

The Advance-Titan

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Moving forward at UWO



Advance-Titan File Photo

UWO is facing an \$18 million budget deficit, furloughs and layoffs. Faculty and staff are struggling with the decisions university officials must make.

Editor's Note: This is a submission from 11 UWO faculty and staff.

Opinion

Chancellor Andrew Leavitt made a surprise announcement toward the end of summer: UW Oshkosh does not have enough money to pay all of its employees their full salary this year and 200 employees will lose their jobs.

You might not have heard this because the chancellor is talking up UWO as a great place to be. We agree with that, but as faculty and teaching staff with nearly 200 years of combined experience here, we fear that the chancellor is using this fiscal crisis to reshape UWO into something much worse for our students.

In addition to pay cuts and layoffs, the chancellor's vision for the future includes higher teach-

ing loads, which would have a profound effect on the quality of education. With this in mind, we have offered proposals that we hope the chancellor, along with students, faculty and staff, can rally around.

First, we want to preserve the distinctive, relationship-rich, research-informed education that UW Oshkosh students receive. That means opposing the chancellor's across-the-board proposal that each faculty member should teach 33% more classes. Added teaching responsibilities almost inevitably mean less personal attention given to students, less mentoring, fewer research opportunities, a less expert facul-

ty and many other adverse downstream effects. We also have no idea if increases in load for most faculty are to be temporary or permanent. Our faculty deserve to know; our students should, too.

Second, we want the chancellor to lay off a greater percentage of Dempsey Hall administrators than teachers. This makes sense because these administrators often make two to three times the salary of the instructional and university staff that are subject to layoffs. Data provided by the UW System show that the number of administrators at UWO increased significantly over the past 10 years, while the number of teachers has declined. The more teachers and frontline student-support jobs we can preserve, the better.

Third, we want to reinvigorate shared governance at UWO.

Shared governance is a foundational principle of the UW System. System guidance says that "inclusiveness leads to better decision-making" and "effective policy development comes from early, active and wide collaboration and consultation." We cannot successfully move forward by having top-down dictated solutions. We need genuine collaboration and cooperative agreements between administration, faculty, staff and students. Toward that end, we ask the chancellor to invite student government to be represented in his Cabinet, along with a Faculty Senate representative and staff representatives as well. Together we can make better decisions.

Everyone knows that this university will change profoundly in the next year. We also recog-

nize that money does not grow on trees and there is much pain ahead. Indeed, we are already feeling it. We want and need a sustainable university, but that requires a strong commitment to educational excellence. Only that will effectively retain and attract students. Poor working conditions and low morale will not.

Written, in alphabetical order, by Mamadou Coulibaly, Jim Feldman, Ben Hallett, Marianne Johnson, Michelle Kuhl, Gabe Loiacono, Misty McPhee, Jeff Pickron, David Siemers, Stephanie Spehar and Paul Van Auken. They make the Executive Board of the United Faculty and Staff of Oshkosh, the local affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers of Wisconsin.

New COVID-19 vaccine may pose campus problems

By Josh Lehner
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New vaccines targeting COVID-19 subvariants are set to release later this month, but stocking them on campus may pose extra challenges, the UW Oshkosh's Student Health Center director said.

The BA.2.86 subvariant is a highly mutated version of Omicron raising concerns with health experts.

First detected within Denmark in July, the variant appeared in the U.S. last month. Since Aug.

30, BA.2.86 has been detected in four states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC also stated that this variant may be more infectious to people with natural immunity or who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

An updated vaccine, which was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Sept. 11, is slated for availability later this month.

However, UWO's Student Health Center, which provides vaccines to students, may not be

able to stock the updated shot, Student Health Center Director Angela Hawley said.

"At the moment, that vaccine is projected to be commercialized, so the cost is going to go up dramatically," she said. "We will probably not be able to stock the vaccine just from a cost perspective."

Still, she said that the university is looking at alternative ways of providing the vaccine to students, such as partnering with Walgreens to provide on-campus clinics. This would be similar to the pop-up flu clinics that UWO

offers students during the fall semester.

"We have three flu clinics that are starting up at the end of September where we partner with Walgreens, and we're looking if there's something we can do to add the new COVID-19 vaccines on to that," she said. "We're trying to see what other avenues we can use so students have easy access to it if we can't stock it."

The university currently provides the bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, which targets the original virus strain, providing a broad protection against the virus.

However, with more and more distinct mutations, the CDC may stop recommending the use of bivalent vaccines, meaning the university won't provide them, Hawley said.

"(The CDC) is thinking that, when the new vaccine is approved, (the bivalent vaccine) will no longer be recommended," she said. "The new (vaccines) target the current strains, so they (the CDC) think that will be more protective," she said.

The recent COVID-19 subvariants have raised concerns across

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Correction Policy
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.

Reduced CWA regulations impact water

By Nolan Swenson
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Among a string of decisions from the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) this summer a major blow was dealt to environmental regulation in regards to the Clean Water Act (CWA).

An element of the CWA which designated federal control over bodies of water was effectively removed, neutering the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army to regulate certain bodies of water.

This is because not all waters within the nation are considered “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) and the new decision by SCOTUS narrows previous definitions of what was considered WOTUS.

UW Oshkosh environmental studies professor Kathryn Hofmeister said that a key detail of the changes to the CWA revolve around wetland protections, a focal point of her studies.

