

The Advance-Titan

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**ELECTION
INFORMATION
YOU NEED**

2024 spring primary

What's inside:

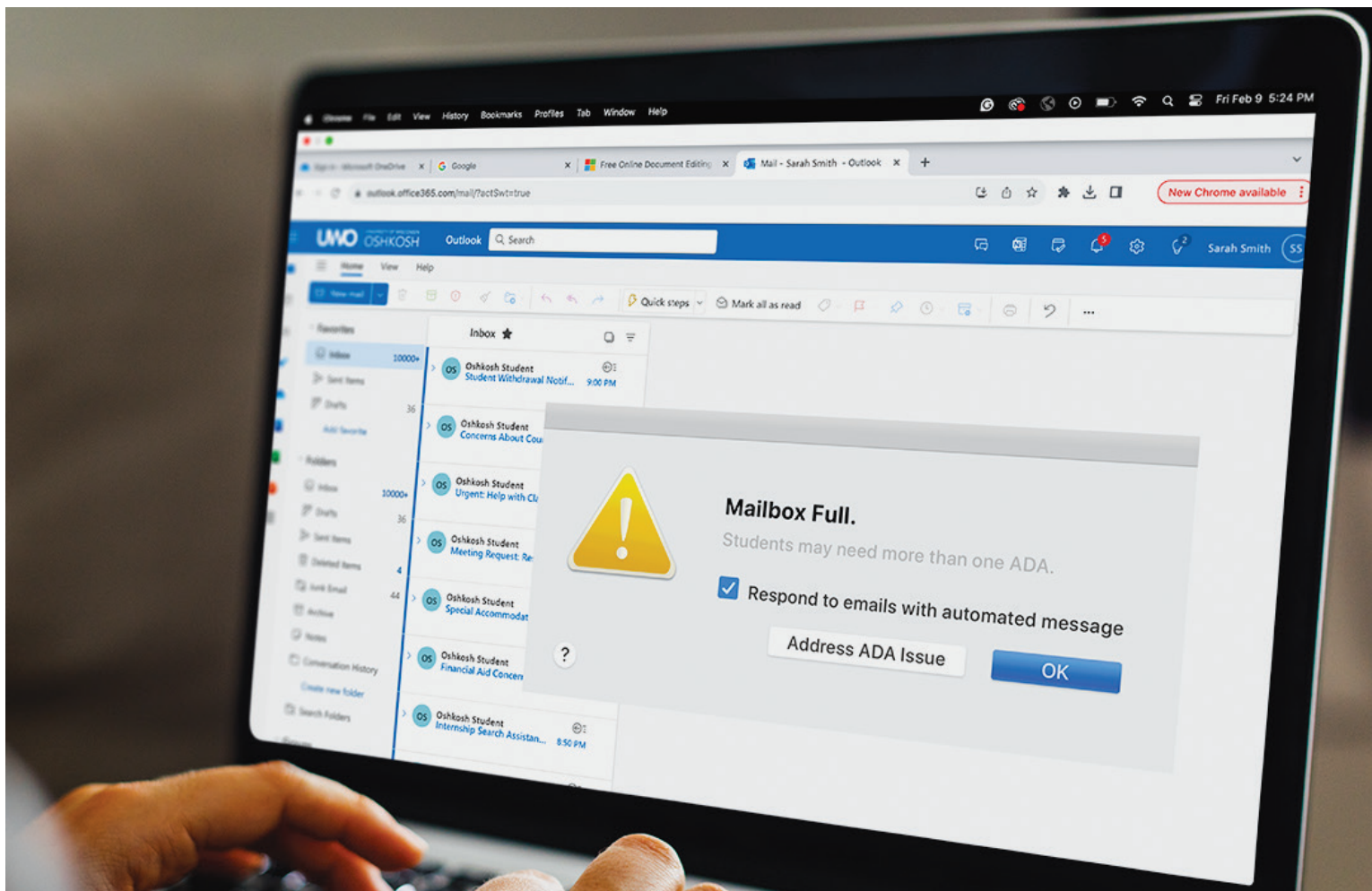
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Dealing with pet grief



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan

UWO students will begin the spring semester without department associates, who took new positions, were laid off or took voluntary retirement.

“We’ll survive. We can deliver.” *New DA system challenges departments*

By Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

Academic departments across UW Oshkosh are adjusting to the loss of their department associates (DAs), who were either laid off or who voluntarily retired as the university works to correct its budget deficit.

Before the retirements and layoffs, DAs were specifically assigned to departments at UWO to assist professors and students with a wide range of tasks.

However, after more than 200 university staff members retired or were laid off at the beginning of the semester, many professors and department chairs wondered how the DA role would be filled within their department. One such person was Tracy Slagter, the chair of the political science department.

“We are still figuring out how to cope without [our DA’s] constant presence in our department, as she worked for political science for 25 years. She is not just a colleague, but a friend to both faculty and our students,” she said.

Slagter and other political science professors have to take care of many administrative tasks themselves, such as running student reports and completing forms for grade changes. This change has slowed down the department, she said.

“Every day I find something new that I need to learn to do or take care of that [our DA] always did automatically,” she said. “As we learn how to do these things, I’m sure it will get easier, but it’s not the same.”

But losing department-specific DAs has other effects, too, Slagter said.

“If everyone in our department is teaching, there is no one around to greet or assist students, and that is definitely not what we are used to,” she said. “Our department prides itself on building relationships with our students, and [our DA] was always such a critical part of that mission.”

As many faculty within departments aren’t used to the new roles they’re stepping into, some things may go overlooked. Chemistry professor Kevin Crawford said that the chemistry department is still trying to adapt to these roles.

“During the first week of the semester the chemistry copier was out of toner and a new toner cartridge had not been ordered,” he said. “The chemistry department may be without a copier for up to a week. Our DA would have been monitoring that to ensure no interruption in service.”

But these changes may affect students, too. Mathematics department chair Linda Eroh said that she can

no longer use department advising holds to ensure that math majors can see their advisers before registering for classes. She said that this may affect students’ ability to enroll in classes.

“Given that we also cannot offer low-enrolled classes, and so many of our upper-level classes are offered in rotation only once every two years, we are concerned that students may miss taking a class that they need and delay their graduation significantly,” she said.

DAs still do exist at UWO, though they’re not specifically assigned to a department. Instead, there’s a new model for how the process works, Dean of the College of Letters and Science Anne Stevens said.

Going forward, there will be a team of DAs who service multiple departments within an academic building. But this may pose unique challenges to the College of Letters and Science (COLS), Stevens said.

