuseum.

# A Presidential Check-in: Robyn Hannigan

Isabella Villegas: [isvillegas@ursinus.edu](mailto:isvillegas@ursinus.edu)

After both former President Brock Blomberg's and former President Jill Marsteller's departures, Ursinus was on the hunt for the next person to lead the school. President Robyn Hannigan vividly remembers the moment when she was in her kitchen and received the call, "hoping that it was going to be the call she wanted, and not the other call." When picking up the phone, she was informed that she had been selected to be the 19th President of Ursinus College. She was in disbelief and even asked the individual on the phone if they were being serious. She turned around to her family, and by her facial expressions they knew it was the call she wanted. They celebrated together, ecstatic about the future. "It was the best call I had ever got."

Hannigan recalled several stories about her experience at Ursinus thus far. One of the most notable was when the first-year students were moving in, and "I was walking from my house to my office and I heard 'Hey Robyn' and I thought 'oh my god I am the President.'" Hannigan emphasized how important student relations are to her and her administration. Another highlight was the Resident Advisor Bonfire, where she had the opportunity to connect with students on a personal level. They had a dance competition, and even though her dance moves did not lead her to victory, her positive outlook and strategic plan to improve the campus community will. When asked about her favorite part of the job so far, without hesitation she replied,

"hanging out with students."

She was surprised that even when she would go to places like Café 2020, she would know students' names. In addition to the student body, faculty feel comfortable talking to or requesting help from Hannigan with projects, idea development, and feedback. She has an open door policy, and finds that her staff take advantage of that offering. During the interview, Hannigan quoted a Crigler student who said Ursinus "[is] small enough where you feel like you know everybody, but it is big enough that you meet someone new every day."

When asked about the future of the college, she responded confidently, "I know that we will be different in five years. I know that we will be stronger. I know that we will be more financially resilient. I know that our name and the academic experience that we offer will be more broadly understood, appreciated, and valued." Even though the changes that must be made are still unclear, the strategic plan conversations will continue.

Hannigan is focused on bettering the institution and is curious to see how improvements might change the individuals at the college. Even alumni can benefit from improvements, and when they are made, the Ursinus name will hold more merit. A major concern is miscommunication surrounding major decisions, and Hannigan is working around the clock to close that gap. One way that she is trying to



Courtesy of Ursinus College

bridge that gap is by holding lunch meetings with her and Missy Bryant, the dean of students. The lunches run bi-weekly until December, and all students are invited to participate.

Overall, Hannigan, the 19th President of Ursinus, has big plans to improve the Ursinus experience for the current and prospective student body. Even though her vision is mighty, she believes that no one can do anything remotely great alone and wants to utilize the tight-knit community and its talents to implement change.



Courtesy of Ursinus College

## New Clubs Announcement

Want more from the arts in your life? Two new clubs have opened on campus: Art Club and Film Club. To join the Art Club, email [stcoleman@ursinus.edu](mailto:stcoleman@ursinus.edu). To join the Film Club, email [jeschnur@ursinus.edu](mailto:jeschnur@ursinus.edu) or follow their Instagram @ursinus.film.club





## Anyone for Junior Class Council? Bueller?

Chase Portaro: chportaro@ursinus.edu

For the second time in three years, all three positions in the Class of 2024 Council went uncontested, with Danny Leach running for President, Brenna Snively for Treasurer, and Emily Benning for Secretary. The three students are mainstays of the Junior Class Council, but as a voter, I wanted to understand why no one else was running and what that could mean for the Junior Class. Was this a product of class consensus, or a product of class apathy? I sat down with Danny, Brenna, and Emily separately to find out more.

First, I wanted to know why the candidates believed they ran unopposed.

Brenna said, “With COVID during the time of our senior year, there were so many political events going on like the election and the George Floyd protests, so I think a lot of people in our grade have this mentality that they need to be out there doing bigger things.”

Emily said, “I think people just supported what we were doing already, or they just don’t care about student government.”

Danny told me, “The activities fair is more geared towards freshmen, and we never had that experience. We never got to see what’s around campus and what can we do, so we almost lived two freshman years it feels like.”

