

The Advance-Titan

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We're back

But will we stay for long?

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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Some UW Oshkosh students have responded optimistically to an email announcement on July 9 from University Police Chief and Recovery Task Force spokesman Kurt Leibold that provided more details on in-person classes returning in fall.

"About 2,000 faculty, staff and students across our three campuses have been working hard over the past three weeks to implement our Titans Return Fall 2020 plan," Leibold said in the email. "Their efforts are split among 30 teams, each tasked with developing the protocols to bring our staff and students safely back to our campuses this fall."

It was said in the email that about 70% of all classes will be held in-person, and nearly 100% of them have the option to be online if students wanted to do so. Changes in course delivery will be reflected on one's Titan-Web.

Face coverings will be required in all buildings and classroom sizes will be reduced to about 50% capacity to enforce social distancing.

Additionally, Webster Hall was decided to be the designated location for students to live in isolation at UWO if they contract COVID-19 during the se-

mester.

Anna Liedtke, a senior biology major from Wausau, did well last semester despite classes moving online.

"It was my best semester yet, which was exciting," Liedtke said.

Even though she got good grades, there was something that she said was missing.

"For me personally, it's more meaningful to be face-to-face," Liedtke added. "I guess it was just easier for me to pick up on it online."

However, Alex Bullock, a junior math major from Oshkosh, struggled to complete the semester online due to his attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"I just could not concentrate and focus on actually doing the online classes," Bullock said.

However, he put some of his concern with his professors as well, saying that although everybody moved online in spring, his math professors still might not be experienced enough to continue remote teaching in fall.

"It's where the difficulty lies and how the professors are going to be [teaching]," Bullock said. "They weren't really taught how to do online courses, whereas other professors may have actually had experience teaching online courses and had no problem with it."

Like Liedtke, Bullock also

prefers face-to-face instruction. But he said that professors may also be missing out on key interactions with their students.

"They don't get that face-to-face connection [online]," Bullock said. "They don't get that understanding of what someone's certain problems are unless they're doing a Collaborate Ultra-type-thing."

Ramona Nelson, a junior nursing major and international student from Jamaica, said that the spring semester was difficult for her.

"It was a lot and it was mentally draining, trying to stay on top of everything with such a sudden shift," Nelson said. "I've never had online classes before."

Nelson added that she prefers in-person instruction, and that half of her four fall courses are.

"I prefer in person classes because when I do that, I'm mandated to go to classes, which means that I have to get work done," she said. "With online classes, you have to be better at managing your own time, and that gives a lot of leeway for procrastination and slacking off."

All of Liedtke's courses will be in person, whereas three of Bullock's four classes were moved to being 100% online.

Despite most of his classes being moved to remote learning, Bullock said he is still weary of

his peers following the new Titans Return guidelines.

"I think that people aren't going to really take it seriously," he said. "That's going to wind up getting the school shut down again."

Nelson compared COVID to the Norovirus, which spread around campus in early 2018.

"That was through feces — so imagine how much easier it's going to be for COVID to spread on campus," she said.

Liedtke wanted to remind her peers to remain cautious when coming back to campus, as she thinks others are just as excited about returning.

"Please be respectful and kind to the people around you and understand that this is for everyone and not necessarily just for just a single individual or you," she said. "I'm excited to get back into the groove of being on campus again; I really like the lifestyle and doing classes in person."

And Nelson stressed that her peers should be courteous and mindful of those around them.

"Everyone knows there's a pandemic going on, so you have to try to keep yourself, your friends and others around you safe, because once it starts spreading, then everyone's going to feel the blunt of the consequences."

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About the Newspaper
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The Advance-Titan is committed to correcting errors of fact that appear in print or online. Messages regarding errors can be emailed to atitan@uwosh.edu.

Latest Awards
First Place Best of Show Newspaper, Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), 2020
Third Place Best of Show Website, ACP, 2020
Fifth Place Best of Show Special Edition, ACP, 2020
First Place Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation (WNAF) Better Newspaper Contest, 2020, in column writing, sports photography, page design and newspaper promotion
Second Place WNAF Better Newspaper Contest, 2020, in public affairs reporting, editorial writing, column writing, infographic, page design, website and advertisement creation.

Former basketball standout charged in theft

By Joseph Schulz
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Duax was charged with two counts of theft for stealing and reselling merchandise from the university bookstore.

In May and December 2019, Duax allegedly stole books from University Books & More and sold them back during textbook buyback for \$2,053.75, according to the March 18 criminal complaint.

If convicted, Duax, 21, could face nine months in prison and fines up to \$10,000 for each misdemeanor count.

However, on May 18, Duax and Winnebago County signed a Deferred Adjudication Agreement that will avoid taking the case to trial. Under the agreement, Duax must plead no contest or guilty to both counts of theft.

Additionally, for nine months, he must not engage in criminal conduct, pay a total of \$8,876.53 in restitution fees, provide proof of full-time employment each month, write a letter of apology and have no contact with UWO or the university bookstore.

The charges will be dismissed if Duax complies with the conditions of the agreement, but if he fails to do so, the agreement will be terminated and he will be brought before the court for sentencing. UW Oshkosh has declined to comment.

By Kaitlyn Scoville and Heidi Docter
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Pesta's classroom management after a student complaint for discriminatory harassment against him was filed April 28, 2019 and later rescinded.

The Advance-Titan obtained the complaint through an open records request after the UW System's Annual Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression 2019 Report referenced a harassment complaint filed by a student against a UWO faculty member. The report did not directly name Pesta, referring to him only as a "faculty member."

According to the document, Pesta and UWO administration "continue to discuss the matter, as issues of classroom conduct, discipline, freedom of expression and academic freedom."

"No formal review and proceedings are ongoing," the report said. "However, communications between UWO and the faculty member's representation continue."

The complaint in question arose after an open forum on March 18,

One year after being crowned a national champion, former UW Oshkosh men's basketball forward Connor Duax



Lydia Sanchez / Advance-Titan

Former UW Oshkosh basketball standout Connor Duax and Winnebago County signed a Deferred Adjudication Agreement that will avoid taking the case to trial.

nated and he will be brought before the court for sentencing. UW Oshkosh has declined to comment.

Duax was a key player down the stretch during UWO's championship run, averaging 15.5 points per game over the final six games — including the March 16, 2019 national title game against Swarthmore College.

He was dismissed from the basketball team after starting eight games in the beginning of the year, and according to UWO Director of Marketing and Communications Peggy Breister, he is no longer enrolled at UWO.

rolled at UWO.

Court documents state that UWO Police Detective Mike Bartlein was informed Dec. 19 of "suspicious activity at the end-of-semester book buyback event" by UB&M Director Kathleen Kaltenbach, who said Duax had sold multiple copies of the same book and books from classes he wasn't enrolled in.

Duax allegedly sold 23 books for \$799, four being duplicates and most for classes he wasn't in, including an interim class that hadn't been offered yet. In addition, the bookstore found Duax only purchased one book during the fall semester.

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Bartlein also received documents from the May 2019 textbook buyback, which showed Duax had sold 26 books for \$1,254, which also did not match any of his classes.

An audit of those books corresponded with an inventory shortage at the bookstore. Records from Duax's 2018 textbook buyback transactions "raised similar concerns," the complaint states.

Complaint alleges harassment by English prof.

By Kaitlyn Scoville and Heidi Docter
atitan@uwosh.edu



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The complaint in question arose after an open forum on March 18,

2019 to address bigotry, hate, homophobia and racism on campus following a post during the Oshkosh Student Association election that said, "UWO Vote for these guys today unless you want a lesbian or a hmong to win."

The complainant alleged that Pesta retaliated after the student spoke up about the professor-student dynamic in his classroom, without naming him, at the open forum.

The student, who had been in his class in 2018, reported a few weeks after the open forum that Pesta continuously diverted class time to discussing her comments at the event.

The student discovered these comments through texts from a friend who was in the spring 2019 class.

While the complaint says Pesta did not directly name the student, she alleges that he provided his class with enough information to identify her.

"I see him bringing up my name throughout several class periods ... and threatening legal action against students who make statements, to fit in that definition as 'adverse action,'" the student said in her complaint. "... In class Dr. Pesta made students put their phones on the desks where he could see them, saying that he knew people were texting me."