“The other colleges have most of their programs in one or two buildings, but (the COLS) is spread across nine buildings,” she said. “For smaller buildings like Swart, one DA now provides support for the entire building. In the larger buildings with larger numbers of programs and facilities we have a team.”

Because DAs now help multiple departments, Stevens said that their

work is done much more collaboratively now.

“[The DAs] worked collectively on building the Fall 2024 schedule in Titan Web, working from a shared spreadsheet with everyone helping out where they could,” she said.

The DAs within the COLS also meet weekly with the college’s administrative office to share information and improve the new pooled model.

“We are working hard with the registrar’s office, purchasing and IT to find ways to simplify processes and find technology tools that can help save time,” she said. “For example, we are exploring having automated wait lists on classes in Titan Web, so that when a spot opens up the first student on the waitlist would get an automatic notification telling them they can enroll.”

This would be a large upgrade over the current system, she said, as DAs currently have to manually watch wait lists and contact students when spots open up.

But this pooled model does place more responsibility on the faculty within each department. Stevens said that DAs no longer perform tasks such as photocopying, taking minutes at department meetings and doing travel reimbursement for faculty.

Turn to **DAs** / Page 2

UWO-FDL reaches agreement with MPTC

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh-Fond du Lac campus, which administrators announced in October would be ending in-person instruction, reached an articulation agreement with Moraine Park Technical College on Feb. 2 to transfer students’ credits to the MPTC associate degree program.

The university announced this agreement in order to give Fond du Lac students an option to finish their degree without having to travel to the Oshkosh campus.

“This was very much a collaborative effort for both educational institutions, with a goal to provide continued in-person options for local students,” MPTC President Bonnie Baerwald said. “There are many barriers to education and for some, transportation and location can impact a student’s ability to finish their degree. This agreement was created as a direct response to the closure of UWO-FDL and with our local community in mind – in hopes that students who desire to stay local – will.”

UWO Provost Edwin Martini said that the university created the articulation agreement with MPTC because the institutions have a long-standing partnership.

“This agreement builds on several other articulation agreements between our institutions and provides yet another option for our UWO-Fond du Lac students to complete their program of study in Fond du Lac,” Martini said.

UWO, which plans to close in-person instruction at the Fond du Lac campus after the spring semester due to falling enrollment, will be able to transfer all of its students’ credits from the associate degree program at the Fond du lac campus to MPTC, which is also located in Fond du Lac.

Matthew Caine, a student at UWO’s Fond du Lac campus, believes the new agreement is a nice alternative for students looking to transfer to another school and keep their credits.

“This is good because it offers another route for those students dependent on having an affordable education close to home,” Caine said. “At the same time, it does not give a chance at other things students may be interested in pursuing. Things like athletics, and overall, the same credibility and clarity that a UW-certified education provides.”

Turn to **UWO-FDL** / Page 4

Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu

Website: advancetitan.com

Editor-in-Chief
Anya Kelley
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor
Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

News Editor
Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor
Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Arts & Culture Editor
Open

Sports Editor
Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor
Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor
Jessica Duch
duchje18@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager
Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

Social Media Editor
Ellie Ramsay
ramsayel01@uwosh.edu

Web Editor
Ella Rider
riderel14@uwosh.edu

Copy Chief
Kyiah Nelson
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Editors
Alvaro Rivera, Angela Satterlee,
Ella Rider

Graphic Designer
Michael Buckner, Ella Sasse

Staff Writers
Brandon Cobb, Aubrie Sels-
meyer, Nolan Andler, Angela
Satterlee, Nolan Swenson

Photographers
Morgan Feltz

Distribution Manager
Doug Newhouse
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser
Barb Benish
benish@uwosh.edu

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Ice conditions affect sturgeon spearing

By Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

Poor ice conditions caused a rocky opening weekend for the Winnebago system’s 16-day sturgeon spearing season, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

“The ice this year is an anomaly,” DNR senior fisheries biologist Margaret Stadig said.

Last Saturday opened the season with only an estimated 450 shanties on Lake Winnebago, down from roughly 3,000 pop-ups in 2023 and 6,000 in 2022, which the DNR reported is likely due to questionable ice.

Lake Winnebago’s ice thickness sat between 7 and 11 inches this weekend, according to Lake-Link fishing reports. The county encourages drivers to only take cars and light trucks onto ice that is at least 8-12 inches.

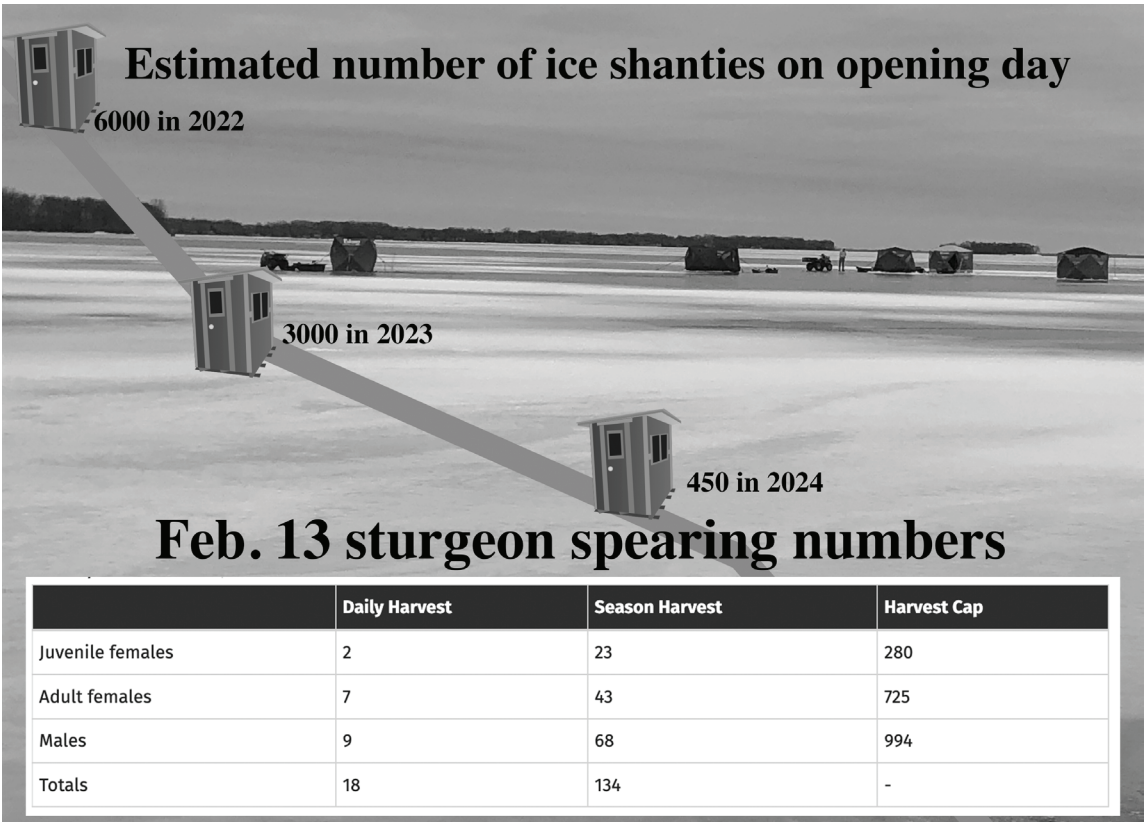
SUNK? Dive & Ice Service owner and Otter Street Fishing Club ice expert Don Herman said he recommends avoiding the ice, even with lighter vehicles like four-wheelers or snowmobiles.