“The idea of wetland protections has been part of my work,” she said. “These changes and many of the different iterations of CWA, [revolve around] the small water bodies ... [whether] so called ‘isolated wetlands’ get included or excluded from definitions.”

Hofmeister said that in 2015, the CWA grew to include bodies of water not considered navigable waterways, which are bodies able to be navigated upon.

“The definition of WOTUS has changed due to court action,” she said. “There was a period of time from 2015 where it was expanded to water bodies that had, ‘significant nexus’ with navigable waterways.”

She takes issue with its legal wording as it falls out of the realm of hydrological studies and is a loose legal term.

“That term (significant nexus) is not based on science,” she said. “Significant nexus means nothing in science. They needed to add more to understand what it means. [The term] has been interpreted as if a river or stream



Pelicans swim on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh. Over the summer, the Supreme Court narrowed the definition of U.S. protected waterways. However, Wisconsin has significant laws protecting its waterways, including protections for wetlands and streams.

enters a navigable waterway and significantly alters properties.”

Hofmeister said that the legal language muddies the scientific response to matters dealing with waterways, and that this new definition ignores non-surface level connections that still affect waterways.

“One of the problems ... is the continuous surface water connection,” she said. “Wetlands are often connected to the groundwater system which is discharged to surface water. There could be wetlands that seemingly aren’t connected to the Fox River but are connected through ground pathways.”

A UWO environmental studies and political science double major, Chris Huesemann, who interned as an aquatic invasive biologist in a Washington county bog, said that reduction of these policies threatens studies.

“I spent a lot of time on the Milwaukee water rivershed in Washington county,” he said. “We looked at watersheds and invasive species.”

He said another fear is that bogs may not get sufficient fundings for protection or research.

Huesemann added that permits will no longer be necessary in some instances to develop the land in ways that could be harmful towards the waterways.

Nearly 50% of wetlands and intermittent streams that were once protected federally through regulation and funding may be affected, Hofmeister said.

“The CWA is a big umbrella protection; every state in the U.S. has to meet the requirements of the CWA,” she said. “Part of the concern is that water bodies will no longer have those protections or receive funding to meet criteria. Estimates I’ve seen as a result of this change is 50% of wetlands and intermittent streams are losing protection across the whole U.S.”

As far as the states of the union, Hofmeister said that Wisconsin has a history of environmentally conscious action.

“Wisconsin happens to be well positioned,” she said. “It has a really long history of progressive action on these issues. ... Wisconsin has a lot of history and was one of the first states to push for CWA funding and implement cleanups of rivers.”

She said that Wisconsin has already passed laws that expand beyond what once were federally protected, making these federal changes irrelevant to a certain extent.

“In 2001, they passed a law that gave water protections to every wetland and most streams; it really expanded the protections,” she said. “At the moment, changes in the federal definition will not affect Wisconsin.”

The CWA was revised due to a single families court case, a fact that Hofmeister said makes the issue contentious, even on the state level.

“There’s more litigation around environmental policies,” she said. “We could see more people or businesses pushing back within the state. The Sackett v. EPA case is a family, it’s not even a corporation; it’s representative of the political climate, but water doesn’t know politics.”

Environmental regulations within Wisconsin remain resolute despite federal backtracking; however, in order to ensure these stay in place, the electorate must vote with environmental issues in mind.

COVID: The virus is still a concern

From Page 1
the U.S.

The University of Maryland recently implemented a new isolation policy for students who test positive for COVID-19.

Additionally, school districts in Kentucky and Texas have canceled in-person classes due to an increase in respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

So far, COVID-19 cases in Winnebago county have remained relatively low.

The daily average for COVID-19 hospitalizations in Winnebago sat between zero and three throughout August, the CDC reported.

This is on par with the average for March 2022, when UWO lifted its mask mandate and its COVID-19 orders expired.

Hawley said that the Student Health Center is in contact with the UWO administration, relaying information about COVID-19, the flu and other



At-home COVID-19 tests, good handwashing and staying home when sick are all effective methods of minimizing the spread of viruses, especially as flu season approaches.

viruses and campus health concerns.

Currently, the UW System has not clarified any new policies regarding COVID-19 protocol, and UWO Chief Communica-

tions Officer Peggy Breister said that UWO is following suit.

“UWO is not instituting any protocols specific to COVID-19 at this time, but, as we do with any health or safety issue, we

will monitor information from authorities and determine if there are steps we need to take on our campuses,” she said.

Still, effective prevention methods are crucial to diminishing the impacts of COVID-19, Hawley said.

“We always encourage individuals to have infection prevention measures like good handwashing and staying home and away from others if you’re not feeling well,” she said. “If you feel like you have it, you can still get the at-home test kits, test yourself and continue to follow the CDC recommendations. COVID-19 is here and it’s not going away.”

UWO’s COVID-19 recommendations and policies can be found at uwosh.edu/student-health/covid-19/.

The Student Health Center’s website will display information on campus flu clinics when they open later this month. Their website can be found at uwosh.edu/studenthealth/.



Katie Pulvermacher / Advance-Titan

Cindy Schultz, the academic department associate for AMP, smiles watching students pass her office in Sage Hall. She has been a UWO Classified Staff for over 31 years.

J-Department rebrands to AMP

If UWO merges departments, AMP could be an easy merge

By Katie Pulvermacher
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The UW Oshkosh Department of Journalism rebranded to the Department of Advertising, Multimedia Journalism, Public Relations (AMP) in mid-April after 30 or so years of the idea of a name change.

