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The Grizzly, April 11, 2024

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Ursinus College Presents

THE GRIZZLY

COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

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Lavender Graduation: Recognizing LGBTQ+ Seniors

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Photo: Ursinus College GSA

This year, Ursinus College has partnered with the Gender and Sexuality Alliance as well as the The Institute for Inclusion and Equality to present the first ever Ursinus Lavender Graduation, a ceremony created to honor members of the queer community as well as their achievements and contributions to the college throughout their time on campus. The tradition of Lavender Graduation was initiated by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish lesbian who,

after being denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children due to her sexual orientation, began designing the ceremony in 1995. From there, the first Lavender Graduation would be held at the University of Michigan with direct support from their Dean of Students. There were only three students in attendance at the ceremony, but the number skyrocketed by 2001 as Lavender Graduations gained traction within college communities.

- The Jay Sims Story
- COSA for the Arts
- Bear Innovation Winners
- Senior Honors Projects

Over 45 ceremonies were officially implemented at different universities and colleges nationwide!

Many students are asking what Lavender Graduation entails. For decades, campuses have celebrated both academic achievements as well as the cultural heritage of students at events leading up to Commencement. Lavender is used as a symbol due to its importance in LGBTQ+ history as a symbol of hope, strength, and perseverance within the community. Events like these are often student-led and meant to provide a sense of community to marginalized students in a meaningful and personal way, while also giving them a proper sendoff.

This ceremony aims to acknowledge and celebrate LGBTQ+ students of all races and ethnicities while acknowledging their achievements throughout their college careers, big and small. Danielle Santana Denrich '24, current president of GSA, has been working tirelessly over her time at Ursinus College with the IIE to make Lavender Graduation happen at Ursinus and, when asked for comments on how the process was going, stated that she was very excited to finally be able to bring such an important event to the campus that properly appreciates and acknowledges our LGBTQ+ peers.

Lavender Graduation will be held on Monday, April 29th at 5pm in the (continued on page 2)

Lavender Graduation: Recognizing LGBTQ+ Seniors (Cont'd.)

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Schellhase Commons room 105. All members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies are invited. All that's required is to sign up online for the event by April 19th. The event will also include the appearance of a few alumni as guest speakers for the event, such as Robin Gow '18 (they/he/fae/it), a trans poet and author as well as a local advocate and educator who, during their time at Ursinus, was a previous president of GSA. There will also be many other alumni in attendance for students to connect with after the ceremony.



QR code for sign-up
Photo: Ursinus College GSA

Check Out These Senior Honors Projects!

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Later this month, Ursinus will host their annual COSA presentation, where students will be able to present the many projects they've been working on throughout the school year. Two of the students presenting are Shay Henes '24 and Corrine Hoffman '24, each of whom are presenting their Honors Research projects as a part of the Politics Department. What follows are the titles of these two projects along with some comments that Henes and Hoffman provided about them.

Who Wins Post-conflict?: Political Party Transformation in Northern Ireland During the Brexit Era by Shay Henes: My project revolves around the

recent rise of Sinn Féin, an Northern Irish nationalist party that has won a majority in the Northern Irish assembly. This development is interesting given the state of politics in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin is open about their support for unification between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the party has had historic ties with the Irish Republican Army.

This matters because the Northern Irish assembly has been historically dominated by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), an openly conservative, British loyalist party that opposes Irish nationalism. Based on these developments, I posed the question, why is

the electorate favoring Sinn Féin after decades of DUP support?

To answer this question, I am first using data from the World Values Survey to identify what matters to the Northern Irish electorate. Then, I'm doing a data text mining of Sinn Féin and the Democratic Unionist Party manifestos to identify what the parties value and compare that to what the electorate wants. I will support these findings via other data collected from newspapers, secondary literature, and statements from the leaders of each party.

(continued on page 3)

Check Out These Senior Honors Projects (Cont'd.)