All of them are correct. The Class of 2024 faced a unique set of challenges that put student government on most peoples’ backburner. But later in my conversation with Emily, she touched on what I think is the real issue responsible for low candidate turnout. “I don’t know that people know what student government is trying to do for them.”

If students remain unaware of how their class council can better their college experience, this recent pattern of uncontested elections will continue – and competition in election cycles, regardless of the strength of our officers, is beneficial to the system. How can voters be guaranteed the same degree of motivation from their politicians in an uncontested election cycle?

Brenna responded, “I think the voters

can have peace of mind that all three of us work for them because this is our third year, and it is a time commitment, so we wouldn’t just run for the title or the resume cushioning.”

Despite that promise, the ‘24 council knows more is required to reassure voters of their commitment to advocate. Emily explained, “We talked about recently just having small events for those who’re questioning who we are, what we do, and how we’re supporting people– and why we ran unopposed.”

Danny, Brenna, and Emily have contributed more than their fair share in improving our class through their time as councilmembers. As student-voters, I think we should start pulling our weight. At the very least, we can evaluate our understanding of UCSG. What do we know? What do we want to know that we don’t? If any of those questions spark your interest, you can give Danny, Brenna, and Emily a run for their money in the next election. Who knows, you might even become the next Class President!

## Diminished Ursinus Traditions

Isabel Wesman: iswesman@ursinus.edu

Could you imagine a Billboard-charting musician performing at Ursinus? Well, that was a reality for students who graduated from Ursinus just a few years ago. Bear Bash, or May Day as it was once called, was a school-wide celebration of music, school spirit, and the upcoming graduation. But after a number of organizing issues in 2018 and 2019, Bear Bash was eliminated from students’ social calendar and now remains an experience that is completely unknown to current Ursinus students. Bear Bash used to be a staple of Ursinus’ student life, but at this point it has essentially turned into folklore—and it is not the only formerly renowned campus tradition to find itself in this position.

The cancellation of such a huge event like Bear Bash points to a wider and more serious pattern at Ursinus. Having been “on campus” for almost four years now, I have observed Ursinus becoming increasingly inattentive towards what