With the university’s changes in budgeting, talks of furloughing and faculty cuts, there’s a chance AMP might merge with other departments and leave the AMP name behind.

“We need to promote our brand now because we don’t know when the mergers will be implemented,” AMP Department Chair Timothy Gleason said. “We know that if (the university is) doing mergers, it’s the most logical thing for us and RTF to get merged.”

Gleason said hypothetically, AMP, Radio/TV/Film (RTF),

marketing, information systems and/or other related majors could be merged because of similarities between departments.

“Right now, RTF tries to get attention, we try to get attention, but we’re two great programs and if we work together, we can bring in more students to this university because we’ll be part of one unit rather than two units,” Gleason said.

AMP Professor Vincent Filak agrees that these are logical merges if they need to be made.

“I don’t think there’s a more logical pairing than (AMP and RTF),” Filak said. “We don’t know (what will happen), and that’s the most terrifying thing. Uncertainty is very difficult to deal with because you don’t know what you’re supposed to do or you don’t know what’s expected of you.”

As it’s unknown whether or not mergers will take place within

future years, it’s important to advertise AMP now to attract more students.

“We have an advisory board and they were on board with this change because they recognize that in some way, this [department name change] is like sales,” Gleason said.

He said a lot of people aren’t aware of the popularity of public relations, and if it were just the journalism department, the department wouldn’t have enough numbers to stay.

“We want to keep promoting these other programs (such as public relations and advertising),

because it helps with enrollment,” Gleason said. “It’s really about the goal (of attracting students).”

Gleason said a lot of people didn’t realize advertising was an area of study.

“When advertising became a major, we wanted to make sure that it really got attention, but it was also on unequal footing,” Gleason said. “By going with AMP, that puts advertising out there and student-numbers-wise, it’s a huge opportunity for this university to get people to come here.”

Filak said the name switch spreads more awareness.

“It was a perceptual issue that came with the name that didn’t represent the broadness of who we were,” Filak said. “We were looking for different ways to capture that and try to be more inclusive and more representative.”

This isn’t the first time the previous Department of Journalism had considered a name change.

“A department name change has been discussed more times than one over the last 30 years,” AMP Academic Department Associate Cindy Schultz said.

Filak said no matter whether or not the university decides to merge departments, the name change is what is right for the department.

“At the end of the day, the name might go away, but what we do won’t,” Filak said. “If it sticks, that’s great, and if it changes, that’s fine too as long as we’re able to better serve students.”

“At the end of the day, the name might go away, but what we do won’t.”

-Vincent Filak

Financial scams that target college students

By Candice Wagoner
UW Credit Union

Scammers are always trying to be one step ahead, so the types of scams can change quickly. Even professors have been duped by scams.

Despite scams evolving, these best practices remain consistent:

- Never share private information or passwords.
- If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- High urgency should create high suspicion.

Scholarship/financial aid

You’ve won a scholarship! But you don’t remember applying. You’d be crazy to turn down free money. Right?!

According to the National Credit Union Administration, scholarship and financial aid scams may involve:

- Scammers calling to award a scholarship that doesn’t actually exist
- Fake scholarship websites set

up to collect email addresses or other details for future scams

- Financial aid services that charge well over \$1,000 for actions the student or their family can complete for free

Experts recommend every student fill out the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), regardless of income status. This will allow you to see what legitimate scholarship and financial aid options are available to you.

Fake check/overpayment

You receive a check in the mail, but you’re asked to return some of the money to the sender.

This is a common scam targeted at college students, and can play out several ways:

- Someone who DMs you on Instagram about using your photo or modeling “accidentally” sends you a check for too much and asks you to return the extra money.
- You’ve “won” a prize, but you’re asked to send money to cover taxes and fees

- You’re paid as a secret shopper but the check is for more than you’re expecting; you’re asked to wire back money or buy and send gift cards to cover the extra amount

Don’t cash the check and don’t send money back. Bring the check into your bank or credit union so the fraud team can take a look.

Apartments, moving services and textbooks

This hot deal on an apartment can be yours, as long as you pay up front. But hurry — this price won’t last forever!

Scammers prey on what college students may need — a new apartment, textbooks or moving services — and use that to their advantage:

- Whether online or over the phone, someone contacts you with a great deal you don’t want to miss out on, asks for payment up front and then never delivers the promised goods or services
- You’re desperate to find an

apartment. Suddenly, you’re offered a rental you can get into immediately. You just need to provide all your personal information first, so the landlord can do a credit check.

- Never agree to rent an apartment without seeing both the inside and outside. Don’t fill out paperwork, make a deposit or pay rent until you’ve verified the landlord/property manager is an established business. Never make a deposit or pay rent over the phone.

Always validate websites and check reviews before you make an online purchase. Is the company listed with the Better Business Bureau? Ensure they have a real physical address and phone number. If you’re working with a moving company for a long-distance move, try to find an escrow service that will hold your payment until the job is complete.

Fake job postings

Summer/post-graduation employment plans weren’t even on

your radar until someone messaged you on LinkedIn with an open position that’s perfect for you.

Scammers know that college students will be looking for a job and capitalize on that. Posing as recruiters for well-known companies, scammers may contact you through job boards, LinkedIn or email, inviting you to a virtual interview for a position they say is a “perfect” fit with your skill set. After you accept their offer, they ask you for personal information to “complete paperwork” or send an invoice for items you’ll need and promise to reimburse you after you start.