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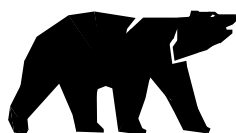
Generation Z Canceled the United States Government: How Does this Impact Trust? by Corrine Hoffman: In my research, I plan to find the causation and correlation in the varying levels of trust of Generation Z in the United States government, which encompasses the years of citizens born between 1997 and 2013 in the United States. I have amassed research regarding micro and macro factors as background on this topic. I decided to focus on macro factors as they have a greater influence on this generation. I am interested in this topic as someone who was born in 2001. Generation Z was born into a world of turmoil and continues to be exposed to war, pandemics, and other unprecedented events in history. This

topic is important to political science because this data is still emerging in the field. It is important to notice and engage with voter data as it contributes to who should run and what we need to improve on as a society. The current information has a significant gap in data as part of this generation has yet to vote yet. Worldwide events such as the COVID 19- pandemic and "Me Too" movement, as well as more centralized events such as the Black Lives Matter movement have significant impact on how one votes. With such critical issues constantly occurring it is important to recognize that gender, race, and economic status cannot be divorced from one's voting alliance. My research question focuses on how certain variables

impact Generation Z's ability to trust the American government and how this reflects different identities. I plan to use various forms of literature and data to base my study around. I will specifically focus on articles surrounding topics of race, gender, economic status as three other variables of Generation Z and how these spheres impact their trust in government, as well as using American National Election Survey data. My key message is to provide evidence to the people of my generation that our voices and our votes do matter.



New Marzella's Special: \$1.50 slices from 8pm to 9pm.



The Arts at COSA

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The Celebration of Student Achievement gathers students from across campus to present their work and discuss it alongside other students. This year it will be held on April 24. For a sneak peak, here are some quotes from students in theater, creative writing, and art.

In the evening, the theater capstone will perform a student-produced and written play in the style of the 1930s' living newspapers - acted narratives making news accessible. This living newspaper will cover the theme of AI and its history, uses, and harms. Ben Little '24, Evan Chartock '25, Annie Zulick '25, and Sophie Wahl Taylor '25 discussed producing the production.

Chartock said that the class is meant to be a collaborative research project and they decided to discuss AI due to a mixture of it "being the most fun to do as well as interesting for the audience." Chartock plays the Voice of the Living Newspaper and explained that this was a signature of the living newspaper genre.

Zulick, who wrote the fake news and deepfake scene, designed various sections, and played a variety of roles including Ada Lovelace. She described the play as "segmented" which allowed the play to cover various aspects of AI. "That's why we have in ours the Voice of the Living Newspaper, the Human, and the AI as three consistent elements." Zulick also added that her scene took inspiration from the MCS Fake News and Propaganda class last semester with Dr. Nadler.

Wahl Taylor also highlighted how some scenarios may seem far-fetched in the show but are already happening in real life, like how AI finished a Keith Haring painting. It was purposefully left unfinished as a tribute to all the artists who died of AIDs, and preceded his own death due to AIDs by a year.

Chartock and Wahl Taylor both said their favorite part of the production included the deep fake scene - Chartock, who is on the pre-law track, because it focuses on the technical and legal

aspects of AI, and Wahl Taylor because she "get[s] to play this really creepy computer nerd." She added "it's hard because getting the specific creep factor is so far out of my wheelhouse, but it's fun because I'm basically moving the scene around." Beyond the deepfake lead, Wahl Taylor also worked in marketing and script editing.

As a senior, Little says it can be "pretty nerve-wracking [wrapping up the] loose ends." Post-graduation, he plans to use his skills to work in theater backstage until summer 2025 when he hopes to begin the JET program - teaching English in Japan for a few years. Little was the sound designer along with various ensemble parts.

The creative writing capstone will present a reading of their semester-long projects at COSA. Alexis Wood '24 and Gianna McCarthy '25 are both presenting snippets of their work, a graphic novel and poetry.

Wood, a Studio Art major and Creative Writing and German minor, found herself combining her love of art and writing in her capstone piece. "It is a story told from the perspective of an artist such as myself, and about the experience of being an artist in the professional world, and how it affects the relationships with those around them."