“I strongly discourage people going out now at all unless you know the ice,” he said. “I wouldn’t want to take a four-wheeler out at all.”

Herman said there have been about half a dozen four-wheelers and shanties that have fallen through the ice on Lake Poygan, near Winneconne, just over the weekend.

The dicey ice conditions coupled with warm weather ahead caused the annual Battle on the Bago to cancel its fishing tournament this weekend, one of the biggest attractions of the event.

“It’s an economic disaster, is what it is,” Herman said. “Snowmobiling, cross country



Advance-Titan Photo Illustration by Josh Lehner

A relatively small number of ice shanties line Lake Winnebago. The near-record and record high temperatures this winter have contributed to the lake’s poor ice condition.

skiing... we used to have a bike-a-thon across the lake. Almost every event on Lake Winnebago has been canceled.”

The Winnebago system is not the only region to feel the effects of this warm winter.

Climatecentral.org reported long-term records that show a downward trend in total frozen days for the Great Lakes. They predict this, along with the total frozen area, will continue to decrease.

While this year’s ice conditions have been particularly unique, this is not the first time the Winnebago system has had rising temperatures in the winter. As for the sturgeon, Stadig said this season alone shouldn’t affect spawn much in future years.

“The Winnebago system has seen warm winters in the past,” she said. “This will likely mean spring spawning will start earlier than usual. This might have some impacts on sturgeon recruitment (how successful the spawn was), but with a long-lived species like sturgeon, we will likely not see many lasting impacts from this one year alone.”

Stadig said she anticipates better ice conditions in the region’s future.

“We are also in the midst of an El Nino year that is exasperating this warm weather,” she said. “While we have seen some warm years the past two years, in northeastern Wisconsin we will still get cold winters with

good ice in the future. We hope that this year’s extremely warm weather is just an anomaly, but only time will tell.”

Both Stadig and Herman said that for those who do wish to participate in the spearing season or get out on the ice, it’s best to check first with local fishing clubs, who closely monitor ice conditions.

“For those who do take to the ice, we just ask spearers to remember no ice is 100% safe and that they practice good ice safety,” Stadig said.

The 2024 spearing season will close on Feb. 25 unless the cap is met beforehand. Stay updated with open registration stations and harvest reports at dnr.wisconsin.gov.

DAs: Adapting to a brand new system

From Page 1

This means that faculty and department chairs have had to take on more responsibilities themselves, and Stevens said that COLS has been training department chairs so that they know how to access class rosters and look up student records — tasks that were previously done by DAs.

The English department already experienced something similar to the pooled DA system when they shared a temporary DA with another department last semester. Department chair Samantha Looker-Koenigs said that the adjustment wasn’t easy at first.

“It was definitely a little bit tough to get used to the idea that we couldn’t do things immediately,” she said.

Looker-Koenigs said that, before her department’s DA retired in September, she was used to having quick and nearly instant communication with her. However, when her department began sharing a part-time DA, the immediacy disappeared.

“When you have a DA who ... only worked a couple hours



Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

Room 3003 in Sage Hall, which used to be AMP Department Assistant Cindy Schultz’s office. However, after she voluntarily retired, the office has been repurposed. Now, it services a myriad of different departments including history, philosophy and political science.

a day for English ... I’d email her and she’d get to it the next day,” she said.

But Looker-Koenigs said that the process has already become more efficient this se-

mester and that she’s confident in her and her colleagues’ ability to adapt.

“We’ll survive,” she said. “We can deliver.”

At a glance:
What’s changed?

- In October 2023, the UWO administration announced more than 200 staff positions would be cut. Additionally, many staff took a voluntary retirement incentive.
- These staff members ended their time at UWO in January. DAs were among the positions cut.
- Some department DAs, who previously worked for one department, now work for many departments within certain academic buildings.
- This new pooled system is still a work in progress, and DAs and administrative staff have been conducting meetings to improve the process
- Many professors are adjusting to the change, including learning new skillsets that their DAs used to do.

Meet the candidates

2024 spring primary election headlined by Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge race



LaKeisha D. Haase

General Information:

Campaign Email: LaKeisha.Haase@gmail.com

Website: www.JudgeHaase.com

School: UW Oshkosh; Marquette University Law School

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Why do you want to be a circuit court judge?

“I have a passion for justice, a commitment to upholding the rule of law, and a desire to contribute to the fairness and effectiveness of the legal system. I am the only candidate with experience as a circuit court judge. I have a proven track record of upholding justice, interpreting the law fairly, and making well-reasoned judgments. I have dedicated the entirety of my career to the courtroom in both federal and state courts. I have had the privilege of representing diverse clients, ranging from individuals facing criminal charges to corporations embroiled in complex civil disputes to families facing personal crises. In addition, I serve on several committees and boards within our community.”



Eric R. Heywood

General Information:

Campaign Email: heywoodforjudge@gmail.com

Website: www.heywoodforjudge.com

School: University of Wisconsin Law School

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Why do you want to be a circuit court judge?

“I am running to be judge in Branch 1 to make a bigger impact in our community. I grew up here and am raising my daughters here with my wife. I want to keep Winnebago County a safe and stable place to raise a family. My first experience in Branch 1 was many years ago at the adoption ceremony when my brother became my legal sibling. I saw that judges have the great honor of building families and helping communities. After working with Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps volunteer before law school, I dedicated my career as an attorney to public service. I have extensive courtroom experience working as a prosecutor, public defender and judicial court commissioner. I developed diversion programs, treatment courts and mental health law resources. I have been selected to train attorneys through over 50 presentations in criminal, mental health and juvenile law based on my legal expertise.”