Reputable employers will never ask you to pay fees for a job. And don’t use the contact information provided in the solicitation. Instead, look up the company phone number independently and use that to contact them to verify if the offer is real.

Sports

UWO runs strong

By Brandon Cobb
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The UW Oshkosh men's and women's cross-country teams opened their seasons at the UW-Green Bay Phoenix Open Sept. 8 with a fourth place team finish with 109 total points within the 6,000-meter women's race and a second-place team finish with 58 points in the 8,000-meter men's race.

Many Titans started the year off strong, including a 29th place finish from sophomore Jamie Catania, a 17th place finish from junior Cyna Madigan, and a ninth place finish from junior Amelia Lehman who was the first Titan to cross the finish line in the 6,000-meter race.

Coach Eamon McKenna said he was happy with how the runners performed in the first meet of the season.

"The women had a number of personal records from our returners, which is rare in the first meet of the year," McKenna said. "Jamie Catania, Gwen Feitl, Olivia Schwarm, Julia Strasser, Paige Hagner and Kate Haffner all established new personal records. We have a lot of room to improve and we will need to learn to collectively execute as a team better, but it was a good start."

The men's 8,000-meter race had some strong finishes as well, securing five runners in the top 20 finishers along with senior Joe Kehoe finishing second. In this race, Kehoe not only placed second but set a new career best for himself with a time of 25 minutes and 6.1 seconds.

Kehoe said he was very happy about his performance in the first race of the season.

"To finish second in a field that strong with a PR time was an awesome start," he said. "I felt like I raced with a lot of confidence which will be important to maintain moving forward."

Turn to *Cross-Country* / Page 6



Courtesy of Wheaton Athletics

Wheaton running back Cristian Carstens (9) reaches over the goal line for a 5-yard touchdown to seal the game for the Thunder Sept. 9.

UWO football falls to Wheaton

By Jacob Link
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In a matchup between two nationally ranked teams, the UW Oshkosh football team fell on the road to Wheaton College (Illinois) 30-21 Sept. 9 at McCully Stadium in the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

After coming within two points of the Thunder by the end of the third quarter, the Titans were outscored 13-6 in the final 12 minutes of the contest to pick up their first loss of the season.

The Titans (1-1), ranked No. 19 in the nation by d3football.com, allowed 254 passing yards and 195 rushing yards, giving No. 13 Wheaton (1-0) 449 yards of total offense in the game.

UWO defensive back Chris Doherty said that he felt that everyone on the team gave their best effort on the field in the loss.

"I think we just need to be a

little bit more on top of our assignments, be able to execute the things we want to execute and go on with the mentality that we're going to kick someone's ass every play," Doherty said.

Wheaton, who had the ball 13 minutes longer than the Titans in the contest, was led by running backs Giovanni Weeks and Cristian Carstens, who combined to rush for 200 yards and three touchdowns. Wheaton quarterback Ben Thorson went 22-29 in the contest, finishing with 254 passing yards and no touchdowns. Ben Bonga was Wheaton's leading receiver, catching nine passes for 106 yards.

UWO quarterback Kobe Berghammer finished the game 15-28 with 188 passing yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions to go along with 55 rushing yards. Transfer running back Kaio Harn, who joined the team three days before the game after transferring from UW-Whitewater, was

UWO's leading rusher, carrying the ball eight times for 63 yards.

Oshkosh wide receiver Londyn Little had a team-high 86 receiving yards on two catches, while senior wideout Tony Steger was limited to three catches for 16 yards after finishing the first game of the season with 139 yards and three touchdowns.

UWO's defense finished with 87 total tackles, three tackles for loss and two sacks. The Titans were led by senior Carson Raddatz, who had a game-high 14 tackles. Linebackers Bryce Hinn and Bryce Edwards each recorded sacks for Oshkosh.

Doherty said he thought the defense put their best foot forward and liked the effort the unit put in, but thinks there's still plenty of room for improvement.

"I mean we definitely have some things we need to clean up logistically, just to get people in better positions to make plays

this coming week," he said. "As a team, we're definitely a good unit and we always have each other's backs regardless of a win or loss and this is only going to make us stronger going forward throughout the season."

Wheaton's defense finished the game with 53 total tackles, two tackles for loss, a sack from Christian Bonacquisti and a forced fumble from Andrew Partyka. Wheaton was led by defensive back Max Wilson, who picked off Berghammer twice and finished the game with three tackles.

After forcing a three-and-out on Wheaton's opening drive, the Titans marched down the field in seven plays and Berghammer found wide receiver Trae Tetzlaff for a 15-yard passing touchdown to kick off the scoring. Kicker Nolan Mobley missed the ensuing extra point, giving the Titans a 6-0 lead early in the first quarter.

Turn to *Football* / Page 6

Titans remain undefeated to start the year

By Nolan Andler
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After a great 2022 season, the UW Oshkosh volleyball team has gotten off to a quick 10-0 start and a third place ranking in the recent American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) coaches poll.

UWO kicked off their season Labor Day weekend in San Antonio, Texas, for the Trinity Classic. They beat the University of Texas at Dallas 3-0, Texas Lutheran University 3-1, Trinity University 3-0 and Birmingham Southern College 3-0.

The most impressive win for UWO in the Trinity Invitational was their last match. The Titans swept Trinity University, ranked No. 2 in the nation, 3-0 on their home court.

Not only was it Trinity's first loss of the season, but prior to the

match, Trinity was 47-1 in their previous 48 home games.