McCarthy is an English major with a teaching certificate and quadruple minor in Spanish, Creative Writing, Educational Studies, and MCS. She has worked on a variety of short prose and poetry pieces this semester, and plans to present her poetry at COSA. She emphasized her creative work within editorial positions in the Lantern but said she has never submitted anything herself. She is "so excited for next year's Lantern!"

On the visual art and art history side, Mairead McDermott '24 and Wood highlighted their work at the Annual Student Exhibition (A.S.E.).

McDermott is an Art History and Anthropology double major, minoring in Museum Studies and Chinese. She has three pieces in the A.S.E. using oil, charcoal, and collage - two self-portraits

and one of Story Coleman '24. "A lot of my art is about reflections of myself and being happy with myself," she said. McDermott just presented art history work on a granary at the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Art History Symposium and will present this at COSA and the Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference as well. Post-graduation, she plans to enroll in a master's program studying Chinese Art and Architecture and continuing her Mandarin studies as well.

When discussing her studio art, Wood said "I love getting to have my own art studio to work on my projects, and I am glad that I was able to keep working on my two interests of art and writing over the years," although she recognized that it is a "super stressful time of the year." In her pieces, she uses primarily oil and acrylic paints. Between her graphic novel and paintings, she said "I believe [it] is the perfect culmination to my career at Ursinus."

Be sure to check out and support the arts at COSA! A.S.E. and the Living Newspaper production both open at 5pm, and the creative writing panel will be released in the daytime COSA schedule.



Photo Credit: Mairead McDermott



Bear Innovation Contest

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Julia Dees - First Place Winner

Class: 2026

Major: Neuroscience

Business: Safe Haven Doula Support

Safe Haven aims to provide educational, emotional, and physical support to birthing people throughout pregnancy and during birth in order to facilitate empowerment and self-advocacy, improve birth satisfaction and help achieve the best birth outcome as defined by clients. Safe Haven will work to reach communities usually unable to access doula care in order to bring the benefits of working with a doula to as many people as possible and reduce the negative impact of our biased healthcare system.

I Joined the Contest Because... I wanted a chance to get guidance and support developing my long-term business plan and was hoping that any prize money would help fund postpartum doula training courses over this summer and help with birth doula certification.

Fun Fact: I was a competitive climber during high school.



Photo Credit: Julia Dees

Laura Bradley - Ready, Set, Go! Winner

Class: 2025

Major: Business Economics

Business: LB Studios

Based in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, LB Studios (lbstudios.net) is a sports media agency that brings an innovative and modern approach to sports content creation and digital marketing. LB Studios offers photography, videography, digital editing, and marketing services.

I Joined the Contest... to test the viability of my business idea, LB Studios, and to get valuable feedback from judges who are experienced in entrepreneurship and business development. This feedback helped me iterate on my idea, develop a stronger business model, and improve my presentation skills. The competitive nature of this competition also provided motivation and accountability to push my idea further and to use the prize money won by investing it back into my company.

Fun fact: My clients and collaborations range from high school sports teams, DI-DIII programs, and even FloWrestling and New Balance!