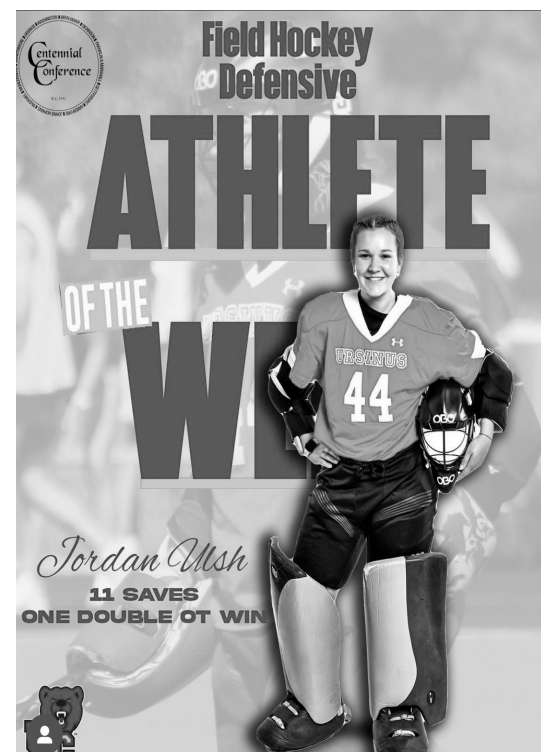
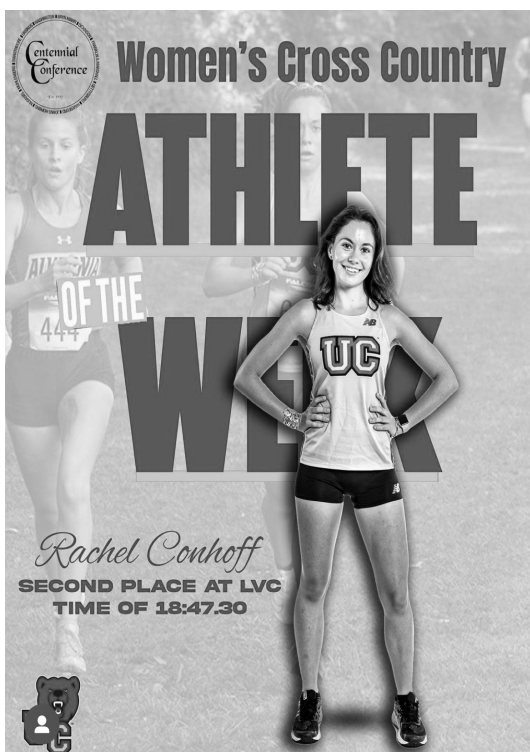
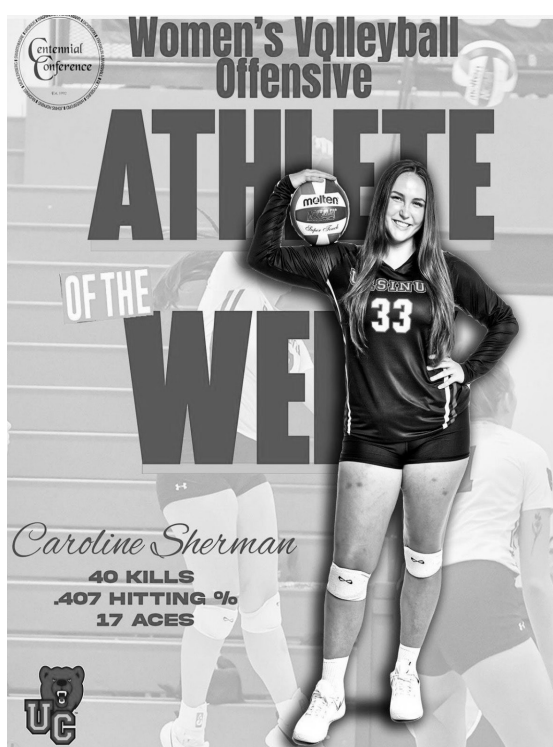
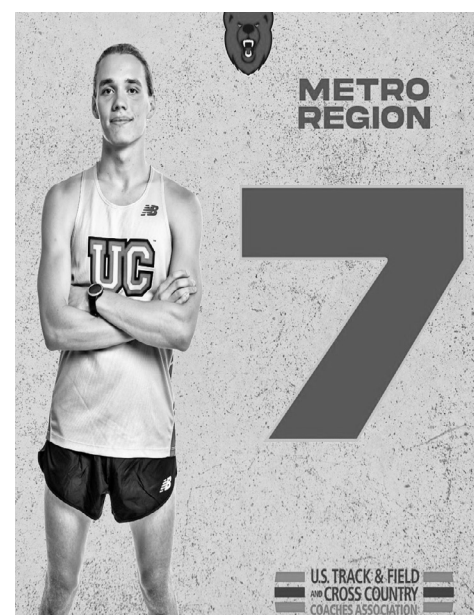
once was. On paper, the campus has been witness to the death of a number of clubs/chapters, campus-wide philanthropic traditions like Relay for Life, and countless graduation traditions like a class-wide trip to Mad River, or sliding down the fountain on campus (Oh - did you know there used to be a fountain on campus?). Many social traditions are also on their way out, such as Airband, which made larger waves in 2016, Greek Week, and Greek life in general after countless barriers to rushing. And everyone knows that a night out at Reimert has never been the same since the fall of 2019, despite many other colleges in the area bouncing back quickly after returning to campus.

So, the question is, why? Obviously COVID-19 hindered a lot of activity, which is why Mad River closed down, but is that really the overarching reason for all of this instability and decay? Obviously, the campus lacks some type of glue that holds the community together with

consistency from year to year — maybe a leader, or a feeling of pride for the community — something that would encourage people to stay involved in student activities, and branch out of their own friend groups. Or maybe some students just care less about picking up where previous peers left off? It’s not necessarily always the administration’s fault, but it does beg the question, who is there for us, who is defending the den? Especially in recent years, the student body has seen an abnormal amount of changes in the school’s administration — from the death of a beloved president to an interim and permanent one all within a short time span. A lack of consistent leadership and changing regulations could definitely be blamed in part for this issue. But students need things to look forward to in order to be content, and we need them now. You hear us, Ursinus?