Trinity also hadn't been swept on their home court since game two of the 2017 season.

UWO head volleyball coach Jon Ellmann said he is proud of the result, but realizes it is only the start of the season and the team needs to continue to focus.

"To finally hit the court and compete is exciting," Ellmann said. "We couldn't be happier about the result, but it was still just week one."

UWO freshman Sami Perlberg opened up her career with 45 kills, six aces and 27 digs, earning her a spot on the All-Tournament Team. She was also named tournament MVP.

Perlberg said she gives credit to her teammates for helping her earn the MVP title.

Turn to *Volleyball* / Page 6



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Oshkosh's outside hitter Sami Perlberg spikes the ball over two Ohio Northern defenders Sept. 8.

Sports



Scoreboard

Friday, Sept. 8

Volleyball
Game 1:
UWO - 3
Carthage College - 0
Game 2:
UWO - 3
Ohio Northern University - 1
Cross Country
Women's - 4/7, 109 pts.
Men's - 2/7, 58 pts.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Volleyball
Game 1:
UWO - 3
Millikin University - 1
Game 2:
UWO - 3
Milwaukee School of Engineering - 0
Football
UWO - 21
Wheaton College- 30
Soccer
UWO - 0
University of Dubuque - 3
Tennis
UWO - 9
Ripon College - 0

Sunday, Sept. 10

Soccer
UWO - 4
University of Olivet - 0
Women's Golf
UWO - 10/11, 357-358 715

Monday, Sept. 12

Tennis
UWO - 8
Lawrence University - 1

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 15

Volleyball
vs. Transylvania University at 4 p.m. at UW-Whitewater Invitational

Saturday, Sept. 16

Volleyball
vs. University of Northwestern at 11 a.m. & College of Saint Benedict at 1 p.m. at UW-Whitewater Invitational
Football
at East Texas Baptist University at 1 p.m.
Tennis
at UW-La Crosse at 1 p.m.
Soccer
at Carthage College at 1 p.m.
Women's Golf
at Division III Classic Emerald Greens Golf Course at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 17

Women's Golf
at Division III Classic Emerald Greens Golf Course at 8 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Volleyball
at UW-Whitewater at 7 p.m.
Soccer
vs. University of Chicago at 4 p.m.

Volleyball: UWO a perfect 10-0 so far

From Page 5

“Being the tournament MVP is an honor and accomplishment that I definitely could not have done without my teammates,” Perlberg said.

After the Trinity Invitational, UWO had two more road matches midweek against St. Norbert College and Lakeland University. The Titans breezed through these matches behind Riley Kindt’s 25 combined kills along with Perlberg’s 17 combined kills.

Last weekend, the Titans opened up their home slate of the schedule as they hosted the Mary Peterson Invitational. The Titans played Carthage and Ohio Northern University on Sept. 8 and Millikin University and the Milwaukee School Of Engineering Sept. 9.

On Sept. 8, Carthage had an early lead in all three sets against Oshkosh, but the Titans were able to come back and win all three of them. In the second game Friday night vs ONU, UWO won 3-1. UWO claimed the first and fourth sets both at 25-16. ONU won set two and UWO came back from a 15-9 deficit to win set three (26-24) Ellmann said that a communi-



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

The Titan volleyball team celebrates after a point against MSOE Sept. 9 at the Kolf Sports Center.

cation error caused some players to be playing out of position in the third set.

“I didn’t communicate effectively enough late in the set to our side line, so we had a sub take place that was unintended, and the result was that we needed multiple players to play in different positions,” he said. Even with the players playing

out of position, Ellmann credited the set three comeback to the team’s “grit.”

“To pull out that comeback with our regular lineup would have been something special,” Ellmann said. “To do the way we did was nothing short of remarkable. I couldn’t be prouder of our team for getting it done when they needed to. Gritty.”

On Sept. 9, UWO cruised over MSOE in three sets, but then faced a little bit of a challenge against Millikin.

UWO won sets one, three and four 25-23, 25-16 and 25-22 en route to a 3-1 win. The Titans currently have a 10-0 record and a top-3 ranking will travel to UW-White-water for the UWW Invitational.

Football: UWO earns its first loss this season



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

UWO wide reciever Tony Steger catches a touchdown pass Sept. 2.

From Page 5

Wheaton responded with a touchdown on its next possession, capping off the 63-yard drive with a 1-yard rushing touchdown from Thorson and giving the Thunder a 7-6 lead after a successful extra point with seven minutes to go in the opening quarter.

It took the Titans just three minutes to regain the lead when UWO went 70 yards in nine plays, setting up a successful 22-yard field goal from Mobley and giving Oshkosh a 9-7 advantage.

Early in the second quarter, Wheaton took the lead for good when Carstens scored on a 5-yard

run up the middle, finishing a drive that took over five minutes and increasing the Thunder lead to 14-9.

On their next possession, Wheaton drove down the field in eight plays but kicker Mateo Jesch missed a 38-yard field goal. Four plays later, the Thunder found themselves with the ball once again after Berghammer was picked off by Wilson at the Titans 40-yard line. Wheaton took advantage of the turnover, adding a 26-yard field goal from Jesch with two minutes left in the first half.

On the first possession after half-time, Berghammer and the Titans went 79 yards in 10 plays, pulling

to within two points after Berghammer found a wide-open Clayton Schwalbe in the endzone for a 15-yard passing touchdown.

