

# The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

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What's  
inside:

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Page 3

**Titans beat Wheaton**



Page 5

**Reactions to Act 266**

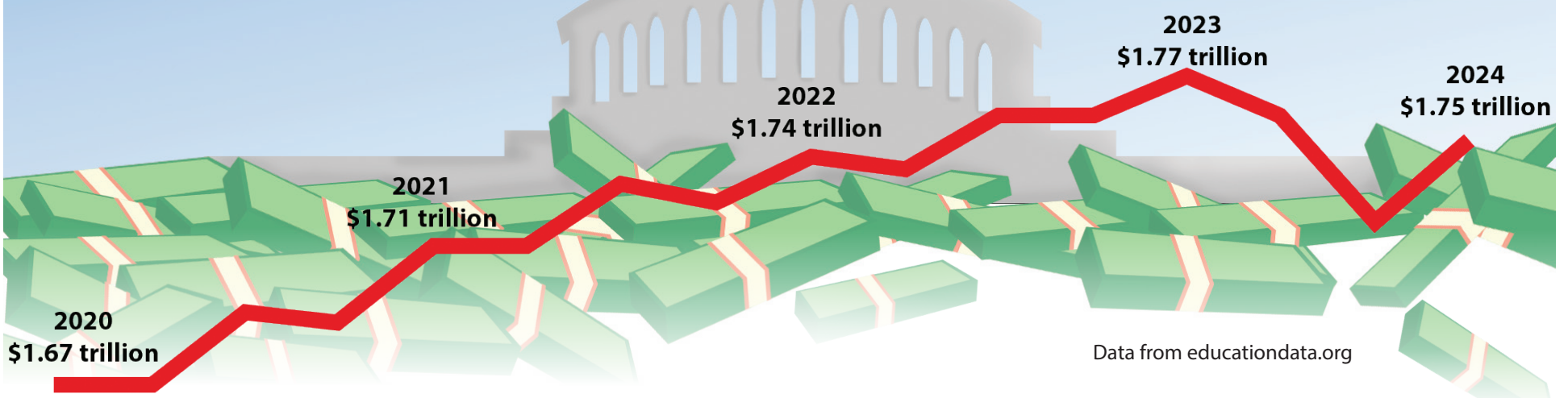


Page 7

**Starting the year strong**

## Total Student Loan Debt

Each figure is taken from the first quarter of the respective year



Graphic by Josh Lehner

## DNC highlights need for student loan forgiveness

By Anya Kelley  
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In the past four years, the Biden-Harris administration has forgiven \$167 billion in student loans even after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down HEROS Act – a plan that would have erased around \$430 billion in student loan debt.

The Dempalooza, an expo put on at the Democratic National Convention, held a panel discussion called Student Debt Relief: Celebrating Wins and Fighting Onwards to highlight the work that has been done, and the work that there is still left to do.

Gynette Baker, a teacher in the Chicago Public School District (CPS) and outspoken advocate for student loan debt forgiveness, was one borrower who saw student debt relief from the Biden-Harris administration.

Baker had been paying on her loans monthly, yet was in over \$143,000 of debt as of 2022. In January of 2023, she thought she was receiving a billing notice in the mail and ignored it because she had auto pay set up.

When she noticed her loan provider hadn't taken a monthly payment, she decided to open the letter.

"They canceled \$143,545," Baker said. "When I saw it, I

couldn't believe it. I just started screaming."

Melissa Byrne, the executive director of We the 45 Million, said stories like these are why they do the work.

"We want to have 40 million stories like this," Byrne said.

Wisdom Cole, the senior national director of advocacy for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) college and youth, said that the issue of student debt is often looked at as a "young person's issue," but it's much more than that. It's a family problem, or what Mary-Pat Hector, Rise Free's CEO, called a "kitchen table issue."

"You go into college, and you're burning with all the student debt," Cole said. "But the NAACP being 115 years old, we have members who are as old as 80 ... and [are] still carrying that burden of student debt."

A group often forgotten when talking about student debt cancellation is Parent PLUS borrowers.