Michael D. Rust

General Information:

Campaign Email: info@rustforjudge.com

Website: www.rustforjudge.com

School: Carthage College; Marquette University Law School

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Why do you want to be a circuit court judge?

“My entire legal career has been about resolving conflict. As a mediator, now as a court commissioner and I ask to be given the same opportunity as judge. As the CEO of the Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center, I maintained and grew the business operations (by over 200%), but also served as mediator, coach and trainer of mediators. I acted as a neutral party who facilitated the parties’ discussions to find their own resolutions. Cases were sent to me by judges from across Wisconsin. After resolving over 1,500 cases in 9 1/2 years from nearly every area of law, I transitioned to the role of Circuit Court commissioner. In this role, I hold trials for small claims and restraining order cases, as well as a robust docket of hearings on divorce, paternity and child support matters.”

Spring primary voting info for UWO students

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh students can educate themselves for the Feb. 20 spring primary election through a new website launched by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin (LWVWI).

The LWVWI launched its VOTE411.org voter guide for the spring primary where voters across the state can find information about upcoming local races and Circuit Court races in Winnebago County.

This one-stop shop for statewide election information has tools — in both English and Spanish — to help Wisconsin voters navigate the voting process. These include candidate information, voter registration tools, polling place information and other helpful Election Day resources.

The Feb. 20 spring primary election is not to be confused with the April 2 spring primary which has separate races and features the presidential primary election. The only item on the ballot for the Feb. 20 primary is the Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge primary election.

The nearest polling place for UWO students is at Reeve Memorial Union, which is open for voters to cast their ballots from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

on Feb. 20. The polling station at Reeve features early voting and drop-off ballot options, along with the usual election day voting.

In order to be able to vote on campus, students need to register to vote either before or the day of the election. Students can register in advance at myvote.wi.gov and they will be asked to upload a photo of their driver’s license as proof of residency during the online registration process. To vote at Reeve, students must get a Student Identification Card (Voter ID) at Titan Central before registering to vote at the polling place. Students must show their TitanCard in order to receive the Student Identification Card.

On VOTE411, voters who have a primary election can learn more about the responsibilities of these offices and each candidate’s values. Voter guides are especially important during nonpartisan spring elections, as candidates on the ballot are not marked with any party affiliation.

“VOTE411 makes it easy to be an informed voter,” Eileen Newcomer, LWVWI voter education manager, said. “Local and judicial elections are so important, as these elected officials make decisions that can directly impact ourselves and our communities. VOTE411 helps voters choose which candidates align with their values and prioritize the issues they care about.”

Nominations for alumni awards open

By Anya Kelley
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Nominations have opened for the 2025 Alumni Awards. Alumni Relations is looking for nominations for:

- The Distinguished Alumni Award - The highest award that alumni can receive from the association. It is awarded to individuals who are active in their professional fields and are widely recognized for their career accomplishments.
- The Outstanding Young Alumni Award - Awarded to alumni who have graduated within the last 15 years. Selection is based on professional and civic accomplishments and future promise.
- The Alumni Outstanding Service Award - Awarded to alumni who have made exemplary contributions to UW Oshkosh on one of the three campuses ... through their volunteer efforts,

energy, leadership, support and/or philanthropic donations impacting the university.

“We have so many UWO alumni making a remarkable impact in their careers and communities and the Alumni Awards program provides an opportunity to recognize them for their accomplishments,” Christine Gantner, the director of Alumni Relations, said. “Please consider nominating a graduate you know who is making a difference.”

The priority nomination deadline is March 1 and each nominee can only be nominated in one award category.

To nominate a friend, colleague, or family member, visit uwosh.edu/alumni/alumni-awards/nomination-form/.

For more information about Alumni Awards, criteria for nominations, and what to do if you are nominated, visit uwosh.edu/alumni/alumni-awards/.

Federal report forecasts the Midwest’s climate future

Submitted News

More ticks. More mosquitos. Less snowmobiling and ice fishing.

Those are just a few of the climate impacts facing Midwestern states in the coming decades, according to the just-released Fifth National Climate Assessment.

The massive, congressionally-mandated report is released roughly every five years in an attempt to track how climate change is affecting the United States and what policymakers can do to address the issue.

In addition to national trends, the report also summarizes findings for each U.S. census region. Here are the assessment’s five main takeaways for the Midwest.

Major disruptions to agriculture are coming

The Midwest produces over a quarter of the world’s corn and soybeans, and increasingly erratic weather patterns are going to make that more difficult. The growing season is getting longer, summers are getting hotter, and precipitation is becoming more volatile, with rapid cycling between extreme wet and dry conditions.

Milder winters are allowing various agricultural pests (stink bugs, corn earworms, etc.) to make their way northward, putting further pressure on growers.

But the report credits farmers and policymakers for taking proactive steps to address these problems. Practices like cover crops, no-till farming, and more precise application of fertilizers can help smooth out some climate-driven volatility, making boom and bust cycles less severe. But farmers may have to



Courtesy of Wikimedia

Corn floats in a flooded farm field. Climate change has many effects, especially on farmers, and 2023 was the fourth warmest year ever recorded in Wisconsin.

settle for reduced yields, and reduced profits, as a trade-off.

Ecosystems are degrading

The natural environment is also responding to the changing climate, often for the worse. On land, some cold-adapted species like moose and the monarch butterfly are fighting for survival as warm weather invaders move in. Wildfires are becoming more common, fouling the air and altering the landscape.

Flooding and droughts, meanwhile, are stressing aquatic ecosystems. Popular species like walleye and trout are, in some cases, becoming more scarce as a result. Winter ice cover is diminishing, reducing opportunities for ice fishing and other recreational pursuits. As temperatures rise and ice weakens, winter drownings are becoming more common.

Greater risks to public health

A warming climate is expected to worsen air quality in the Midwest. Higher temperatures mean more production of ground-level ozone, which causes various respiratory problems. A hotter climate also means more wildfires and more smoke pollution. Extreme heat events will lead to death and hospitalization.

But there will be smaller effects too. Warmer spring and fall temperatures mean more pollen and more intense allergy seasons. Oak pollen alone could drive a 7% increase in asthma-related ER visits by 2050, according to the report. Heavier precipitation events will lead to major floods like the Red River flood of 1997, as well as smaller more localized events that cost time and energy to manage.

Warmer winters mean more ticks and all the illnesses they

harbor. Already, Lyme disease incidence across the Midwest has increased roughly fivefold since 2000. Mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile virus, Zika and others may become more common.