After a few scoreless drives from both teams, Wheaton extended its lead to 23-15 when Carstens ran up the middle for a 2-yard rushing touchdown. Jesch missed the extra point, but Wheaton still led by eight points with just under 12 minutes remaining in the game.

The Titans responded with a touchdown four plays later after running back Doug Burson found an open hole and rushed for a 13-yard score. UWO attempted to tie the game with a 2-point conversion, but Berghammer’s pass fell incomplete.

Wheaton added a final touchdown on its next possession, taking almost six minutes off the clock and scoring on a 4-yard rushing touchdown from Weeks to give the Thunder a 30-21 lead with four minutes remaining in the final quarter.

Berghammer led the Titans on a final push down the field, but any hopes of a comeback were ended after Wilson intercepted Berghammer on the Wheaton 44-yard line.

“I feel like the team needs to improve in the sense of coming to-

gether as a unit and playing as one,” Doherty said. “And that means that everyone (needs to have) each other’s backs. Even if you make a mistake, make the mistake at 100 miles an hour and just keep moving forward as a team as we keep pushing for our next win.”

UWO will travel down to Marshall, Texas for their final non-conference game of the season against East Texas Baptist University at Ornelas Stadium Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. Last year, the Titans opened the regular season against the Tigers at Titan Stadium, routing ETBU 52-13 in head coach Peter Jennings’ first game at the helm of UWO.

The Tigers (1-1) are coming off a 38-37 win against Hendrix College (Arkansas) Sept. 9 and a 34-14 loss to Louisiana Christian University Aug. 31.

ETBU is led by quarterback Cornelius Banks, who has thrown for 368 yards and two touchdowns this season. Trayjen Llanas-Wilcox is the team’s leading receiver, catching 12 passes for 217 yards and a touchdown so far this season. Running back Jaden Lewis is the team’s leading rusher, running for 143 yards and two touchdowns so far this year.

Cross-Country: UWO runners place inside top 20

From Page 5

“The first race of the season is always about familiarizing ourselves with the discomforts of racing, so I didn’t have any specific expectations going in,” Kehoe said.

With the team having grown over the summer and a lot of good times to start the year, the team is optimistic about the prospects of this year and even though the season has just begun they have a clear goal in mind.

“For the rest of the season, I

think the momentum will carry over,” Madigan said. “I hope our team does really well at Eau Claire Buegold invite. But the most important issue would be to have everyone fresh and ready to attack in the championship season at conference and regionals so that we can make it as a team to nationals.

Next up for the Titans is UW-Platteville Gender Equity Invitational held on Saturday Sept. 23 at the Cole Acres Golf Course in Cuba City.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Oshkosh runner Amelia Lehman finished in ninth place.

Sports

Titan seniors make impact on court

By Nolan Swenson
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The fall season has brought forward two new UW Oshkosh volleyball seniors, Riley Kindt and Amelia Hust, to lead their team and set their legacy.

Kindt began her volleyball career in elementary school with few aspirations of grandeur, focusing on having fun with her teammates and friends.

“I was (in) about fourth or fifth grade when I first started,” she said. “It was fun and I liked it but I never thought I would ever go far because I wasn’t the tallest. I just played because it was super fun and all of my friends played.”

In high school volleyball, Kindt’s program had a strong upperclassmen presence. During her junior year, the team lost their coach and 13 seniors, giving Kindt the perspective of building and leading a program.

Kindt began looking into collegiate level sports and was indecisive whether to compete in volleyball or track and field. After offers from schools including UW-Madison, she decided that she wasn’t passionate enough about track and field to commit to the Badgers.

“I was getting recruited for track even more than volleyball so I was in between those for college,” she said. “I was indecisive until the last minute so I did a lot of visits for track and volleyball. I ruled schools out and I was considering doing track at Madison. I realized it’s probably not a good idea because I didn’t love track that much.”

When Kindt arrived at UWO, she wasn’t sure how she felt about the campus as COVID-19 had disrupted campus. However, after starting her first season with the team, Kindt said she realized the strength of the program that coach Jon Ellmann leads.

“I came here and I didn’t know how I would like it because I came during COVID-19,” she said. “As I started volleyball it all came together and I can’t imagine myself going anywhere else. Ellmann really recruits for character and does not recruit people who don’t align with our program values.”

She said that the character shows in her friendships with her teammates and their relationship with the coaching staff in all of the experiences they’ve shared.



Morgan Feltz / Advance-Titan

Oshkosh’s senior defensive specialist Amelia Hust sets the ball to a teammate during a match at the Kolf Sports Center last season.

“Ellmann is particular and that shows,” she said. “All of the girls I’ve met so far are my best friends. Traveling around the country and having a lot of cool experiences. He tries to make it feel really special for all of us. I feel really close to every person on the team.”

In her position of seniority, Kindt tries to lead by example to instill the UWO volleyball culture in the underclassmen. She said that preaching falls short of leading by example.

“A lot of it is leading by example,” she said. “I’m really going to make it a priority to be a good role model and example for those freshmen so that they can follow in those footsteps. I’m not the No. 1 person to look up to, but I try to be a good model. You can say a lot of things and preach but nobody’s going to do it unless you lead by example.”

Kindt said that her family’s continuous support has helped her throughout the duration of her volleyball career. Whether financial or emotional support, she said they made sacrifices for her sake.

“My family has gone through it all with me, traveling all over the country to watch me play,” Kindt said. “Sports are not cheap so they really helped me go through that financially. Just them sacrificing their money to give me experienc-

es that I love to do and that will shape me, that’s selfless of them.”