The student claimed that Pesta made discriminatory remarks against the LGBTQ+ community when the student was in Pesta's

class in 2018.

He allegedly said that transgenderism goes against the body's natural biology, marriage is a bond between a male and female, and transgender women in female bathrooms is harassment against "real women."

Pesta responded to the three-page complaint with a 37-page rebuttal, including character statements from eight students.

His response included UW System history on freedom of speech, analyses of the student's claims, First Amendment legal analysis of the complaint, two statements from professors in the English department and eight letters from former students, vouching for his inclusive classroom and open discussions.

Pesta denied any retaliation or discriminatory harassment against the student or against the LGBTQ+ community and claims that the complainant is trying to limit his freedom of speech.

He claimed the complaint's foundations of discrimination were taken out of context of the Shakespeare class' discussions of stories such as "Othello," "Measure for Measure," "Macbeth" and "Hamlet," published in the 1600s.

"The vast majority of her allegations are merely lists of groups she accuses me of hating, without offering a shred of evidence, context or even a single direct statement that I might have made," Pesta stated in his rebuttal.

"How is it legally possible to characterize my public response to [the student's] very public distortion of my teaching, her brazen maligning of my character, and her unqualified labelling of me as a bigot, homophobe, transphobe and an enabler of Islamophobia, as a form of retaliation?"

The student rescinded the complaint on May 31 because she was unable to hire legal representation after Pesta allegedly threatened the student with legal action.

"I am forced to rescind for my own well-being," the complainant wrote. "I am rescinding my complaint not because I feel that he is innocent of these things, but because he is now threatening me with a lawsuit. ... At this time, it is more important for me to put my education and my jobs ahead of trying to do what is right."

Koker's response to Pesta's rebuttal came on June 11, 2019, voicing his concerns about Pesta's classroom management.

"By your own account, you spent much class time talking about issues related to the public forum that were unrelated to the stated curriculum on your class syllabus," Koker stated in the document.

"Such excursions should be brief," Koker concluded. "To spend class periods on your personal reaction to a public event and a single student's brief contribution to a public discussion may not meet student success goals."

Leavitt renames Fredric March Theatre

Chancellor Andrew Leavitt announced August 18 he has decided to remove the name of Fredric March from the Oshkosh campus theater and rename the space the Theatre Arts Center.

In an email sent out to faculty, staff and students, Leavitt said he has the authority to do so as chancellor.

He wrote: “This is one more action we take to better reflect UWO’s commitment to making the institution a more just, inclusive and equitable place where everyone is unhindered in their experiences and journeys.”

The then Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh decided in the 1970s to name the newly constructed theater after the actor who was born Ernest Frederick McIntyre Bickel in southeastern Wisconsin. A graduate of UW-Madison, Bickel took the stage name Fredric March and earned international acclaim as an Academy Award winning film actor.

But two years ago, UW-Madison students, faculty, staff and other social justice advocates called upon their university to remove March’s name, and that of UW-Madison alumnus Porter Butts, from a small theater and another space within UW-Madison’s Memorial Union, after it was discovered that the two belonged to a UW-Madison interfraternity society known as the “Ku Klux Klan” while they were students in the 1920s. Ultimately, Memorial Union leaders opted to remove both names, which Chancellor Rebecca Blank later wrote about.

“As UW-Madison investigated the matter, I also received a demand



from UWO students and advocates to remove March’s name from the Oshkosh Campus theater,” Leavitt said. In 2019, UWO gathered information, hosted forums, listened to and surveyed students and more as it considered its next step.

“There is no evidence to show that the UW-Madison group March belonged to was linked to the national movement of the Ku Klux Klan in its time,” Leavitt said. “Furthermore, biographers and some media accounts have documented a streak of social justice later in March’s life. Leveraging his celebrity and talents, he spoke out against the U.S. House of Representatives Un-American Activ-

ities Committee, which targeted Hollywood actors among other people, and allied with civil rights champions such as the NAACP.”

Yet, he acknowledged, there remains the troubling fact of March’s college interfraternal affiliation. The UW-Madison task force concluded that the founders of the group March belonged to named their society to signal “an identification—or, at the very least, no meaningful discomfort—with the widely known violent actions of the Reconstruction-era Klan as it was remembered, celebrated and given new cultural and institutional life in the early twentieth century.”

“After the UW-Madison revelation, and before this turbulent 2020s arrival, I heard shock and pain from UWO community members and stakeholders urging the administration to remove March’s name from the Oshkosh campus theater,” Leavitt wrote. “I have since heard from additional students of color, colleagues, alumni and other advocates supporting that change. I have spent a lot of time thinking about their perspectives, experiences and call to action as I have considered Fredric March’s history, my own privilege and the unrest and anguish many people are living through right now. As this year alone has

reminded us, systemic racism continues to shatter our communities, country and world, exacting a particularly devastating toll on people of color.

“I no longer possess—and this institution should reject—the privilege of nuancing explanations as to how a person even tangentially affiliated with an organization founded on hate has his name honorifically posted on a public building,” Leavitt said. “Letting the Oshkosh campus theater’s name stand would also permanently overshadow and discount the educational and artistic virtuosity we work so hard to nurture within and beyond its walls.”

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UWO senior makes nearly 2,000 masks

By Kaitlyn Scoville
scovik21@uwosh.edu

One UW Oshkosh student and her mother have worked since classes went online to make 1,942 masks for their community and other students.

Amanda Hollander, a senior graphic design major from Brandon, Wisconsin, has worked tirelessly to provide elastic and fleece masks for her community and peers. She had hip surgery on June 22, is out of work and said she has the time to keep making more.

Facebook is her preferred contact method, and the original post reaching out to UWO students has 52 shares.

“I want to be able to help people and not have to charge a lot,” Amanda said. “We care about safety more than profit.”

Fleece ear pieces are \$1 and \$2 for elastic.

After dedicated recovery time, she began aiming to sew 50-60 masks every day beginning July 6, and plans to continue until she is fully mobile again.

Every material they use for two of their three-layered masks are either cotton or cotton blend. The filter in the middle is non-woven material.

Amanda and her mom, BeLinda, have relied on buying sheets and curtains to make many of the masks, but they are also accept-



Kaitlyn Scoville / Advance-Titan

LEFT: Amanda Hollander shows off just some of the masks she and her mother have made. RIGHT: Amanda Hollander has made masks in a variety of patterns such as florals, polka dots, footballs, tie dye and camouflage.

ing donations such as T-shirts and other fabrics. Altogether, they have spent around \$200 on materials.

Fleece ear pieces were used in the beginning of the pandemic because there was an elastic shortage, Amanda explained.

Masks can be customized to the availability of patterns, colors and materials Amanda and her mother have, Amanda said. They have several colors and patterns, and the masks are re-

versible.

Some of the patterns include florals, polka dots, footballs, tie dye and camouflage.

To reduce the risk of shrinking, Amanda suggests washing the masks in cold water and air-drying them.

The project began when the mother-daughter duo decided to make some masks for Amanda’s brother, Josh. Eventually, word got around and soon after, her mom’s coworkers started

asking for masks and so did Amanda’s friends.

Amanda has aimed to reach the student population at UWO because she knows how expensive store-bought masks can be, and how little cash students may have.

“Mom and I aren’t trying to get rich, and we’re not saying that other people who are making masks are trying to either,” Amanda said. “We don’t mean it to come off as like we’re under-

cutting other sellers.”

Amanda lives close to campus, so students who are moving in won’t have to pay for shipping.

She also added that the masks aren’t exclusively for UWO students. Anybody who is looking for some can reach out to her.

“People are scared and they still have to work,” Amanda said. “They still have to make money to bring food home and whatnot. We just wanted to make sure that they were capable of getting it.”

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Alpha Xi Delta

National Founding
April, 17 1893

UWO Founding
December 11, 1965

Philanthropic Partner
Autism Speaks

ZTA

Zeta Tau Alpha

National Founding
October 15, 1898

UWO Founding
November 22, 1997

Philanthropic Partner
Breast Cancer Education & Awareness

ΓΦΒ

Gamma Phi Beta

National Founding
November 11, 1874

UWO Founding
May 14, 1966

Philanthropic Partner
Building Strong Girls

ΣΣΣ

Sigma Sigma Sigma

National Founding
April 20. 1898

UWO Founding
April 11, 1987

Philanthropic Partner
March of Dimes

ΒΘΠ

Beta Theta Pi

National Founding
August 8, 1839

UWO Founding
December 4, 1991

Philanthropic Partner
Christine Ann
Domestic Abuse Services Inc.