More infrastructure headaches

Changes in temperature and precipitation will place more stress on roads, bridges, dams, power grids and other pieces of vital infrastructure. Increased or decreased river flow on the Mississippi, for instance, will lessen the number of transport ships able to travel on it. “Without coordinated adjustments to monitoring, water releases, and communications along the river, significant disruptions to traffic flow and volume of goods transported are expected,” the report warns.

High temperatures reduce power line carrying capacity at the same time demand for air conditioning increases, raising the odds of grid failures.

Messier hydrology

Total annual precipitation is expected to keep rising across the Midwest, according to the report. But it will come concentrated in major flooding events interspersed with periods of drought. More will fall as rain and less as snow, with predictable consequences for ski resorts, snowmobile manufacturers, and other parts of the winter recreation industry.

The average summer surface water temperature on Lake Superior has already increased by about 5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1980, according to the report. The implications for the overall ecology of the lake are unknown.

What is the future of Wisconsin?

According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, by about 2040...

- There will be 5-25 more days per year with a temperature over 70 degrees.
- There will be 20 fewer nights per year with a minimum temperature below freezing.
- There will be 5-15 fewer nights per year with a minimum temperature below 0 degrees.
- There will be 2-4 days per year with a maximum temperature above 100 degrees (from 1981-2010, the average was 0).
- There will be a 5% increase in annual rainfall.
- The average temperature will have increased by 4-5 degrees.
- The average minimum winter temperature will be 4-7 degrees warmer.
- The report concluded that “Wisconsin is likely to become a much warmer state over the next few decades, with average temperatures more like those currently experienced in states hundreds of miles to our south.”

UWO-FDL: Aiming at quality, affordable education

From Page 1

Baerwald said her goal is to make sure that college students in the area have access to higher education.

“Our goal through this agreement, as well as our other partnership agreements, is to create options for students in our district,” Baerwald said. “We know that learning preferences differ between students and the more choices the students have, the better equipped they will be to cultivate a higher education pathway that works the best for their life.”

The Fond du lac campus has an enrollment of 258 students and will continue to hold online classes after in-person courses are halted in May.

Caine has been a strong opponent of the Fond du Lac campus being closed to all in-person instruction and argues that the students at the branch campus deserve the same opportunities as other Universities of Wisconsin students.

“I have always stood on the value that all students are deserving of an education at an affordable price, and I believe that most supporting education

in Wisconsin agree with that,” Caine said. “But that’s not the only positive thing allowed to the students of UWO-FDL. Many of the people on our campus are full-time workers, parents, or trying to get the chance to be successful a little later in life. Even more concerning is that some students don’t have the ability to travel for school, so staying in their hometown university is the best option for them.”

Caine, who started a petition to keep the campus open on change.org, said the closure of the Fond du Lac campus is a mistake.

“UWO-FDL allowed [students] to have a choice on where they receive their associate degree,” Caine said. “It also gave people the chance to succeed in a small and supportive environment. Not to say Oshkosh doesn’t have this, but overall, the community here is strong, [and] for the last semester we will continue to support students and staff to their full potential despite the closing.”

MPTC opened its doors in 1912 and is part of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

MPTC has campuses in Fond du Lac, Beaver Dam and West Bend, and offers more than 100 associate degrees, technical diplomas, apprenticeships and certificates.

Baerwald said MPTC has articulation agreements in place for its students to pursue a bachelor’s degree at a guaranteed junior status.

“UWO is one of our partner universities in these efforts,” Baerwald said. “This means UWO-FDL students pursuing an associate degree can finish their two-year degree locally at Moraine Park and then transfer back to UWO as a junior to pursue their bachelor’s degree without any disruption to their educational path.”

Martini said that UWO is



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

Students sit around a table outside of the Fond du Lac campus. Though in-person classes will halt at the campus, the campus will still provide online classes to students.

working to make customized plans for all students at the Fond du Lac campus before in-person instruction ends after the spring semester.

“Our hope is that all of those students continue on with us at UWO, whether on the Oshkosh or Fox Cities campus, or online,” Martini said. “If they

choose to transfer, we will support them fully as well. This option simply makes it easier for students who wish to remain in Fond du Lac and take in-person courses to pursue that option by completing their associate’s degree at MPTC.”

Sports



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Sophomore Avery Poole drives to the basket against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 10. Poole scored 17 points in the comeback win against UW-River Falls on Saturday.

Titans win fifth straight game

Submitted News

UW-River Falls led the UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team by 14 points at halftime, but the Titans came all the way back in the 12-point win at Page Arena on Saturday.

The No. 16 nationally ranked Titans (19-4, 10-2 WIAC) shot 45.6 percent (26 of 57) from the field, 37.5 percent (six of 16) from three and 81.8 percent (nine of 11) from the line, leading the Falcons (14-9, 5-7 WIAC) in all three shooting categories. They also outrebounded River Falls

34-28, scored 15 and 36 points off turnovers and in the paint to the Falcons’ 10 and 26 and committed just eight turnovers against the Falcons’ 12.

Kennedy Osterman and Avery Poole both scored 17 points in the contest. Osterman made all three of her three-point attempts and led the team with nine rebounds. Bridget Froehlke and Olivia Argall each recorded 10 points as the next highest scorers.

UW Oshkosh scored the four points of the game, extending its lead to 8-2 with 5:24 and held the edge until a 7-0 run by UW-River

Falls flipped the lead to 17-12 to end the first quarter.

The Falcons continued their scoring run in the second quarter with the first 10 points before Kayce Vaile got the Titans back on the board with a jump shot at 5:20. Oshkosh scored the next five points, cutting the deficit down to just six points with 3:05 left in the quarter.

The Falcons again ended the quarter with a scoring run, this time for eight points, ending the half with a 34-20 edge.

While the Titans never scored more than five points in a row in

the entirety of the third quarter, they slowly chipped away at River Falls’s lead and tied the game up on an Argall three-point shot with 1:05 to go, and Macy Nilsen made a layup and a free throw at the end of the quarter to retain the edge.

Two free throws from Osterman tied it back up at 51 with 6:52 left in the game and Froehlke made a three to give Oshkosh its first lead since the first quarter.

Oshkosh never gave the lead up the rest of the night, going on 8 and 10-point runs to take a 14-point lead with 28 seconds to

go. Olivia Hoerl made a layup at 12 seconds to decrease Oshkosh’s lead to 12 points by the time the final buzzer sounded.

The Titans return to Kolf Sports Center on Wednesday to face UW-La Crosse (11-12, 4-8 WIAC) at 7 p.m. Oshkosh defeated the Eagles 68-56 in the teams’ first meeting of the season on Jan. 17 at Mitchell Fieldhouse.