Beyond support from family, she said that the leadership on the team works restlessly to take care of Kindt and her teammates.

“Ellmann and assistant coach Braeden Melton treat us like their family,” she said. “They always sacrifice and want nothing but the best for us. They work tirelessly to make us feel like we are supported and get everything that we need.”

Hust said that she began her volleyball career in fifth grade in a club that her sister was a player on.

After five years of playing she said that she became interested in joining the collegiate level, but she was unsure due to physical injuries during high school.

In the midst of being unsure, Ellmann reached out to Hust, inviting her to a UWO volleyball camp. She said that despite being unsure, the experience gave her a good experience with the team.

“Jon (Ellman) reached out to me asking if I wanted to come to a camp,” she said. “I figured I’d give it a try. I went and I really liked the coaching staff.”

During her senior year of high school she decided she would pursue nursing and decided against spreading herself thin by being a student-athlete. After talking

to the team, she realized that she would have the support to be a student and athlete.

“In my senior year I decided to do nursing and not pursue volleyball,” she said. “After talking to coaches and players, they told me I would be able to pursue both.”

When she joined the team, COVID-19 was ravaging all aspects of life. This forced the team to stick to practicing, but she said it also forced the team to know each other better.

“My first year was different due to COVID,” she said. “We practiced every day and it was a hard year, but it’s definitely worth it going through all the practices and getting to know the team better. It’s crazy that I’m a senior now.”

When Hust entered the team she said she was timid about her place, but that over the span of years she’s progressed to become someone who her teammates can depend on for her knowledge.

“I was really quiet my freshman year,” she said. “I didn’t say much and went with the flow of things. As I’ve progressed I’ve become more confident vocally with my teammates. I want to be someone the team can lean on. I feel like I have a lot of wisdom and knowledge to give.”

Her relationship with her team

doesn’t just revolve around volleyball. Hust said that they are not only teammates, but loving friends.

“This team is really special in the way we value each other,” she said. “It’s not always about volleyball. When you meet us it’s obvious we love each other very much. It’s special.”

After graduation, Kindt said that she is excited to further her education and she plans to intern in a Milwaukee hospital.

During her final times here at Oshkosh, Kindt said that she has an opportunity to take a fifth year on the UWO volleyball team, but will support the team whatever she decides to do.

Hust said that after graduation she plans to work on the pediatric level, but until then she will move back to Madison and gain experience.

After she graduates, she said she would still visit and support the UWO volleyball team.

Kindt and Hust have been active members of the UWO community through their participation in the UWO athletics department. In their final year with the volleyball program, they’ve enjoyed all the team has to offer and will try to give back what they can while representing UWO.

UWO golf tees off season under new coach

By Owen Larsen
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The UW Oshkosh women’s golf team traveled to Eau Claire on Saturday and Sunday where they placed 10th of 11 in the UW-Eau Claire Georgianni Blugold Invitational, shooting 715 strokes during the two-round event.

It was the first competition of the Tyler Cassmeyer era for the program. UW Oshkosh announced Cassmeyer as head coach of the golf team on Aug. 11.

Despite the 10th place finish, Cassmeyer was pleased with the

team’s performance at the difficult Wild Ridge and Eau Claire Country Club courses.

“I thought we played really good, we just had a couple little mistakes that kept us out of the running,” Cassmeyer said. “We started off with the two hardest courses we’re going to have all season, so that’s one way to start it.”

Cassmeyer thought the course conditions were great over the weekend saying that the biggest thing needed to be cleaned up were small mental mistakes.

The highest placed competitor for UWO was senior Ava Downie.

Downie shot an 88 in both rounds, leaving her with a 176 total, placing her tied for 30th individually for the competition.

Junior Sydney Bornhorst shot her career best at UWO with a 180. With an 89 on Saturday, it was her best UWO recorded round by three strokes and followed that outing with a 91 on Sunday which also would be a career best before this weekend.

She has been a really solid player for us and she has been putting the work in all summer and it’s showing right now,” Cassmeyer said.

Sophomore Taryn Endres shot a

186 over the weekend and said that the team did not achieve the outcome they wanted, but found the invite to be an overall positive.

“We didn’t necessarily score how we wanted to, but we had a good time and are working on some good improvements for the next weekends ahead,” Endres said.

Cassmeyer said that the team has primarily been working on their short game to begin the fall campaign and found it to be a strong point of their game this weekend.

“I thought we were really good there, we just gotta work on those second shots a little more,” Cass-

meyer said. “It was just those little mental mistakes that we made and we can always improve.”

The team morale is high heading into their competition next weekend, according to Cassmeyer.

“We had our little powwow after and said ‘alright we got this over with,’” Cassmeyer said. “No excuses now.”

The Titans pick up play again this weekend at the Division III Classic in Hastings, Minnesota on Sept. 16 and 17 at Emerald Greens Golf Course.

Are we dumbing it down?

Our online conversations aren't that simple

By Kelly Hueckman
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Almost inarguably, technology is getting smarter.

AI can write essays, the TikTok algorithm knows us better than we know ourselves and our word processors are suggesting the next parts of our sentences (thanks, by the way).

But in return, is communication via technology getting dumber?

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Sherry Turkle wrote in a New York Times column that when we opt to communicate online as opposed to face-to-face “we dumb down our communications, even on the most important matters.”

Maybe at some crude, rudimentary point on the timeline of technology, this was true. People were still trying to firm a slender grasp on the wild concept of sending emails and texts took over a minute just to type out, “b home soon, tlk 2 u l8r.”