ΔΣΦ

Delta Sigma Phi

National Founding
December 10, 1899

UWO Founding
May 5, 1965

Philanthropic Partner
American Red Cross

ΦΓΔ

Phi Gamma Delta

National Founding
May 1, 1848

UWO Founding
Fall 2019

Philanthropic Partner
USO & Donate Life America

ΔΧ

Delta Chi

National Founding
October 13, 1890

UWO Founding
November 13, 1969

Philanthropic Partner
The V Foundation
for Cancer Research

ΣΠ

Sigma Pi

National Founding
February 16, 1897

UWO Founding
April 27, 1966

Philanthropic Partner
Amazing Day Foundation

ΩΔΦ

Omega Delta Phi

National Founding
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Black lives matter

By Carter Uslabar
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The summer months of 2020 were marked by protests after outrage over multiple instances of excessive and violent force by police around the country, sparked by the highly publicized murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer.

The Fox Cities area saw several days of protest, with a large protest in Appleton on May 31 and numerous protests on Main Street in Oshkosh.

While protests in the Fox Cities remained peaceful, protests elsewhere in the nation have led to riots and an escalation of conflict between law enforcement and activists.

The protests seek to highlight the systemic racism that penetrates daily life for millions of American citizens, and inspire meaningful change from leadership throughout the country.

Protests have taken the form of marches and walkouts, with several NBA teams refusing to take the court in a move of solidarity with protesters and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Conflicting, and sometimes conspiratorial narratives surrounding the protests, their merits, and their underriding ideologies have furthered racial divisions in America as tensions rise in anticipation of November’s presidential election.

Conflicts continue to ebb and flow throughout the nation. Protests in Portland, Wash., lead to federal troops being activated in an attempt to quell the protests. Recently, Kyle Rittenhouse, 17, of Illinois, killed two people protesting the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Blake was shot in the back seven times by police in Kenosha, Wis.

People march in a May 31 protest in Appleton organized by Cassandra Ross (top right).



Dare I say we’re a dairy state?

By Amber Brockman
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Wisconsin is widely known as the Dairy State, but that wasn’t always the case.

Dairy farming has been a valuable Wisconsin industry since the late 1800s, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society. But the first generations of farmers considered wheat their main crop.

Dairy farming didn’t take root in Wisconsin until after the state’s wheat industry was threatened by soil exhaustion, insect infestation and competition from other states.

Considering these challenges associated with growing wheat, farmers began experimenting with different crops and found that feed crops, such as corn, oats and hay, were more suitable for Wisconsin’s climate and soil.

UW Oshkosh history lecturer Thomas Rowland said around Wisconsin’s period of statehood from 1848 to the 1880s, attempts were made to distribute dairy products, but those efforts were handicapped by certain problems.

“Without refrigeration, the various products became rancid quickly,” Rowland said. “In Chicago and Buffalo they referred to it as ‘Wisconsin Axle Grease,’ as that was all it was good for.”

Without an established demand from creameries and cheese factories in the area, the Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association, established in 1872, led the effort of convincing farmers to switch to dairy, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

Farmers had to substantially alter their practices and adapt to new technologies to accommodate the shift in agriculture.

In the 1880s, the Wisconsin dairy industry began to flourish with the use of ice-loaded railway cars and silage technology.

“Silos could store corn or silage that permitted the massive feeding of herds when the pastures were covered in snot,” Rowland said. “Moreover, this eliminated cows from getting into pasture areas filled with skunk grass, wild garlic and onion fields, which tainted the taste of milk.”

Railway cars could also be loaded with ice blocks harvested from Wisconsin lakes, which allowed for further distribution of dairy products.

The University of Wisconsin was also a major contributor to the success of the state’s dairy industry because of their support through scientific research and development of the Babcock test.

“Stephen Babcock, an agricultural professor at Madison, developed the intricate butterfat milk test,” Rowland said. “It could determine how to distinguish between buttermilk and lesser grades of butter fat in milk.”

This shift in agriculture resulted in a rapid increase of dairy cows, and by 1899 they were being raised on more than 90% of Wisconsin farms, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society website.

By 1915, Wisconsin had become the leading dairy state in the U.S., producing more butter and

cheese than any other state.

Union Star in Fremont, formed in 1911, is one of the first cheese factories in Wisconsin that is still operational today.

Since Wisconsin became the first state to grade its cheese for quality in 1921, this leadership role in quality assurance as well as Union Star’s central location for distribution, helped Wisconsin become the nation’s cheese state.

“In the 1920s and ’30s, [Union Star] was a pretty large factory relative to the rest of the industry,” Union Star owner Dave Metzger said. “In 1950, there were still 25 cheese factories in Winnebago County and then gradually with more automation, better highways and bigger trucks, the industry got consolidated.”

In the 1920s, there were 2,500 cheese factories in Wisconsin; now it’s down to 150, Metzger said.

“We mostly survived over our retail business, and now we are considered more of a microbrewery compared to a large automatic cheese factory,” Metzger said.

Union Star purchases their milk from local farms and workers make the cheese directly in the store.

In the 1980s, Union Star primarily produced cheddar cheese and gradually expanded to the 200 various products they sell today including string cheese, monterey jack, colby and their infamous cheese curds.

Knigge Farms in Omro further revolutionized the dairy industry in Wisconsin and the U.S. by be-

ing the first farm in the nation to install a robotic milking system 20 years ago.

With this technology, cows are able to milk themselves automatically, 24 hours a day, without the presence of a farmer.

“Farmers without our technology will spend three to four hours per day actually milking cows,” Knigge Farms owner Pete Knigge said. “It allows somebody who’s in their mid-70s to continue to help operate and manage the farm.”

The automatic milker also records data of the cows, helping farmers keep track of their health and outputs.

“The computer will mark cows that are out of the norm for her or the herd,” Knigge said. “It tells us if her milk production, milk composition, activity, rumination or other values have changed and should she be checked.”

While the dairy industry is a valuable aspect of Wisconsin agriculture, it faces many challenges with the most recent being market fluctuations.

“The prices we receive and pay go up and down dramatically and it really drives us crazy that when COVID struck, prices dropped 25-30%,” Knigge said. “Some farmers actually had to dump their milk because the processor couldn’t take it.”

One of the challenges Union Star has faced is intense regulations, though they have been able to keep up with the changes.

“There’s always the possibility that a new regulation will put us

out of business, but it hasn’t happened yet,” Metzger said.

Today, Wisconsin is home to more than 7,000 dairy farms and 1.28 million dairy cows, according to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

“Ten years ago there were 11,000, so we’ve lost about 30% of the number of dairy farms in the state, but the number of cows has stayed about the same,” Knigge said.

Despite this decline in dairy farms, the overall value of the Wisconsin dairy industry continues to increase.

“Wisconsin still produces more cheese than any other state in the U.S.,” Knigge said. “California makes a little more milk than we do, but they don’t put all their milk into cheese like we do.”

Dairy production alone contributes \$45.6 billion to Wisconsin’s annual economy, making it the largest agricultural sector in the state.

“Farming is a challenging industry, but it’s a very rewarding industry,” Knigge said. “We get to see the results of our management and labor, whether we grow a good crop or have a nice calf born that grows up to be a productive cow.”

Knigge said he is grateful for Wisconsinites eating so much cheese and dairy products.

“Thanks everyone for putting extra cheese on your pizza and eating as much cheese as you do,” Knigge said. “It helps keep the Wisconsin dairy industry strong.”

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University plans to administer 2,100 coronavirus tests per week

“They’ve gone back to school and we’ve offered a lot of training for faculty to learn how to be a more effective teacher online and

UWO will provide free coro-

"It's very important that the students follow the protocols that we have in place and certainly when they go off campus," he said. "Because the actions taken off campus may impact our ability on campus to remain face-to-face."