Gymnastics stays undefeated head-to-head

by Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team faced off against Gustavus Adolphus College (Minnesota) in Saint Peter on Feb. 10 and pulled out a 191.650-188.550 victory.

The Titans won three of the four events during the meet, with the largest win being in the uneven parallel bars event with a 1.975-point margin.

The top four finishers for uneven parallel bars were all Titans going in order of senior Emily Buffington, junior Sam Zeilinger, sophomore Lydia Hayden and sophomore Reanna McGibboney.

The Titans won the floor event by a .725-point margin where McGibboney took first place. Behind McGibboney was freshman Jay Ratkowski and junior Delaney Cienkus, who took second and third place in the event.

The vault event was the narrowest UWO win with a .450-point

margin. McGibboney also took first place for this event with junior Mia Lucero and senior Amaya McConkay following behind her, for UWO taking second and third place.

UWO only took defeat in the balance beam event where they lost by a slim .050-point margin. Hayden was the highest finisher for UWO in this event, scoring a 9.700 and taking second place.

Buffington was the only all-around performer for the meet where she totaled a 37.800-point all around score, which was the second highest in the event behind Gustavus Adolphus’s Maddox Lee who scored 38.000

This victory now makes UWO 4-0 in head-to-head meets during the season.

The Titans will head to UW-Eau Claire where they will compete in another head-to-head meet on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

Reanna McGibboney takes first place in both vault and floor during Saturday’s meet.

Sports

Titans place at UWW track meet

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s track and field team competed in the UW-Whitewater Midwest Elite Invitational on Feb. 10 where they placed second out of nine competing programs.

The Titans finished the invitational with 87 points, UW-La Crosse would win the invitational in a landslide by tallying a whopping 170 points.

Senior sprinter Joey Kean tied his career best in the 60-meter dash, winning the event with a time of 6.84 seconds, tallying ten points for the Titans.

The Titans would also have three other point getters during the event with Ray Talbert, Dylan Gramley and Danny Vinson grabbing third, fourth and sixth place during the event.

The Titans were also able to take home the win in the long jump event with senior Joshua Rivers taking the event with a jump of 7.49 meters.

UWO’s Caleb Wright was right behind Rivers with a jump of 7.21 meters, taking 2nd place in the event. Charlie Nolan and Londyn Little also gained points for UWO, together the four competitors gained 26 points for the Titans.

The Titans were also able to gain points at the invitational during the pole vault, triple jump, shot put, one-mile, 60-meter hurdles, 200-meter and 800-meter events.

The UWO women’s track and field team also competed in the UWW Midwest Elite Invitational on Feb. 10 where they finished in fourth place during the event, tallying 60 points.

The UWL women’s track and field team also won the women’s invitational by scoring 173 points, however the gap was narrower on the women’s side with the second place, Washington University in St. Louis (Missouri) scoring 156.5 points.

Junior distance runner Amelia Lehman was the lone Titan to win an event during the invitational as she took home the one-mile run with a time of 5:02.44.

The Titans had two competitors take second place during their events.

Senior Brenna Masloroff took second in the weight throw with a 17.77-meter throw and sophomore Ella Kojis took second in the 3000-meter race with a time of 11:41.69.

Both Men’s and Women’s teams will head back to Oshkosh where they will hold the UWO Titan Challenge on Feb. 17 at the Kolf Sports Center where eight other programs will come to compete against the Titans.

High hopes for softball in 2024

By Nolan Andler
andlerno63@uwosh.edu

After one of the best seasons in team history in 2023, the UW Oshkosh women’s softball team is looking to repeat that success or potentially do better in 2024. The team not only finished second in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and tied their program high in wins with a 36-9 record. They hosted an NCAA regional for the first time in program history, and made the regional finals. Head Coach Scott Beyer is proud of the success from last year.

“We tied for the most wins in school history, hosted the NCAA Softball Regional for the first time in school history,” he said. “We gave ourselves opportunities to win every game we lost, so I am happy with how things went as a whole.”

In 2024, the Titans will return most of the lineup from its WIAC leading 2023 offense including their top three statistical hitters Hannah Ritter, Brianna Davis and Sydney Rau. Ritter batted to a .521 batting average with a .625 slugging percentage and hit 24 rbi’s. While Davis and Rau slugged a .365 and .362 batting average. Coach Beyer is excited to utilize this veteran lineup.

“It is a nice luxury,” he said. “Statistically our lineup was the best in the WIAC last season, so I am looking forward to seeing our top players returning and watching them improve from a season ago.”

Even though the Titans are projected to finish third in the WIAC behind UW-La Crosse and UW-Whitewater, coach Beyer be-



Abby Garceau takes a swing during a game against UW-Platteville last season.

lieves with the goals that the team has along with the returning players, that this could be another good season for UWO.

“I am excited to see the growth from last year’s successes,” he said. “I expect our team to compete with anyone we play, and anticipate this team to play at a high level all season long. It’s hard to replace some of the players that are graduating, but we have a great group of players returning that are

eager to fill those voids. Our goals of winning the WIAC and advancing in the NCAA tournament are very realistic and we are excited to begin playing the games.”

The UWO softball team will open the season at home with a doubleheader against Lakeland University on Feb. 24. Game one will start at 12 p.m. and Game two will start at 2 p.m.

2024 WIAC Softball Preseason Poll

1. UW-Whitewater
2. UW-La Crosse
3. UW-Oshkosh
4. UW- Stevens Point
5. UW-Platteville
6. UW- Eau Claire
7. UW-Stout
8. UW-River Falls

Men’s basketball drops two straight Titans eliminated from WIAC contention

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team lost both their games last week in tough battles against UW-Platteville on Feb. 7 and UW-River Falls on Feb. 10.

After a 21-point victory over UW-Eau Claire, on the road the Titans traveled to Platteville to take on the 14th nationally ranked Pioneers (18-3, 9-1 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) making out a tall task for the Titans (10-11, 3-7 WIAC).

The Titans held their own throughout most of the first half where they stayed within one or two possessions until a small surge at the end of the first half pushed the Pioneer lead to eight with a score of 32-24.

The second half started out hot for Titans where they would begin the half with a 27-8 run, giving them a 51-40 lead with only seven minutes remaining. Throughout the next six minutes the Pioneers would claw their way back and eventually make a three-point shot with 1:03 remaining to take a 60-59 lead.

The Pioneers would close it out in the final minute, winning by the score 66-61, stealing a game

away from the Titans whose record dropped to 10-12 and 3-8 in the WIAC. Freshman guard Michael Metcalf-Grassman led the way for the Titans with 25 points.