# SPORTS



Courtesy of Ursinus Athletics

## Upcoming Games

### Wednesday

Women's Soccer @ Bryn Mawr

Men's Soccer @ King's College

Field Hockey vs. TCNJ

### Thursday

### Friday

Women's Tennis ITA's @ Mary Washington

### Saturday

Women's Tennis ITA's

9:30am Women's Golf

10am Men's & Women's XC

12pm Field Hockey @ F&M

1pm Football @ F&M

3:30pm Women's Soccer

6pm Men's Soccer

### Tuesday

1pm Men's Golf



## Golf and Cheerleading Coaches?

Entering the 2022-2023 school year both the Men's and Women's Golf Teams, as well as the Cheerleading Team, were without coaches. The lack of a coach came as a surprise both to Golf, which is a NCAA Division III Centennial-Conference team at Ursinus, and Cheerleading, a club sport.

Senior cheer co-captain Grace Krewson, commented, "It's something us captains were definitely not prepared to take on and had to learn as we went. It made it hard not knowing where we were at in the process [of hiring a coach] because we tried to start [the season] as early as possible but had to wait for other people to want to start the process as badly as we did." Without a coach, the responsibilities of organizing their respective teams fell onto the captains, leaving them with an extra burden in addition to their regular course and extra-curricular demands.

Kaylin Chen, sophomore captain of the Women's Golf Team, also had some thoughts. The lack of a coach has "impacted [the team] because we have to plan our own practices, call, and set up our own tee times with the courses, pick out our uniforms, and try to coordinate everything ourselves. It's hard also getting everyone on the same page too without having a coach to dictate things. We have been managing well on our own and we try to help each other out when we can, but it would be nice to have an authority figure," says Chen.

The previous head coach of both the Men's and Women's Golf Team at Ursinus, Wes Hollis, was with the team for three years. According to Erin Stroble, Director of Athletics, Hollis' resignation became effective Monday, August 15th, 2022. The open position of head coach was then posted on Friday, August 19th, and applications quickly came in. First round interviews have already been conducted and finalists for the position have been invited back to campus. Stroble explained, "While the timing of this search isn't ideal, I wouldn't say it's been difficult to find a coach, it just takes time to work through the process. I feel confident we will hire a great new head



Courtesy of Ursinus Cheerleading

next few weeks."

Although currently without a coach, the Women's Golf Team has a match Saturday, September 24th with Dickinson College. Afterward, the Men's Golf Team has a match Monday, September 26th with Moravian College. Additionally, there are two upcoming invitationals for the women's team and three for the men's team within the next month. The Ursinus Athletic Department is confident a great head coach will be picked soon.

A new head Cheerleading coach, Kristy Pouchan, was recently hired after the resignation of the previous coach, Hudson. Pouchan has been coaching cheerleading for over ten years. "My favorite things about coaching are meeting and working with new people. I love witnessing the progression and growth of each athlete throughout the season. It's a very rewarding feeling to know that as a coach, you were able to help someone else complete goals they've been working so hard at achieving," said Pouchan.

Without a coach up until this point, the Cheerleading Team could not hold its usual summer practices or have a preseason.

said, "Doing everything ourselves has been hard and I'm so grateful that we'll have a coach soon enough and that I won't be in charge of everything anymore. I don't think I ever want to be a coach after this experience."

Moreover, without a coach or supervision, the Cheerleading Team has been unable to stunt, even at their practices. This means the team has been limited to performing cheers along with dances, spiring, and tumbling at football games thus far. Junior co-captain Peyton Evans explained, "It's certainly difficult to try and keep the team engaged during practices that may seem repetitive along with keeping energies up during games when we aren't able to stunt. There are so many people on the team who are passionate about cheer and it's almost been a defeating feeling when the beginning of the season is so limited on what can be done."

The team eagerly awaits for Pouchan's FBI clearance to be finished within the next week or two so they can begin stunting. As for both golf teams, only time will tell.