Turkle argued that because people spent so much time online, we have become accustomed to the “volume and velocity of online connections,” and in turn have come to expect almost instant responses — all in turn for quality of content.

It's true; we spend an incredible amount of time with our faces glued to one or more screens. According to Data Reportal, the average American spends nearly seven hours looking at a screen daily.

But now, in an age of spell check, video editing, Zoom calls



Meagan McDowell / Advance-Titan

Online conversations have sparked modern social movements like the #MeToo movement and the Black Lives Matter movement.

and the infamous ChatGPT, is it really fair to say technological communication is “dumb” anymore?

While some people, especially in younger generations, have proven to struggle in face-to-face communication, they contribute to online conversations immensely.

Creating content online, either via typed text, video or audio (with the exception of live streaming) allows creators to start over, edit or delete parts of their message to ensure it communicates exactly what they intend it to.

Sharing content online also

allows creators to spend a virtually unlimited amount of time curating their message. How many people are spending hours to make themselves appear more simple-minded?

Meanwhile, people each day are cursing their own tongue for saying something they didn't truly mean — and there's no backspace when you're speaking to someone in realtime.

Although our online connections have continued to hinder our in-person conversational skills, our online conversations have become not only more complex in recent years, but increasingly powerful.

Pew Research Center said that about half of Americans receive at least some of their news from social media.

Because the internet is so widely available and popular,

especially with the use of social media platforms, citizen journalism has become far more popular and engaging than ever before.

Additionally, because the nature of the internet allows people to communicate without having to show their face or even their real name, this encourages people to participate in conversations they normally wouldn't have.

If you don't believe me, take a look at the #MeToo movement.

Although sexual harassment and assault have been an issue for centuries, and although the movement officially began in 2006, it didn't gain popularity until the issue was taken to Twitter in 2017.

And despite racial inequity having plagued the United States since its founding, the Black Lives Matter movement has

been arguably one of the largest social movements demanding racial justice since the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

The ground-zero of the Black Lives Matter movement? You guessed it, social media.

Gone are the days of dial-up internet, cell phones with telephone keypads and the constant worry your computer will crash before you saved your paper.

Technology has clearly evolved, and so has the way we communicate through it, but our communication is definitely not dumber.

While our in-person conversations are sometimes awkward at best, online connections are flourishing with readily available information and technological advances — you just have to know how to use it.

“The average American spends nearly seven hours looking at a screen daily.”
- Data Reportal

Think before you get a dog in college...or don't

By Aubrie Selsmeyer
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College kids have to be out of their minds to think that owning a dog while in college is a good idea.

I guess I'm out of my mind. It hit me this summer that, once again, I would have to leave my beloved dog at home and haul my things back to college. He was technically my dog, he just liked my dad more.

I have accepted the fact that I will always miss my dog more than he will miss me.

So, I got my own dog. I realize that I am a full-time student and that this is a huge undertaking.

Did I do any research on whether or not this was even a remotely good idea? No, not at all.

Do I regret it? No. Have I had one uninterrupted

night of sleep in the past month? Also no.

But just because I decided to get a pet in college doesn't make it the best idea for everyone. Pets are a lot of responsibility, and based on some people I've met in college, not everyone is up for that level of responsibility.

If you can't afford to spend money on groceries for yourself, you probably won't be able to afford groceries for your dog either.

Dogs are real, living creatures. I know this isn't a groundbreaking epiphany, but owning a dog makes you look at things differently. Your world now revolves around this little domesticated creature.

Now we eat breakfast together, watch movies together and wake up at the same time in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom.

Dogs go through developmen-

tal stages just like humans. It's important, and helpful in the long run, to know what these stages are and what their behavior will be during these time periods.

Most dogs are adopted around the age of 7 to 12 weeks. I adopted Gus when he was 16 weeks old. Puppies become completely aware of their surroundings and have full control over their senses in this stage. The Regina Humane Society referred to this stage as the “socialization period” (3 to 12 weeks).

It is crucial to introduce your puppy to as many new dogs, people, noises, places and objects as humanly possible during this time. It's also important to crate train them and teach them independence so that separation anxiety doesn't develop in their older years.

It's also important to make sure that your home is puppy-proofed before you let your

new puppy have any freedoms. Just as you would want to protect a baby from eating inanimate objects left on the ground, the same is expected for your puppy.

Following the socialization period is the “testing period” (3-6 months). This is when your puppy pushes every possible limit and can begin to stir up some regret in their human. It's important to keep an eye on your puppy and devote lots of time toward training them to be the kind of dog you want in the future. It's the time to correct bad habits and make good new ones.

Another thing to think about is vetting your dog. Most places you adopt your dog from will give you the whole rundown on what shots and vaccinations are required at what age, but I'm here to tell you how important this is. Do not brush over this information. Your dog needs to be properly vetted.

Make sure that wherever you are living is pet friendly! Do not go against the rules of your landlord; it is a war that you will not win. Instead, you'll end up with a hefty fine and probably an eviction notice.

And always remember to ask for pup cups at Starbucks when you go. This is the most important takeaway from this entire spiel.

But seriously, put a lot of thought into getting a dog before you actually do. It's a big commitment. I would normally advise college kids to not get a pet, but now I would just be a hypocrite.

Be prepared to have some added costs, restless nights, stressful training moments, and a best friend for some of your biggest moments of life.