The Titans would head home for a bout against UW-River Falls on Saturday. The Falcons (12-10, 6-5 WIAC) head into this contest on a two-game losing streak.

Points came in a flurry in this contest, especially for the Falcons in the first half. The score stood at 29-28 with the Titans in front heading into the media timeout with seven minutes remaining in the half. The Falcons took control for the rest of the half by going on a 16-6 run, giving the Falcons a 45-34 halftime lead.

The offense did not slow down in the second half, with each team exchanging blows. A 44-point half by the Titans was not enough as the Falcons scored 43 of their own, making the final score 88-78. Senior guard Will Mahoney led the Titans with 26 points, and Metcalf-Grassman chimed in with 22 points for his third straight game of 20-plus points.

The Titans record is now 10-13 and 3-9 in the WIAC. UWO has now been eliminated from WIAC contention by being two games back of sixth place with only two



Quinn Steckbauer dribbles up the court. Steckbauer scored 10 points against UW-Platteville on Feb. 7.

games remaining, the current six-seed, UW-Stout went 2-0 against UWO this season and holds the tiebreaker.

The Titans will finish their season with matchups against

UW-Lacrosse on the road on Feb.14 on the road, visit the UWO Athletics website for results. They will take on UW-Stevens Point on Feb. 17 for senior night.

Priebe
to open
eight
exhibits

By Anya Kelley
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

The Allen Priebe and Annex art galleries announced eight new exhibitions coming this spring, as well as new hours for the galleries.

The galleries will be showcasing the Student Honors Exhibition, Mollie Oblinger: Prolonged Current, Bridge Work, Koua Yang, Ryan Steiskal, and the BFA Studio Art Senior Exhibition.

The Student Honors Exhibition is a collection of upper-level student work including ceramics, graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. The exhibition is on display Feb. 8 - 22 in the Allen Priebe Gallery.

Mollie Oblinger: Prolonged Current “explores the overlooked, whether teeming underfoot or concealed by modern society,” according to Leslie Walfish, director of campus galleries. Her works use imagery from animals and cellular anatomy to “get the viewer to think about notations of vulnerability.” Oblinger’s gallery is on display Feb. 8 - 29 in the Annex Gallery.

Bridge Work “brings together multidisciplinary works,” by multiple artists. Bridge Work is on display Feb. 29 - March 21 in the Allen Priebe gallery. There is an artist talk taking place in the Arts and Communications Center room S149 on Feb. 29 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m..

Koua Yang is showing multiple works in multiple mediums such as drawing, painting, photo, installation, clothing making, and more as a means of highlighting Hmong identity. Yang’s gallery is taking place April 4 - 25 in the Allen Priebe Gallery. There is an artist talk on April 4 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Arts and Communication Center room S149.

Ryan Steiskal is an illustrator, painter, and draftsmen alum that graduated from UW Oshkosh in 2015. He uses acrylic inks to create images of animals and sci-fi or supernatural elements. The gallery is April 4 - 18 in the Annex Gallery.

The BFA Studio Art Senior Exhibition and the BFA Graphic Design Senior Exhibition are May 13 - 17 in the Allen Priebe Gallery. The exhibitions feature the work of seniors graduating with a BFA in 2D and 3D Art and a BFA in graphic design.

The galleries have new hours this season: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m., closed Friday, Saturday 2 p.m. -4 p.m., closed Sunday.

Both galleries are located in the Arts and Communications Center.



Advance-Titan File Photo

The Oshkosh Public Museum celebrates its 100th birthday with a year-long series of exhibits, workshops and events.

Oshkosh museum turns 100

By Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh Public Museum will celebrate 100 years with “OPM 100,” a year-long series of exhibitions, events and programs highlighting Oshkosh’s culture in the last century.

“We could not be more excited to mark this incredible milestone alongside the Oshkosh community,” Museum director Sarah Phillips said. “The museum itself is a park of Oshkosh history, and the stories we preserve and share continue to strengthen Oshkosh for future generations.”

The series will showcase key features of Oshkosh’s rich history with two special exhibits. The first, titled “1920’s Oshkosh: Colorful Times in Black and White,” opened Feb. 6 and shows Oshkosh photographs from a hundred years ago.

The second, “Sawyer Saga,” will be a three-part exhibit chronicling the historic Sawyer family. Part one will open March 15, part two will open June 15 and part three will open Sept. 21.

OPM will kick off their first educational program of the year Saturday, Feb. 24 with “American Girls: 1920s History with

Claudie. Attendees will have the chance to win an American Girl doll and accessories.

OPM will also teach two workshops for preserving sentimental objects. They will teach how to care for family photos on April 20 and how to care for treasured textiles on Oct. 5.

The museum will also feature the following special events:

May 11 - Historic Osh Hop — Explore historic properties including the Doe house, the Corbett house and more around the city.

Nov. 2 - Dia de los Muertos — This will be Oshkosh’s third annual celebration of Day of the Dead, which honors lost loved ones.

Nov. 8 - A Toast to a Century: OPM 100 Reception — Celebrate a century of Oshkosh memories with the OPM. More information to come.

For event details and the latest updates on OPM 100, visit oshkoshmuseum.org or contact Kate Stel at kstel@oshkoshwi or (920) 236-5799.

A-T staff earns five national awards

Submitted news

Five Advance-Titan staff members earned national awards in the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Clips and Clicks contest for fall 2023.

Anya Kelley, then news editor, earned second place for her editorial, “It’s time to support student free press,” while Kelley and Josh Lehner, then assistant news editor, earned third-place honors for their news article, “Staff layoffs stun campus.” This semester, Kelley is editor-in-chief and Lehner is news editor.

Managing Editor Kelly Hueckman earned fifth-place honors for her column, “Protect our access campuses.”

Earning honorable mentions were Katie Pulvermacher, then editor-in-chief, for her story “Fond du Lac access campus set to close in June 2024,” and Mattie Beck, then arts and entertainment editor, for “From last place to national champion,” a sports story profiling the success of gymnastics coach Lauren Karnitz. Both Pulvermacher and Beck graduated in January 2024.



Anya Kelley



Kelly Hueckman



Josh Lehner



Katie Pulvermacher



Mattie Beck

Advance-Titan Adviser Barbara Benish said this is the first time she has entered the UW Oshkosh newspaper into the national competition. “Our reporters and editors did an outstanding job covering UW Oshkosh’s \$18 million deficit and the accompanying changes caused by that deficit,” she said, adding that 60% of their winning entries were about UW Oshkosh’s financial situation. “I felt that the staff deserved the recognition for a job well done.”