Parent PLUS loans are offered to parents of dependent students enrolled in college. They're offered with financial aid packages and the parents are expected to pay them back when their child graduates college.

According to educationaldata.org, the average university grad-

uate owes \$28,244 however, that does not include what their parents might owe back.

The average Parent PLUS loan debt is \$29,528 when their child graduates from undergrad, as of 2022, according to studentloanplanner.com.

"This is a family problem," Cole said. "Not just something that impacts the person who's in college."

Cole said student debt also impacts people who are not borrowers themselves.

"I remember one of the early conversations that we had with Secretary [of Education Miguel] Cardona," Cole said. "There was somebody who was representing borrowers from the military ... Because of his student debt, he couldn't afford to fix his car, which meant that his kids were late to school [and] he couldn't provide for his family."

"We have to recognize that student debt has reverbal impacts in terms of our communities and our systems," Cole said.

Baker, who's been teaching in the CPS for 29 years, encourages her underprivileged students to pursue higher education. She described it as always wanting to push the next generation to be better than the last – but it becomes disheartening knowing student debt looms in the distant future.

"I want you to do better," Baker

said. "I know doing better means to go to school, but to go to school for us, underprivileged youth like myself ... I want them to be able to access the world the same way that I have and maybe even better."

Baker said it's not a fair choice when deciding whether or not to continue an education after high school.

All of the speakers said underprivileged youth, specifically underprivileged youth of color, in America suffer the consequences of student loan debt more than anyone.

40% of Black Parent PLUS borrowers have an annual household income below \$30,000 and 86% of black students take out student loans compared to 68% of white students. Two-thirds of women owe in student loan debt and Black women owe the most out of any group.

"The number of black and brown folks matriculating higher ed and the costs of college [have] gone up," Aissa Canchola Bañez, the policy director for the Student Borrower Protection Center, said. "But the amount of money that we invest in financial aid, Pell Grants ... the amount of money that our state and federal governments invest in these systems has gone down."

Bañez said if you're lucky enough to get into higher educa-

tion and lucky enough to make it through, but you're left with thousands of dollars in debt, the system is fundamentally broken.

Despite the obstacles, the Biden-Harris administration didn't give up on student loan debt forgiveness.

In May of this year, the administration announced it had officially approved \$167 billion in relief for 4.75 million borrowers across the country – a historically high number.

Groups like the ones represented by the panelists have continued to lobby for student debt relief despite pushback from conservatives. For instance, Hector's organization, Rise Free, has mobilized 250,000 students across the country at over 100 college campuses in support of student debt relief.

The Student Borrower Protection Center is working on a Student Loan Law Initiative to bring together "leading consumer law scholars to develop rigorous academic research aimed at ending the student debt crisis," and investigating where Americans are being scammed in the loan system.

To learn more about student loan debt forgiveness and to see if you qualify, visit [studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/debt-relief-info](https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/debt-relief-info). For educational resources on student debt relief visit [protectborrowers.org/](https://protectborrowers.org/).



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# DNC panelists encourage young voter engagement

By **Anya Kelley**  
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"I believe that young people are at the forefront of this [election]," Tylik McMillan, the Democratic National Convention's (DNC) youth director of coalitions said during a panel discussion about mobilizing youth voters at the convention Aug. 20.

"I believe that when we look at movements across time, young people have always been at the forefront of movements," McMillan said. "Young people have always been the ones to bring bright ideas, innovative ideas, innovative ways to bring fresh perspectives."

McMillan and four other speakers dove head first into the importance of utilizing young adult voices during the election season in what they called "From Apathy to Action: Mobilizing the Youth Vote."

McMillan, who also functioned as the MC of the panel, began the conversation by asking what causes apathy amongst young voters. Mary-Pat Hector, the CEO of Rise Free, said young people, especially young people of color (POC), feel ostracized.

"There's a lot of discussion around Black youth, specifically young Black men, and their disillusionment with the political process," Hector said.