Sophia Voight / Advance-Titan
TOP: UWO expects to administer 2,100 coronavirus and antigen tests per week via nasal swabs. **BELOW:** Albee Hall has been converted into an on-campus testing site.

A full-page background image featuring a male conductor in a tuxedo and glasses, holding a baton and gesturing with his left hand. In the foreground on the right, a violinist is partially visible, playing a violin. The setting is a concert hall with warm lighting and a blurred audience in the background.

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Shortage of semi-truck drivers hits Wisconsin

By Patrick Caine
cainep19@uwosh.edu

The transportation of goods and services is crucial to the success of any economy, but one of the most important aspects of the industry is quickly declining.

A 2019 report compiled by the American Trucking Association shows that the number of truck drivers nationwide has dropped each year since they started gathering data in 2005.

Neal Kedzie, president of the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association, said that some of the reasons for the shortage are that the population of drivers is aging and there are fewer drivers who want to complete long-haul deliveries.

“We are a graying industry unfortunately, with the average age being 46, whereas all other jobs nationwide are 42 years of age,” he said. “Our new drivers entering into the field are 35 years old, so these are individuals who have already been through one or two possible careers prior to deciding

on trucking.”

Kedzie said many older drivers left the industry partially because of new technology that was mandated by the federal government, mainly electronic logs.

He added that it’s a challenge to keep drivers in the industry because of additional regulations and high standards set by carriers.

In the study, 88% of trucking companies report having enough applicants, but many are not qualified.

“Another issue we’re dealing with is the quality of the drivers available,” he said. “There are enough people willing to do the job, but they often don’t have a good driving record.”

Kedzie said the legalization of marijuana for recreational use in many states around Wisconsin will be an issue moving forward as well, citing zero tolerance for illegal drugs in Wisconsin.

In addition, the report says that if the numbers remain the same, the industry could be short 160,000 drivers by 2028.



Kedzie says there is great career opportunity in the industry, with currently well over 100,000 positions related to the trucking industry in Wisconsin.

However, a Commercial Drivers Licence, or CDL, is required to drive a semi legally in and out of the state.

“Not everyone is destined to a baccalaureate four-year degree,” he said, adding that students can

get their CDL “relatively inexpensively” through Wisconsin’s technical college system.

“I think these opportunities will be made known to individuals in high school and even start talking about these trades earlier than that,” he said.

Kedzie added that education is crucial to the revival of truck driving.

“The federal government also

wants to have more theory and problem solving taught as part of your CDL requirements because you’re dealing with an industry that’s responsible for nearly 74% of transporting all goods and services here in the country,” he said. “A lot of them are in the businesses that transport chemicals and other toxic materials, and there are huge responsibilities and huge liabilities.”

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Campus landlords violate housing codes

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Discovery Properties Management was found in violation of multiple housing codes for renting uninhabitable spaces to its tenants over a four-year period, according to Oshkosh rental inspection and complaint records.

“When any violations are discovered, proper measures are taken to correct any violations to comply with any previous or current city code,” Discovery Properties Director of Operations Jason Krueger said.

However, an inspection of housing code violations against five property management companies that provide campus housing to UW Oshkosh students revealed multiple violations for renting uninhabitable spaces from Discovery Properties; no similar violations were found from Star Properties, Gold Star Investment Properties, Choice Properties or Titan Properties.

Violations against Discovery ranged from plumbing, electrical and heating issues, to an improper number of safety exits.

Krueger said they strive to ensure all of their residents have a clean and safe place to live by fixing any violations as they come up.

“Regarding issues that are brought to our attention, we would work with the city to resolve these in accordance to the city codes and timelines provided,” he said.

A city rental inspection of one of the company’s properties in February 2017 found multiple minimum housing standard violations on their third-floor unit and the city

told the owners to stop using the space as housing immediately.

The inspection report stated that a third-floor bedroom had no heat source and the floor lacked the proper number of safety exits. The report stated that the entire floor was not habitable and would require the installation of a heat source and a second stairway before it could be utilized again.

The inspection report notes that the violations were corrected, but does not state what was done.

The Oshkosh Housing Code requires all houses and apartments to have adequate heating of all habitable rooms.

Oshkosh’s housing inspector Casey Koelbl said in cases where a tenant’s place is deemed not habitable, it is up to the landlord to work out a solution for the tenant.

“They would have to work out a solution that would either let them out of their lease or provide them with a different property to live at possibly,” Koelbl said.

A rental inspection from December 2016 at another property found that Discovery Properties was wrongfully using a room without windows as a bedroom. Any room used as a bedroom must have windows for proper ventilation and natural light, according to Oshkosh housing standards.

Krueger said Discovery Properties is continuously purchasing rentals from individuals and other companies that sometimes are already occupied and that they were unaware of these violations.

“In some cases, residents also utilize spaces in a different matter than intended,” he said.

The company had a similar vi-



Courtesy of Wikimedia

Discovery Properties Management violates rental housing codes by renting “uninhabitable spaces.”

olation at a different residence in February 2017 where a space in the basement was being used as a bedroom despite not having the proper number of safety exits.

The inspection report stated that the basement was not considered a habitable space because it violated the city’s building code that states basements used for sleeping require at least two exits.

Social work major Olivia Smith, who is working on a tenant advocacy project for UWO students, said she found that many students complained about Discovery Properties through her survey of students’ renting experiences.

“A large theme from our data collection so far is that renters through Discovery Properties have an overall negative experience,” Smith said.

The survey also showed that Discovery Properties’ tenants often experience issues with getting the owners to attend to housing repairs, Smith said.

“Bigger companies such as Discovery don’t have as much incentive to be attentive to their tenants or fix problems with their housing units,” she said.

On the rental inspection database, Discovery Properties has complaints from tenants on issues of unrepaired exterior holes where squirrels were entering, and water seeping into a bathroom when it rained.

Koelbl said formal complaints about repairs typically come after a tenant has already contacted the landlord, but the landlord failed to respond.

“We want them to work it out with the landlord, but we’re typically contacted after the tenant has notified the landlord, but the landlord hasn’t done anything about it in an appropriate amount of time,” he said.

Smith said she recommends students use the rental inspection program and to contact the city if they have any concerns about their housing unit or its safety before or while living in it.

“This is a service available to students and city residents that checks for safety and then requires landlords to meet safety codes on identified hazards,” Smith said.

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FALL 2020

Curbside pantry aims to fight food insecurity

By Kaitlyn Scoville
scovik21@uwosh.edu

A wide assortment of bright flowers and several butterflies accompany a renovated, painted and food-stocked wardrobe on the front lawn of a stay-at-home mother's home.

Mary Drephal, with two young children and a working husband, has stepped up to address food insecurity in her neighborhood on West 16th Avenue by putting up a curbside pantry.

It runs as a "take when you need, leave when you can" basis, and Drephal said that she set up the pantry in March to help those around her in the beginning stages of COVID-19.

Her best friend lost her job as a hairstylist and couldn't get unemployment, so they were struggling to get groceries.

"It was just a realization for me because of the privilege I had," Drephal said.

Drephal's sister, a teacher, recognized that there is food insecurity among children now because of the coronavirus and how they haven't



Mary Drephal's Free Pantry is clearly visible in her front yard.

been receiving food from schools.

According to an article on MDPI, a scholarly journal publisher, 44% of Americans surveyed experienced food insecurity when COVID-19 began.

"Kids come up and I try to have snack bars in there for that reason,"

Kaitlyn Scoville / Advance-Titan

Drephal said. "I started putting toys and books out there, and I always have granola bars, raisins [and other snacks]."

Drephal also began putting toiletries in the pantry as well, and noticed that soap seemed to be the most in need among them.

If somebody wanted to start their own pantry or donate to one, she would always look for perishable items such as boxed meals, canned soup, canned fruits and vegetables and toiletries.

A friend of Drephal, Doug Sundin, created the website freelittleOshkosh.com to locate small community pantries or libraries around Oshkosh. Sundin said folks who would like to put their own little pantry or little library on the website should go to submit.freelittleOshkosh.com

Drephal noted about a dozen people take from the pantry every day, and around one donates to it. She has seen a rise in families stopping as well.

"At the beginning, I had all this food and now it seems like there's more people who need than can give in this neighborhood," she said. "I think there's a need in the whole community."