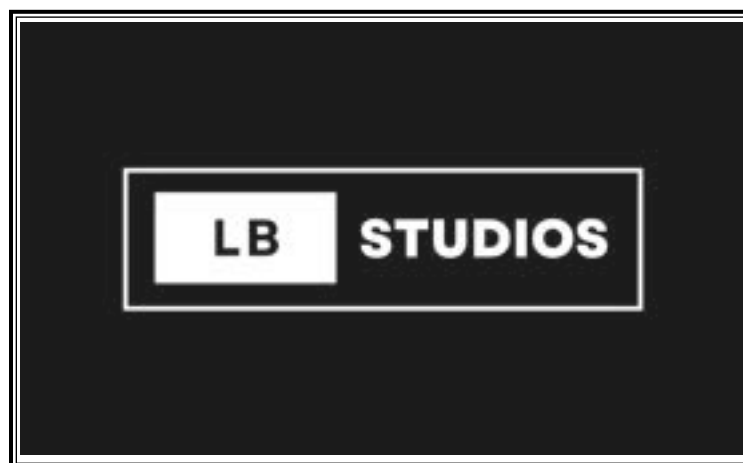


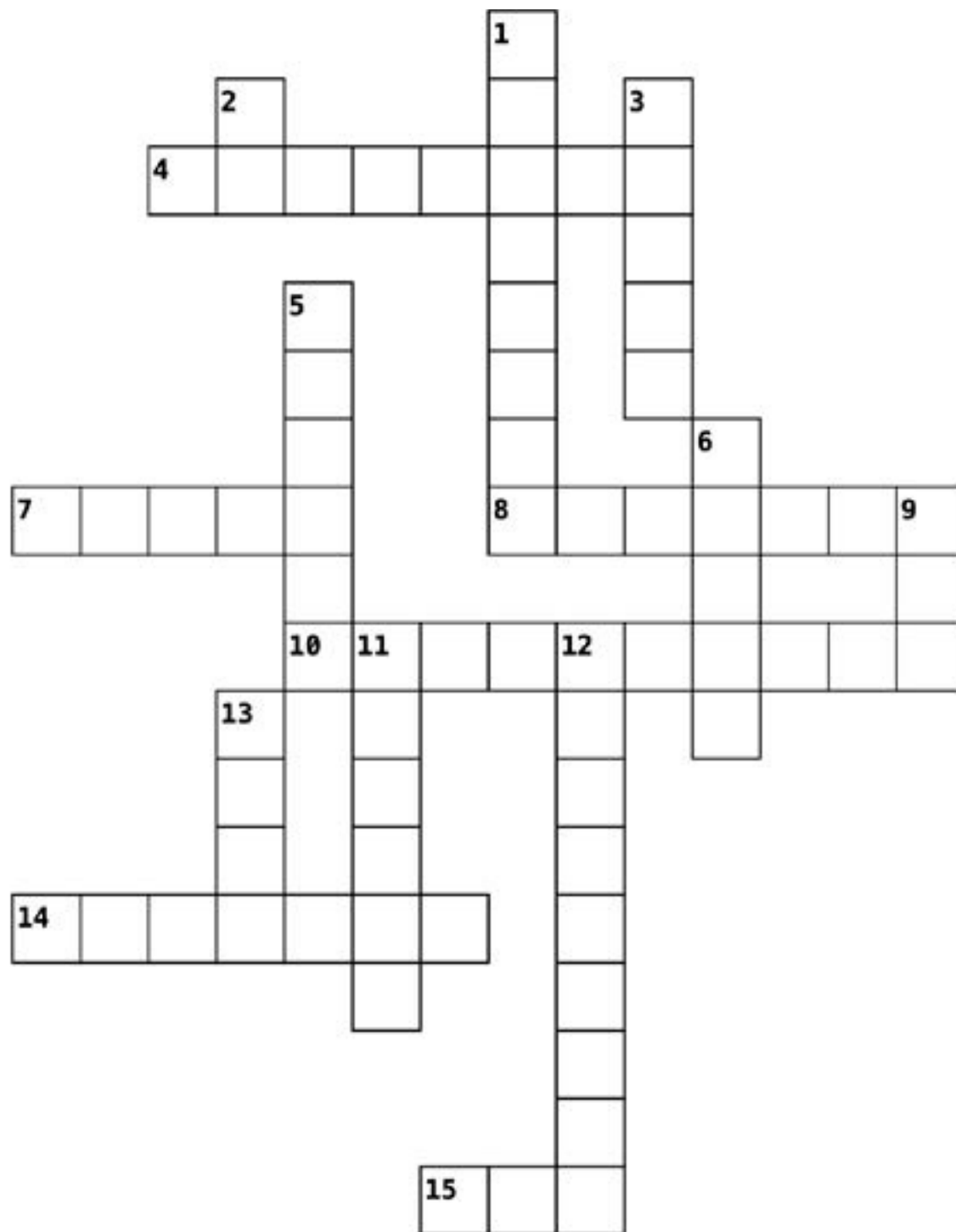
Photo Credit: Laura Bradley



Crossword: Solar Eclipse Edition!