She said that young people don't feel like they're part of the system because they don't see themselves represented in the political world.

"Being on stage is important," Hector said.

The internet is helping to lessen young voter apathy. Hector said that young people are beginning to see more of themselves in their political messengers.

"We're in a historic moment of youth engagement across the country," Hector said. "We had the three highest youth voter turnouts in the last few elections ... we would not have elected Biden/Harris had it not been for historic youth voter turnout."

UW Oshkosh's Director for the Center of Civic and Community Engagement (CCCE) Mike Lueder said a lot of students feel like they just don't need to care.

"If you look at it from a different angle, who is highly engaged in the process?" Lueder said. "It's people like me. Working adults who have homes, who have families, who



Advance-Titan File Photo

A student votes on campus a few years ago. Students can pick up a voting ID at Titan Central in Reeve Union Memorial.

have kids in school districts, who pay taxes and really care about what their money is being used for."

He said that most college students are in the complete opposite scenario since they're often not making much money and not being taxed too highly.

"I don't think it should be this way by any means, but it's just naturally what happened," Lueder said.

All four panelists have dedicated hours of time to educating the youth on why they should care about who's in office, and who's representing them.

Nick Guthman, co-founder and co-president of Blue Future, said that's the beauty of the work they're doing.

"We get to create spaces for people to come together and have really positive experiences in political organizing so that they stay dedicated to this work for the rest of their lives," Guthman said.

Guthman said he sees "enormous youth engagement."

"When we talk to them about what's at stake, when we talk to them about which candidates are fighting for our futures, they go out and vote," Guthman said.

"I think a lot of it is about giving people permission to take action

in a way that empowers them and makes them feel like they're actually changing the community that they're a part of," Jackson Hurley, the national political director and senior advisor at Voters of Tomorrow, said.

Hurley said a lot of people don't because that's what they're comfortable with. He said the value of organizations like Voters of Tomorrow, Nextgen and Rise Free, and platforms like the DNC giving young people voices shows that "the conversation has shifted from young people don't vote, to young people are the [ones] who create change for young people."

The other speakers on the panel echoed Hurley's statements adding that young people communicating with other young people and authenticity are also helping mobilize young voters.

"We invest in our young staff that have innovative ideas," Cristina Tzintzún Ramierz, the president and executive director of Nextgen America, said.

On UWO's campus, there are three recognized political organizations: the College Democrats, Oshkosh College Conservatives and the Oshkosh Student Socialist Association (OSSA).

Lueder said that's a good number

for a campus of that size.

"[The] bigger election year[s] generally drive more engagement to those [groups]," Lueder said.

Lueder works for the CCCE, a bipartisan group focused on informing students about elections when they're happening.

"We focus on informing about voter registration, how to register, where to register, where to vote, all that kind of basic stuff," Lueder said. "[We] also promote, what I believe are, some really great resources to help students figure out what political party they may be."

This fall, the CCCE will continue to help inform students by providing them fair, balanced, nonpartisan information in order to vote successfully on Nov. 5.

The panelist encouraged students to go out and talk to their friends, family and community members about the upcoming election and to post about participating in politics and to make a voting plan for Nov. 5.

For information on voter registration and polling locations visit [myvote.wi.gov/en-us/](http://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/). To keep up with the CCCE and learn more about their events on campus, visit [www.uwosh.edu/community-engagement/](http://www.uwosh.edu/community-engagement/).

## Oshkosh police responds to Walmart bomb threat

By **Jacob Link**  
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The Oshkosh Police Department responded to a bomb threat at Walmart located at 351 S. Washburn St. in Oshkosh at 6:25 p.m. Sept. 8.

According to an OPD press release, as soon as the store received the bomb threat, Walmart immediately evacuated staff and customers. OPD officers assisted the staff with shutting down entrances and evacuating the store.

Once Walmart had been cleared out, an explosive detecting K-9 unit from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office

was brought in to assist with sweeping the store for suspicious items. Once officers and employees had deemed the business safe and the bomb threat was no longer credible, Walmart returned to its normal operation.