Drephal said it's also rewarding to see that her sons are catching on with her acts of kindness.

"Every day, they go up there and

check and say 'Mama, the peanut butter is gone,' or 'Mama, we need to get more of this,'" she explained. "One of my big things is raising them to not feel privileged and not to feel like they own the world."

Drephal says she didn't have to live in fear like many other people in the Oshkosh community, and she wanted to help in any way she could.

"It gave me such a sense of community to see that the need was out there," Drephal said. "I had this privilege that I didn't realize; before COVID happened, there were so many things I took for granted."

Drephal said that she hopes that her free little pantry will reach others and inspire them to create their own, or just donate to a local one.

"If anyone has a cupboard hanging around, pop it up and throw some canned goods in it," she suggested. "I want [people] to think that there is a place to go if someone's hungry at any time. I want them to think that Oshkosh is a community that cares about people."

Former IT specialist pleads not guilty to theft

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Former UW Oshkosh IT Specialist Michael Van Vonderen pleaded not guilty to charges of theft of movable property from the university valued between \$10,000 and \$100,000 during an arraignment hearing in June.

Van Vonderen attended a Zoom hearing over the phone on June 15 after the original arraignment was rescheduled from April 15 due to

COVID-19 safety precautions.

If convicted, Van Vonderen could be fined up to \$25,000, sent to prison for up to 10 years or both.

Additionally, he may be ordered to pay over \$51,000 in restitution for the stolen items, an audit investigation and security measures implemented as a result of the charges, according to restitution requests filed by the Winnebago County Circuit Court on June 17.

According to documents filed by the county circuit court in

November 2019, Van Vonderen confessed to stealing university equipment from offices and storage areas and selling them to local pawn shops.

During an investigation in September 2019, University Police detective Mike Bartlein found that Van Vonderen sold 115 items at seven pawn shops, receiving over \$12,000 for cell phones and computer, photography and music equipment.

An internal audit of property

that Van Vonderen had access to documented \$28,788 worth of missing university items.

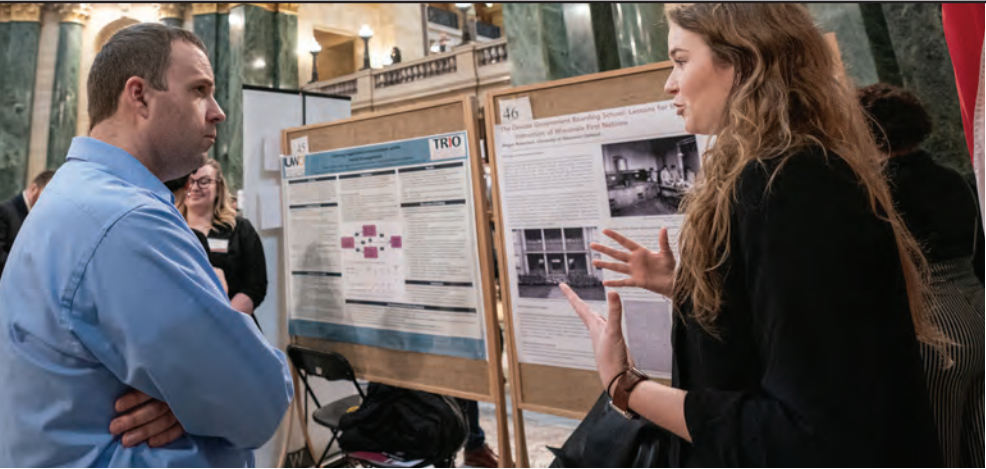
The audit found that 24 missing items were pawned by Van Vonderen; an additional eight pawned items were recovered by police and seven items from Polk Library checked out by Van Vonderen were not returned.

Van Vonderen admitted to stealing a classroom projector, two iPads from UWO's Head Start program, new Dell laptops, two

MacBooks, two monitors and an Apple TV when he handed in a resignation letter to IT Information Service Director Victor Alatorre in early September 2019.

He told Alatorre that he was resigning over financial troubles and admitted that he sold the stolen items to EZ Pawn and Pawn America for approximately \$3,000.

Van Vonderen will appear in court again on August 27 at 2:45 p.m.



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Avoid parties so we can stay on campus

By Owen Peterson
petero84@uwosh.edu

Nearly six months after the spring semester was moved entirely online, the campus is finally ready to welcome back students; but with this opportunity comes great responsibility.

In order to adapt to COVID-19, the university has instituted many measures to help prevent the spread of the virus between students, but these measures are only effective so long as students abide by them.

Some of the precautions that UWO is taking include requiring mask-wearing inside all buildings, reducing the capacity in the dining halls, making gathering places social-distance friendly by marking off seats, and limiting events to 50 people or less.

Before the start of the semester, the university also implemented an “alert level” system, which is designed to show how the university will respond to COVID-19 at certain levels of severity.

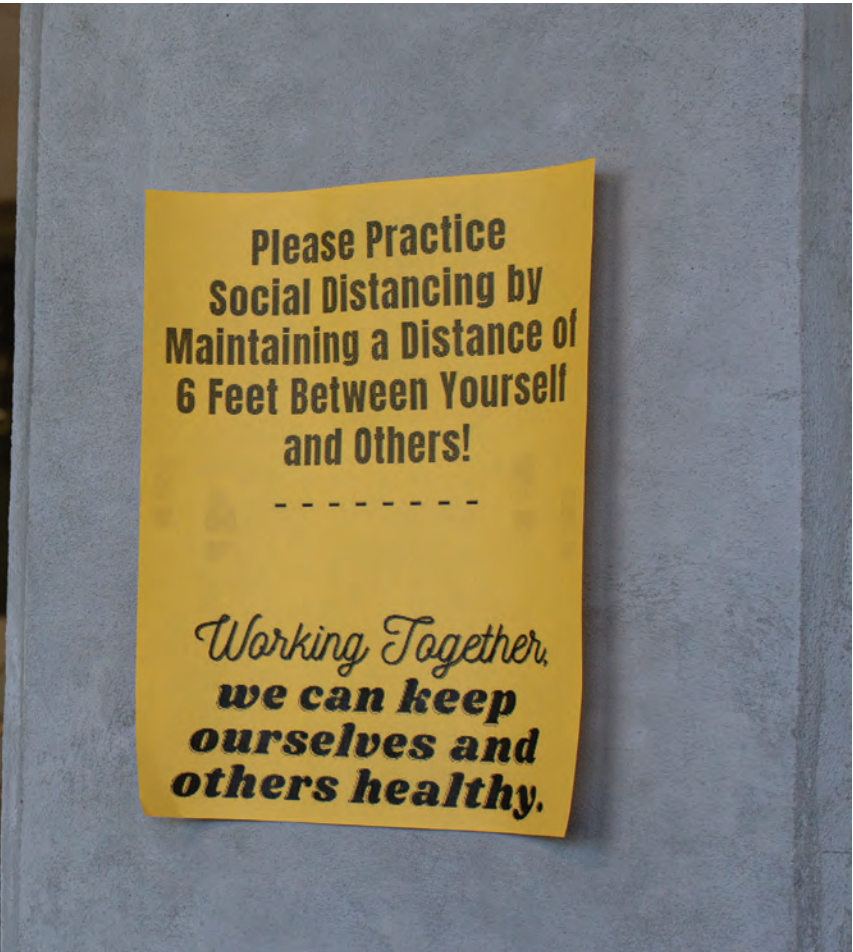
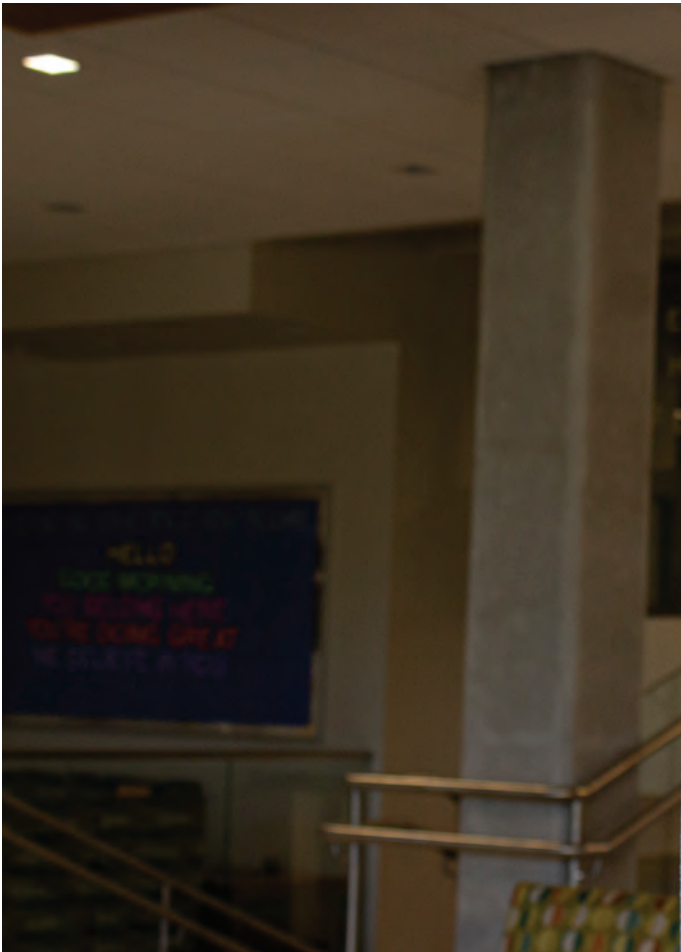
This fall semester will begin at the “moderate” alert level, meaning that “UWO is open and protective measures are in place,” according to the Titans Return plan.