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Across

4. the name for 100% eclipse coverage
7. if you buy these eclipse glasses ____ and look at the solar eclipse, you may incur eye damage
8. a Pisan astronomer and mathematician punished for heliocentric beliefs
10. the new restaurant that opened up on the moon has fantastic food but no ____
14. the hypothetical planet beyond Neptune that may be the mass of six Earths
15. is Pluto a planet? (emotionally)

Down

1. the moon is slowly ____ away from the Earth and slowing down its rotation
2. is Pluto a planet? (scientifically)
3. a lunar crater featured in the last issue of the Grizzly
5. state which will see a total solar eclipse in 2033
6. number of planets in the solar system
9. the moon is about _% the mass of the Earth
11. the number of years until the next total solar eclipse in mainland US

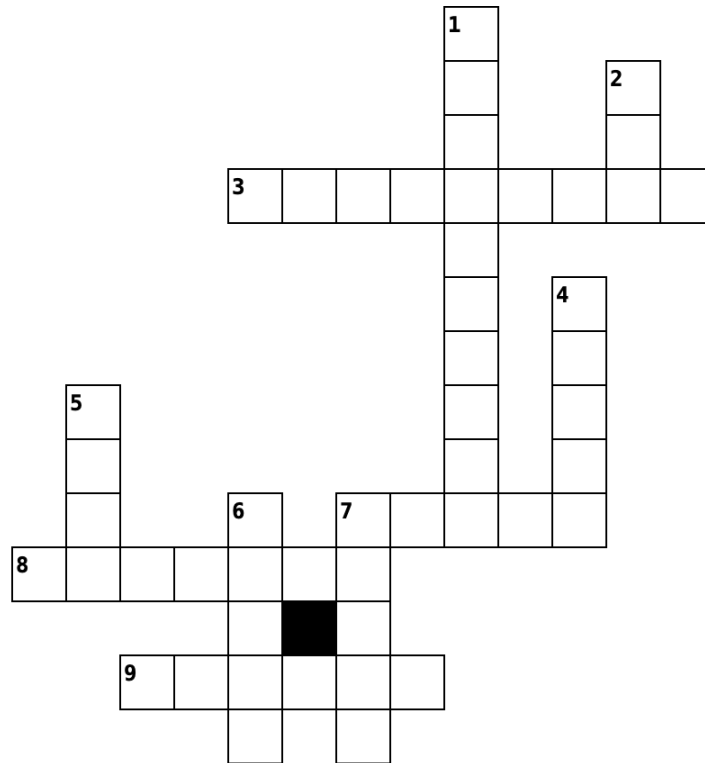
12. currency used in space (Joke Courtesy of Margie Connor)
13. some ancient people would interpret eclipses as an ____

Find the Answers on the Grizzly Website!



UC Softball Crossword

Maddie Wilson and The Ursinus Softball Team
 mawilson2@ursinus.edu



Across

3. Senior day is against...
7. Team animal of the season.
8. The "_____ tour" the team is trying to accomplish.
9. Last name of the girl who broke the conference single season steals record.

Down

1. What state is the farthest Bear from?
2. How many coaches are also alumni?
4. The amount of Maddie's on the team.
5. The amount of seniors on the team.
6. Name of the softball field.
7. How many in-state girls are there on the team?



Walking on, Standing out: The Jay Sims Story

Vaughn DiBattista

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On February 25th, 2024, sophomore high-jumper Jay Sims III jumped a personal best 1.92 meters to take the gold medal at the Centennial Conference Indoor Championship. As just a sophomore, Sims has already achieved a feat that many athletes in the Centennial Conference spend years chasing, and his future in the Centennial looks to be even more promising. With the recent success of the Ursinus track program, many would believe Sims to have been a highly touted recruit coming out of high school, however, quite the opposite seems to be true.