More than 560 entries were submitted for the contest, according to Gary Lundgren, associate director

“Whatcha Think?”

Should Taylor have brought Lana on stage to accept her Grammy?



Dylan Ruebl, Junior
“I don’t think she was in the wrong, but she should’ve thought about how she was going to make Lana feel about it. They were both up for the award, and after losing and then being dragged on stage and forced to just stand there, you can see how she would be uncomfortable.”



Beck Pritzl, Junior
“Honestly, I feel she would get backlash either way. If she didn’t bring her up on stage, people would say that she’s ignoring her, but by bringing her on stage, some are saying she’s rubbing it in her face. I do believe that Lana didn’t seem entirely comfortable, but Taylor probably wanted to also celebrate her because she helped on Midnights.”



Hailey Magnin, Junior
“I have always loved Taylor, but her actions during the Grammy awards made me change my mind. I know that Lana and Taylor were working together with music, but the fact that Lana was uncomfortable and Taylor still brought her up to the stage made me think twice about her.”



Jacob Kremer, Junior
“I mean, Lana lost to Taylor and then brought her up on stage... I don’t know, it’s kinda weird. It’s a little awkward to bring the loser up on stage for an award they lost to.”



Photo Illustrations by Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Pet grief is real, no matter the age

By Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Earlier this month, I lost my Australian shepherd, AJ, to old age. He lived until he was 16 — God bless — and he lived a life filled with adventure, playing and love from his family. He was there for every holiday, big move and life change — good and bad. He was there for all of it, just as any other family member. Even more, he was a part of those memories.

When I think of Christmas, I think about playing in the snow with him. When I think about moving to Minnesota, I think about how he was there to provide me comfort and a smile. This may not be everybody’s experience, but I know I’m not alone when I say that pets aren’t just like family, they are family. Pet grief is real, and losing them can be very hard.

Unfortunately, the truth is that we’re all getting to that age where

our childhood pets are getting older and passing away. This is not to frighten you, but to prepare you. To say I was prepared for my childhood dog to die would be a gross exaggeration. Luckily, I’ve learned a few things on my grieving journey that I can share with you to help with your own grieving journey.

Author Jamie Anderson defines grief as “love with no place to go,” and I’ve never heard a truer definition. All I want to do is cuddle and play with AJ, but I can’t. What you can do, however, is take that displaced love and pour it into your family and friends. If grief is love with no place to go, then you can direct that love and energy to go toward something else. You can use this love on your family, your friends or even yourself. Or, on the other hand, you can siphon this grief and love into something creative, like art, music, or poetry. Either way, you’ll need the support of your friends and family

during this time. Your peers can especially be an asset, as many other people in college are dealing with the exact same thing. It’s unfortunate that we’re all getting to the age where our childhood pets are getting older, but we might as well use it to our advantage.

Like humans, pets all have unique and special personalities. This was another thing I found myself struggling with; the idea that I will never find or meet another dog like him. And it’s true, I never will because AJ was one of a kind. Even though it makes me sad, there’s something beautiful about it. I am so blessed that I got the experience of loving such a special dog, and knowing that we all have expiration dates just makes our time together here on Earth that much sweeter. As Alfred Tennyson said, “’Tis better to have love and lost than never to have loved at all.”

While you may never be able to replace them, what I learned

from my mom is that you can find bits and pieces of them in many different people or animals. For example, while my friend’s dog is nothing like my late dog, she has this sweetness about her that reminds me of him. Similarly, I’ve started to notice and appreciate qualities in my dad and brother that remind me of him. Death has a way of making you appreciate your loved ones even more. Of course, no amount of people or animals can fill the hole they left, but it certainly helps. That hole is just a reminder of the amazing love you got to experience.

This isn’t all to say that your grieving process will be easy, but my hope is that these tips just make this process a little easier to deal with. So don’t be afraid to reach out to your friends and family, and remember you can always set up an appointment at the UWO Counseling Center.

Dealing with adulthood imposter syndrome

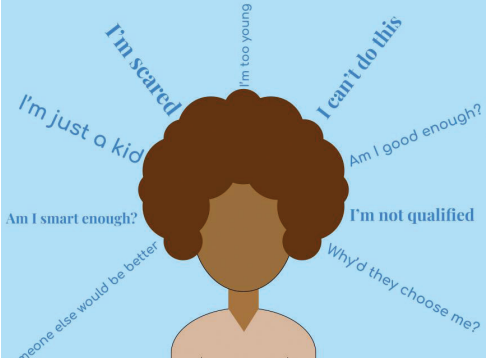
By Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

When I was a kid, I remember thinking my parents had it all together. I longed for the days when I could be like them, when I could have it all together and understand everything. It wasn’t until I was older that this facade began to crack, and I had the unfortunate realization that they’re just figuring things out like everyone else. I say unfortunate not out of pity for my parents, but for myself. This meant that there would not, in fact, be a special switch that goes off when I turn 20 (or even when I turn 40) that would allow me to just magically understand everything. Six years later, I became living proof.

I was on the phone with Mom earlier today, telling her all the things I had to do this week. Then, I had this moment I can only describe as imposter syndrome. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the term, Merriam-Webster defines it as “a psychological condition that is characterized by persistent doubt concerning

one’s abilities or accomplishments accompanied by the fear of being exposed as a fraud despite evidence of one’s ongoing success.” I couldn’t believe the things I was responsible for and the things expected of me, not because I think it’s outrageous or not doable, but because I can’t believe they let a (20-year-old) kid like me do these things. At that moment, I felt like I was 14 again. Then, I realized I never really left that place. I don’t think any of us do; we just get better at pretending and hiding it.

Although my last couple of paragraphs could’ve fooled you, this article is not meant to depress you. It’s meant to shed light and create an open discussion about something we all go through. So, why not go through it together? Maybe we can learn something from each other. If not, then it’s just nice to know you’re not alone. Once you realize that everyone goes through this, you realize it’s inevitable. Inevitability breeds acceptance, and that’s where life begins! My older brother is 27 and he still feels this way. This is the same older brother who has a successful career and radiant social life, and



even he still feels like a kid pretending to be an adult. So, don’t wait until you’ve got it all figured out to start living life, because living life is how you figure it out. Our 20s are meant for trial and error, so try everything. Yes, we are considered adults, but if we’re ever going to get a free pass, it’s now. Don’t listen to your adulthood imposter syndrome, and don’t allow it to run your life or stop you from pursuing your goals. If I listened to mine, I wouldn’t be where I am today.