If things get worse in terms of COVID-19 cases, the university will go to the “high” level, where classes will go primarily online and in-person gathering will be limited even more. After that, the “very high” level, in which all classes go online, the dining halls close, and students will no longer be able to live in the dorms.

On the other end of the spectrum, if things go well this semester the university will go to the “low” level, where classes will all be in person and all the buildings will operate at full capacity.

I don’t think anybody wants to relive the madness that was the second half of the spring semester, so I believe it is in the best interests of everybody to keep the campus open, even if it comes at a cost.

There will always be the temptation to go to bars, parties and other gatherings while on a college campus, and there is no way to stop this behavior from happening, but what I can’t stress enough is how important it is to make smart decisions to stay safe.



Sophia Voight / Advance-Titan

Students are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines on and off campus to prevent an outbreak on campus.

If you think you show symptoms of COVID-19 or think you have had contact with someone who has, get tested and try to limit your contact with others as much as possible. It may only take a few bad decisions to start the spread around campus and get everything shut down.

For an example of how this semester can go awry very quick, just look at the University of Alabama. Within the first two weeks of the university reopening, over 1,000 students tested positive for COVID-19.

This is not just a one-off case though, as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill made all of its classes online after 177 cases were reported in the first week.

In addition to those, The University of Iowa also reported a total of 607 cases within the first week of its semester and is preparing to go online if the number of new cases does not flatten.

These high numbers, however, are probably no more the result of the university’s policies than they are a consequence of the student’s actions. The students of both of these universities flocked in mass to bars and house parties

as soon as they arrived back on campus, potentially condemning themselves to another fully on-line semester.

This is where the challenge comes in for the students of UWO.

Needless to say, UWO is a party school itself, so it may not be entirely reasonable to expect that students will not just repeat the same mistake as these other universities, but one can hope.

If you do not want to spend another semester watching recorded lectures, completing Canvas quizzes, and spending hours in Collaborate Ultra sessions, it is very much in your best interests to not only follow the guidelines that have been set in place by the university, but to take responsibility in your free time to ensure the safety of other and keep the campus open.

While being back on campus is exciting, this is an opportunity that can be easily squandered, so it is up to all of us to make good decisions and try to make the best out of an unorthodox semester.

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AP marks ‘Black’ as cultural designator

By Cody Wiesner
cdalewiesner@gmail.com



Wiesner

On June 19, the Associated Press Stylebook announced they would capitalize Black as a cultural designator, a decision made in response to the police killing of George Floyd one month prior and after years of criticism for lowercasing the “b” among a sea of other capitalized groups like Asian- or Native American.

They also promised to get back to readers on whether “white” would get the same treatment.

Long story short, AP decided a month later to keep “white” lowercase and the internet spontaneously combusted.

Criticism found bipartisan support, both from the expected white dude crying about reverse discrimination and the unexpected social justice advocate disagreeing for much less obvious reasons.

Ostensibly, AP’s update seems like the obvious choice for people and organizations in the social justice sphere, and yet leading proponents for capitalizing “white” include APA style, The Diversity Style Guide, the Conscious Style Guide and the National Association of Black Journalists.

That seems odd, right? Why do these organizations fighting for language diversity, but not the AP, want to capitalize “white”? Did the AP make the right choice?

Having five years of editing experience, my semi-professional opinion is that there are enough confounding linguistic and ethnographic variables that go into the question of capitalizing “white” that either ruling will create unde-

sired side effects.

The question becomes this: which leads to the most inclusive outcome with the least damaging side effects?

Let’s unpack this.

The question of culture:

Since the AP now capitalizes “Black” in a “cultural” sense, the question to ask if we’re capitalizing “white” or not is this: does “white culture” even exist?

This turns out to be a contentious debate, but basically, there are three schools of thought, two of which the AP introduces in a blog post announcing their decision.

The first is that white people, unlike Black people, “generally do not share the same history and culture.”

AP gestures toward the second interpretation in their statement that capitalizing “white,” and thus acknowledging white culture, “conveys legitimacy” to white supremacist movements.

Some have pointed out that “white culture” is a recent development – prior to 1920, no one was calling ethnic Irish or German people “white” – yet this arbitrarily woven tapestry of unrelated European ancestries makes it easier for white supremacists to invent a dangerous “us versus them” mentality.

The third interpretation, which the AP didn’t discuss, is that white culture not only exists, but is also how we explain systemic racism. White culture is “Karen” shouting at “Steve,” the friendly multilingual Pakistani customer service rep, to either “learn English” or transfer her to someone who does. It’s overlooking the most qualified job candidate who’s Black because they “don’t fit in with the workplace culture.”

This interpretation is what makes the choice whether to capitalize so painful.

The Conscious Style Guide weighed in on Facebook by sharing a Washington Post opinion piece arguing that we must capitalize “white” to accurately rep-

resent – and hold accountable – a long history of racism “whose privileges should be embedded in its definition.”

If the AP decides that white is a culture and should be capitalized, they “convey legitimacy” to bigots, and if they decide that white isn’t a culture and lowercase, they’re downplaying or outright ignoring the cultural role of whiteness in perpetuating racism.

Dog whistles for supremacy?

The AP’s second argument concerns the problem of some white supremacists intentionally capitalizing the “W” and lowercase the “b” as an assertion of superiority.

And they’re potentially right – it’s possible white supremacists might exploit an AP-endorsed capitalized “White” to sneak dog whistles into standard writing.

However, most writing lowercase “Black” before now, and that made it possible for bigots to exploit that difference.

Fortunately, now that Black is capitalized in most styles, they won’t be able to do this anymore. The AP capitalizing in nonracist contexts would likely have buried that racist stylization out of usage. Unfortunately, that opens the door for dog-whistling, but it closes the door for macroaggressions.

Moreover, not capitalizing “white” may have created another issue, one that the AP references, but doesn’t elaborate on, that if we don’t capitalize, “we are implying that white is the default.”

Specifically, this refers to what the linguists call “marked language,” and it occurs with two counterpart words when one word is considered common, or “unmarked,” and the other is considered unusual or “marked.” Typically, this applies to affixes like “actor/actress” or adjective antonyms like “pure/corrupt.”

Unlike gendered language, capitalizing “Black” and lowercasing “white” is a new trend, so it’s possible that a marked “Black” won’t result in negative stereotyping. Or maybe it will. It’s hard to tell right now.