"I actually have no experience with track and field" Sims expressed, "I haven't done it a day in my life till I got to Ursinus, not in elementary, middle, or high school." The 2024 Centennial Conference high jump champion has left spectators stunned at his story, as the sophomore didn't get his start in Track and Field until last spring. How did Sims go from a non-athlete at Ursinus, to a Centennial Conference Gold Medalist? Reporters from the Grizzly got a chance to talk with



Photo Credit: Ursinus Athletics

Sims to learn, and his story is nothing short of amazing.

Having graduated from the Edmund Burke School in Washington, D.C, Sims came to Ursinus as a freshman in the fall of 2022 with hopes of walking onto the basketball team. He had trained all summer to prepare for the rigor of the basketball season, and came to school ready and waiting to try-out. However, communications between Sims and the basketball team broke down as he was not given an opportunity to try-out. "Playing college basketball was a dream of mine," Sims told us, "I was pretty hurt my freshman year." Sims found himself in a predicament, as he was forced to adapt to a life without competitive sports.

However, one day before an indoor track practice, Sims was playing basketball by himself in the Floy Lewis Bakes field house when a coach from the Track and Field team saw him dunk the ball. The coach was intrigued at his athletic ability, and spoke with Jay about possibly walking onto the team. Then and there, an impromptu race broke out between Jay and a few of his friends on the team. Jay held his own, and after a phone call in the winter of 2022, Jay got his start on the Ursinus College Track and Field team. That spring, Sims got his start to a collegiate sport with zero experience. He relied solely on putting in extra work to catch up to his peers, as they had the experiential advantage on him. "Having no experience of track and field, I had to work hard, that means out of practice on my own watching videos and doing the extra to be the best athlete I can be."

For those who are unfamiliar with the world of college sports, bringing

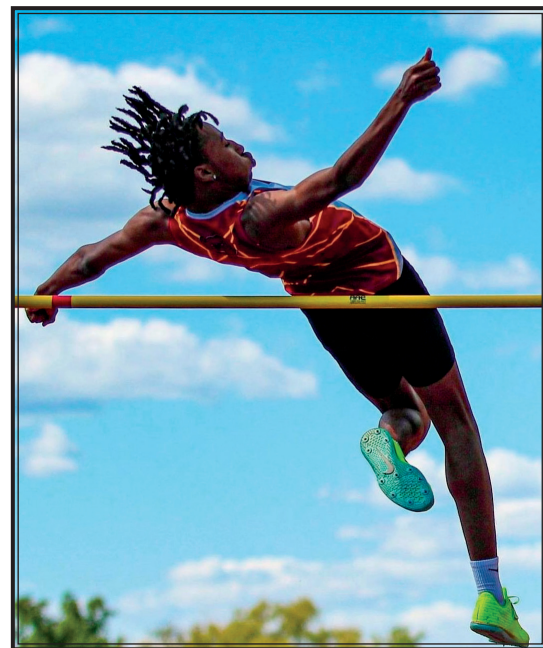


Photo Credit: Charlotte Dilello

on a walk-on who had never played the sport before is a big risk to a coach, as there are many cases in which it hasn't worked out. Sims even stated his skepticism about joining the team, as he didn't even know what event he would succeed at. However, both Sims and the Track coaches took a gamble on his athletic ability, and it has only paid off.

In just his first season high jumping, Sims took 3rd in the 2023 Centennial Outdoor Championship, solidifying himself as a presence in the Centennial high jump standings. He continued putting in those extra minutes, eventually being crowned the 2024 Centennial Indoor High Jump Champion as only a sophomore. Now, with two more years of eligibility, Sims has expressed his desire to compete nationally. With his work-ethic, and his passion for the sport, the sky is the standard for Jay Sims. "All I gotta say is, you can do whatever you want if you just put your mind to it. If you push yourself, who knows what you can do?"