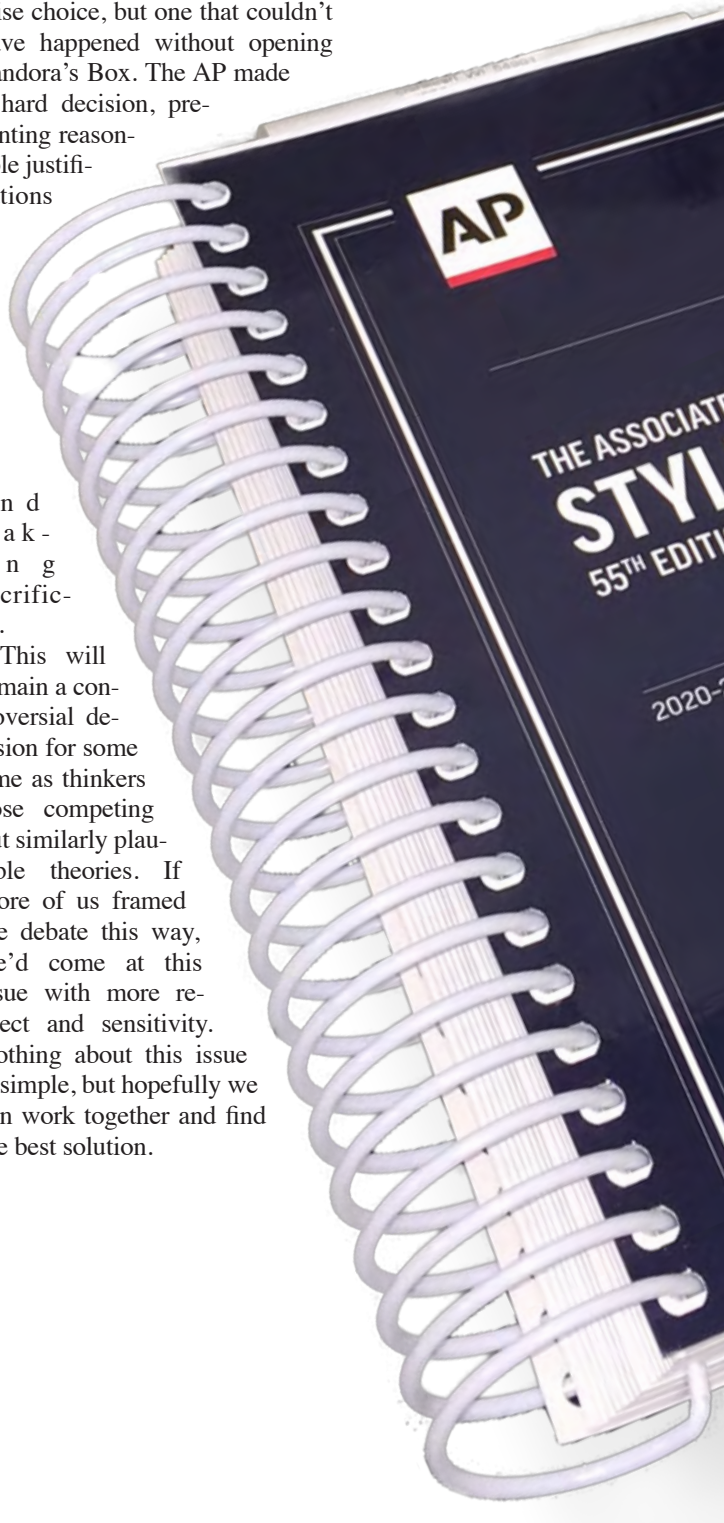
Uncertainty remains

What makes this capitalization conundrum so interesting – and frustrating – is that any productive decision we make in service to inclusive language comes with a drawback. Since there is no perfect solution, what’s the best damage control?

The AP was in an impossible situation. Capitalizing “Black” was a wise choice, but one that couldn’t have happened without opening Pandora’s Box. The AP made a hard decision, presenting reasonable justifications

and making sacrifices.

This will remain a controversial decision for some time as thinkers pose competing but similarly plausible theories. If more of us framed the debate this way, we’d come at this issue with more respect and sensitivity. Nothing about this issue is simple, but hopefully we can work together and find the best solution.



UWO alumnus Cody Wiesner previously served as The Advance-Titan’s Copy Chief.



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Fall sports canceled, athletes devastated

By Cory Sparks
sparkc21@uwosh.edu

Nothing can truly compare to the chaotic culmination of sounds coming out of the stands at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium when the UW Oshkosh Titans score a touchdown. There also seems to be no instance where teamwork and sportsmanship are exemplified to a greater extent than when cross country runners cheer on their teammates as they finish another grueling 8 km race in the Midwest weather.

It would also be foolish to forget to acknowledge the excitement that rings throughout the Titan student fan base when the women’s soccer team brings home another win with Clash the Titan cheering on from the sidelines.

However, none of those sights will be present in 2020 due to the catastrophic spread of the coronavirus. The pandemic stopped many spring seasons right in their tracks.

The track team was on their way to nationals, and the women’s basketball team was entering the Sweet 16 round of March Madness during what was already a magical season.



Hannah Preissner / Advance-Titan

In late July, the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announced that the majority of fall sports this year will be canceled, including football.

Then, on July 27, the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference announced the cancellation of the football, women’s soccer, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s cross country seasons.

“I was mad — I understand the reasons for canceling, but [cross country] for us is more than just a sport,” said UWO cross country

runner Ryan Dolnik. “The only issue I could see is the start of races since we are all condensed. I feel that there could have been regulations put in place to have staggered starts whether it be for team or [personal record]. Our top guys have put in solid summer training so I wouldn’t have been surprised if the guys placed well at the conference

and regional meet.”

Although the cancellations brought many athletes disappointment, seeing that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases surpass 6 million cases in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, many said it did not come as much of a shock.

“It was bound to happen. I knew there was no way we’d get through a full season anyway. It still was a big disappointment though,” said Jaylen Grant, a UWO football player and track athlete.

The absence of fall sports also means an absence of fan gatherings at games. With this comes despair for incoming freshmen who are just coming off of an online/hybrid graduation as class of 2020 high school seniors.

“I’m upset about not being able to experience college football games and getting to participate in the school spirit that comes along with it,” UWO freshman Maryrose Waller said.

In terms of what the athletes will do in their extended offseasons, there is a culmination between refining their skills for that sport and prepping for a sport in another season.

“Since there has been no say on track cancellation or a change in format we are training as if the season will come,” Dolnik said. “Being in a house with some of my teammates makes group running easier since we don’t have to worry much about social distancing among ourselves. The only difference in training is we won’t have the whole team in one place.”

In order for sports teams in the winter and spring timeframes to have seasons, precautions will have to be put into place. Students believe that maintaining the guidelines that every civilian is asked to do throughout the training and gameday processes could be a step in the right direction.

“At least trying to maintain social distancing and wearing masks inside when lifting or wearing masks when social distancing can’t be managed as well [will go a long way],” Waller said.

As the fall sports seasons are replaced with athletes preparing for their next upcoming competitions, many await for a WIAC statement regarding the possibility of there being any sports seasons in the winter.

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UWO-FDL & UWO-FC cancel sports

UW Oshkosh and four other UW System institutions – UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Platteville – have temporarily suspended collegiate athletics at their access campuses for the 2020-21 academic year.

The one-year pause in sports reflects the additional challenges of facility cleaning and disinfecting, providing athletic trainers and other logistical issues posed by the current coronavirus pandemic.

Student-athletes attending the 10 two-year campuses represented by the five universities, including UWO’s Fond du Lac and Fox Cities access campuses,

compete in the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference.

“Collegiate athletics contribute to student life on our access campuses in many ways, and also provide value in recruitment and retention efforts for the Fox Cities and Fond du Lac campuses,” said Nathan Scott, UWO’s director of student recreation and wellness. “The decision to implement a one-year moratorium for collegiate athletics was not easy. However given the challenges associated with the global pandemic, this is one of many difficult decisions that had to be made.”

During the 2019-20 academic year, 29 students at the UWO

Fond du Lac campus competed in three collegiate sports: golf, soccer and basketball. Last year, 41 students at the UWO Fox Cities campus participated in four sports: women’s volleyball, women’s basketball, men’s basketball and soccer.

“As we continue to work through the execution of our Titans Return plan to bring students and employees back to campus safely, we will continue to look toward the future, identifying opportunities to enhance the student-athlete experience on the Fox Cities and Fond du Lac campuses,” Scott said.



Photo by Adam Sydow

UW Oshkosh and four other UW System institutions have temporarily suspended collegiate athletics at their access campuses for the 2020-21 academic year.

Fans react to no NFL preseason

By Cory Sparks
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Toward the end of July, right before players reported to their respective training camps, football was added to the list of sports that UW Oshkosh canceled amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

This announcement came just a couple weeks after the decision on July 1 to cut the preseason down to two games instead of the usual four.

In terms of the response from football fans, UW Oshkosh students had mixed reactions when they were hit with the realization that the first games of the season would count.

“My first reaction was that it



wasn’t really a surprise with everything that has happened so far,” UWO Sophomore Guyon Cyprian said.

The pandemic has caused mixed results in various professional sports.

In the NBA and NHL, players are isolated together in a single

city. There have been minimal issues in terms of players and coaching staff being exposed to COVID-19.

MLB has not been doing a “bubble system,” and they have had to postpone over 15 games due to high infection rates as a result.

The NFL doesn’t have a “bubble system,” and the early cancellation of preseason competition shows how the league commissioner, Roger Goodell, plans on lessening the spread of the virus.

Some UWO students believe that the lack of exhibition games is an appropriate cautious decision for a couple of reasons.

“No dumb preseason injuries and long quarantine time for

players [are benefits]” UWO sophomore Jackson Davis said.

Although the possibility of devastating preseason injuries has been eliminated, there are also blaring issues with the first snap between opposing teams kicking off the regular season.

“There are no warm up games to get used to the game intensity, and the younger players won’t get to prove themselves,” UWO Sophomore Troy Daub said.

Aside from the rookies battling to be on NFL rosters for the 2020-2021 NFL regular season, there are also a pair of notable quarterback starting jobs that would have been determined in the exhibition games.

The Chicago Bears are holding an open quarterback competition

between 2018 Pro Bowler Mitchell Trubisky and 2018 Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles, and the Patriots are holding a battle for the same position between 2015 NFL MVP Cam Newton and former backup Jared Stidham.

“Trubisky over Foles and Stidham over Newton [for the starting jobs], at least for week one,” Davis said.

Regardless of the circumstances, these are still professional athletes who are expected to show up to week one able to display their full arsenal of skills, and UWO students did not hesitate when stating that fans should expect nothing less than what they’ve seen in the past.

“Well all the players should be [ready] to go when the season



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Make friends at a film festival

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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The inaugural Friends of Oshkosh Film Festival will be held Sept. 19-20 at The Roxy Supper Club in Oshkosh, featuring short films of several genres by local to international filmmakers.

The festival will feature 18 short-length films from 1-8 p.m., both days in genres such as black and white, experimental, drama, sci-fi and horror.

Tickets are available as either blocks or full-day passes. Block passes contain two movies followed by a Q&A session with the film directors, and those are \$5 each. A full-day pass is \$10.

Along with the films, hour-long workshops will be offered: screenwriting on Saturday, led by festival organizer Cindy Mich; and acting on Sunday, led by her husband, Michael Gentile. A full list of times and films can be found on the festival’s website.

Mich said the workshops are for both individuals interested in starting off in the film business and those already working in the industry.

If someone does not have a full-day pass and would like to attend a workshop, those are also \$5 each.

Tickets are available for both in-person and virtual attendance

on the website.

Mich is a journalist and filmmaker herself, and is running with a goal of creating a sense of community through the arts.

“With all that is happening in the world, I aspire as a festival founder to help families stay active and in-tune with the arts,” the film festival’s mission statement said on its website. “Many have been at home and losing hope, and I wish to motivate so very many to move from their couches and get back into cinemas.”

Mich has organized two other similar but larger film festivals in New York, her main one being “Art is Alive,” featuring around 100 films, industry panels and a celebrity event.

For all of the festivals though, Mich’s goal is to connect filmmakers and fans “to meet and merge minds,” according to the Art is Alive website.

The lifelong Milwaukee resident came across the city when her husband’s motorcycle licensing class in Neenah got canceled and ended up going to check out the local arts scene in downtown Oshkosh.

“We ended up walking into the Roxy Supper Club,” Mich said. “One of the waitresses and the bartender were like, ‘Oh my God, people are dying to do something in the city and we’re an artsy culture here downtown.’



She talked me into it.”

Mich said that she is using the Friends of Oshkosh Film Festival as a “testing platform” for what other kinds of arts events can be held in the area.

Mich said she hopes the acting screenwriting workshops will get people interested in getting more involved in the film industry.

“[The workshops] are to both engage and educate those who work in film, as well as others wanting to further or find their way into the industry, or just attendees who are curious about

various elements of movie making,” she said.

Participants can expect hands-on writing and acting lessons as well as tips for starting their career in the film industry.

Her main focus is to connect millennials and younger generations to get active, interested and inspired by the arts.

“You get to learn about behind the scenes, all that stuff — it’s interesting,” Mich said. “You don’t get that when you go to Marcus theater, so I’m hoping to give them a live experience.”

Mich added that going to the movies is a universal activity that helps take people’s minds off things for a while.

“Everybody loves to go to the movies, because then you don’t have to think about what’s going on in your life,” she said. “This is a huge escape from what’s going out in the real world right now, and it’s cheap. Not only that, it’s being orchestrated by someone who has been a judge and a founder for a long time.”



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Q&A with UWO alum and musician John Statz

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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John Statz is a musician and UW Oshkosh alumnus who attended from fall 2002 to spring 2006 with a double major in music and history. He grew up in Dane, Wis., and now lives in Denver, Colo. as a part-time musician and also works part-time with a handmade tile company. He can be found on Spotify by searching his name.

Why did you choose to pursue music?

It was my biggest love throughout schooling. When I graduated high school and went to Oshkosh, I thought I wanted to be a high school band director. I started as a music ed major, and I realized that wasn't for me. I don't think I even thought about going to school for anything else.

What inspired you to perform instead of teach?

I started playing guitar when I was 15 and just started singing right away with it. I never really had any classical singing training, but that's all I really wanted to do when I got my acoustic guitar, was to sing Cat Stevens or Jack Johnson. I used to sing a lot of Ben Harper songs [too].

When I lived in the South Scott dorm, on the sixth floor — it was called the Student Artists in Res-

idence floor, the "Star" floor at the time — everybody was an artist or a musician or an actor. I met all these other people that were starting to write songs and I was like 'Wow, I could write songs too, instead of just singing cat Stevens and Jack Johnson.' We would go down to Titan Underground for open mic, I would just sing Ben Harper all the time and I just got more comfortable with performing there.

How has UWO shaped you into who you are today?

It was an interest in singing other people's songs and it just never really occurred to me to write my own until I saw other people that were. The scene at the time had a lot to do with it as far as the music goes. Nathan Edwards, who is the current recording tech professor there, he went through the Star program. We were freshmen at the same time and he was writing songs. We recorded my first album when we lived together in a house on Church Ave.

Why did you move to Colorado?

I've been here, just around Labor Day, it'll be 10 years. I was 26, had lived in Wisconsin my whole life, and I just wanted to be in a bigger city. We came out here a lot as a family when I was growing up to go skiing and hiking in the summer. I didn't



Courtesy of John Statz

UWO Alum John Statz graduated in 2006 and now lives in Colorado where he makes music.

know anything about the city of Denver really, but I knew that I loved the mountains. It wasn't a business move.

Have you stuck to performing a certain genre of music in your career?

I kind of just consider it myself, a singer/songwriter in the singer/songwriter genre. My first album or a couple of other albums have been more folk, but a lot of them have been more rock. For me, my love of music is anything that includes songs and songwriting.

What does a day in the life

look like for you?

For most of my career as a songwriter, I've had a part-time job of one sort or another. So for the last eight years now I've had a part-time job working at this handmade tile company, and it's been an amazingly flexible job. Some weeks I would work four or five days and I would just tell them when I had a tour coming up. Then I might be on the road for anywhere from five days to three weeks or every now and then even five weeks. Sometimes I'd be sick of touring and want to be home and I'd get to be home and I'd get to spend time

here with friends and loved ones. Then I'd get sick of that and I'd get to go hit the road again.

What advice do you have to incoming freshmen?

Find your people. When I was in high school, I had a group of friends that was just because we lived close or had classes together, but then in college I found the musicians and the artists and the people that I am more strongly connected with. I think that there's such an opportunity to do that starting fresh.

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