Police said that detectives and officers from OPD were able to track down a potential suspect living in Illinois, and that an agency in Illinois had made contact with the suspect.

If anyone has additional information regarding this incident, they are encouraged to contact the Oshkosh Police Department at 920-236-5700 or Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at (920) 231-8477.

## Crime Corner

By **Jacob Link**  
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The Oshkosh Police Department arrested a 22-year-old Oshkosh man after an attempted robbery at the Kwik Trip Sept. 6 in the 200 Block of W. 20th Ave.

According to an OPD press release, officers responded to the Kwik Trip at 1:03 p.m. Friday afternoon to investigate a report of a male who had attempted a robbery and was being held at gunpoint by an armed guard.

Police said the suspect attempted to disarm the guard while he was servicing the ATM machine. As the suspect was trying to grab the gun from the guard's holster, three citizens intervened by holding the suspect down and prevented him from reaching the weapon. The guard then held the suspect at gunpoint until officers arrived.

"The prompt actions of the citizens who intervened to help the armed guard at the scene were instrumental in preventing further harm and de-escalating the situation swiftly," an OPD press release said.

The suspect, who had been seen living in his vehicle in the parking lot of the Kwik Trip, was taken into custody at 1:07 p.m. for attempted homicide, attempted robbery and terroristic threats.



## Tennis splits matches

By Jacob Link  
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The UW Oshkosh women's tennis team split the UW-Oshkosh Triangular Sept. 7 at the Kolf Sports Center Outdoor Tennis Courts, taking down Ripon College 7-0 before falling to UW-La Crosse 7-0 in the Titans' Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opener.

The Titans (2-1, 0-1 WIAC) cruised to their home opening win over Ripon after UWO won every singles match against the Red Hawks.

In the No.1 singles match, UWO's Olivia Pethan defeated Josie Rondestvedt 6-1, 6-3 while Kayla Gibbs took down Tia Endrizzi 6-0, 6-2 in the No. 2 match. Oshkosh's Brianna Owens won the No. 3 singles match against Hadley Berendsen 6-1, 4-6, 10-7 while the Titans' Vianna Dao bested Chase Polyak 6-2, 1-6, 15-13 in the No. 4 match. UWO's Grace Brown took down Allison Pavlovec 6-2, 6-3 in the No. 5 singles match while in the No. 6 match, Olivia Nielsen defeated Isabella Engstrom 6-2, 6-4.

Oshkosh earned the doubles point in the contest after sweeping all three doubles matches. Doubles partners Pethan and Alysa Pattee took down Rondestvedt and Endrizzi 6-2 while Gibbs and Owens defeated Berendsen and Polyak 6-3. In the final doubles contest against Ripon, Courtney Carpenter and Cate Gerl beat Allison Pavlovec and Catherine Skoglund 6-3.

UWO's second match of the day against the Eagles was completely the opposite of the first. UWL swept the Titans in every doubles and singles match as Oshkosh dropped its first WIAC contest of the season.

In the No. 1 singles match, UWL's Tasha Bailey took down Pethan 6-3, 6-3 while Shelby Roth defeated Pattee 6-2, 6-1 in the No. 2 match. In the No. 3 singles match, Lauren Lindow beat Gibbs 7-5, 6-0 while Emma Heinert bested Owens 6-0, 6-1 in the No. 4 match. Maia Samuelson defeated Dao 6-1, 6-0 in the No. 5 singles match while Hannah Cady took down Brown 6-0, 6-1 in the No. 6 match.

UWL also claimed the doubles point by sweeping the Titans in every match. Doubles partners Bailey and Roth defeated Pethan and Pattee 8-1 while Cady and Samuelson beat Gibbs and Owens 8-2. In the final doubles match of the day, the Eagles' Emma Heinert and Lauren Lindow defeated Brown and Gerl 8-2.

UWO will travel to Dubuque, Iowa, to compete in the Loras College (Iowa) Triangular Sept. 14.



Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

Wheaton College's Mark Forcucci gets tackled by four Titans in UWO's 21-14 upset win over the Thunder at Titan Stadium Sept. 7.

## UWO upsets Wheaton 21-14

### Titans defeat No. 9 team in the nation in home opener

By Nolan Andler  
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The UW Oshkosh football team opened up the 2024 season the way that they ended last season — beating a top 25 team at home. In last year's season finale, the Titans beat No. 11 UW-River Falls 38-31 and last Saturday, the Titans upset No. 9 ranked Wheaton University (Illinois) 21-14 at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

UWO, now ranked No. 17 in the latest D3football.com top 25 poll thanks to the win over the Thunder, came into this game with junior Quentin Keene making his first start of his career on Saturday. Keene went 11-for-22 on his passing attempts, throwing for 270 total passing yards and two touchdowns.

UWO head coach Peter Jennings said he liked the composure that he saw from Keene in his first start. "Quentin did a great job staying calm and delivering catchable balls," Jennings said. "His poise under pressure was a huge part in getting us the win."

The game itself was a defensive battle. The first quarter ended in a scoreless tie, and neither offense found paydirt until the second quarter. In fact, the UWO defense did not allow a Wheaton first down in the entire opening quarter. In their first drive of the second quarter, the Titans broke open the scoring with a 63-yard touchdown pass from

Keene to wide receiver Trae Tetzlaff to make it 7-0.

The Thunder looked like they were going to respond on their next drive until Oshkosh linebacker Kyle Dietzen stuffed Wheaton quarterback Mark Forcucci on a fourth-and-2 at the UWO 45 yard line.

The Titans were not able to do anything after the fourth down stop and gave the ball back to the Thunder offense. On this drive, Wheaton was finally able to crack the Titan defense thanks to two big third down catches by Thunder wide receiver Ben Bonga. Wheaton was able to put together a long drive and tie the game thanks to a 5-yard TD catch by Bonga.

Starting their last drive of the first half at their own 20-yard line, Keene connected with tight end Clayton Schwalbe for a 14-yard gain. That play helped set up a 65-yard touchdown pass from Keene to wide receiver Jon Mathieu to regain the lead for the Titans at 13-7.

UWO's extra point attempt was blocked, giving the Titans a 13-7 lead going into halftime.

The blocked extra point looked to be huge as Wheaton started the second half on offense and scored a touchdown thanks to a 1-yard run from running back Giovanni Weeks to make it 14-13.

On their second drive of the third quarter, the Titans drove it all the way down to Wheaton's 6-yard

line. On third-and-6, Keene not only got sacked but fumbled the ball and Wheaton recovered. The Thunder put together a drive that reached the UWO 35, but the Titan defense forced a punt. UWO got the ball back and drove all the way down to the Thunder 38-yard line until a holding call set the Titans back and killed the drive.

But the Titans got one more shot after the defense held the Thunder to a quick drive. The UWO got the ball back with 4:21 left in the game. The Titans last drive didn't get off to a promising start as an ineligible man downfield followed by a sack made it second-and-22 for the Titans, and on fourth-and-13 with two minutes to go. It looked like Wheaton won the game thanks to an incomplete pass intended for Tetzlaff.

UWO got new life off of a pass interference call. The penalty gave the Titans 15 yards and a new set of downs to work with. Oshkosh took full advantage of the penalty as two big plays from Mathieu and running back Justice Lovelace set the Titans up in red zone territory. The Titans got it down all the way to the 1-yard line and on third-and-1, they were able to punch it in thanks to a 1-yard rush from Lovelace. UWO went for two points to make it a seven point game and converted the attempt to make the score 21-14 with only eight seconds left. The Titans were able to stymie the Thunder's last

gasp with an interception from Ben Wollefer, who was named WIAC Football Defensive Player of the Week.

Jennings said he was proud at how the whole team came together in the win.

"This was a true team effort," Jennings said. "Every phase of our program had a hand in our success. To say I am proud is an understatement."

One of the biggest things to note from the game is the defense. A year after Wheaton put up 30 points on UWO, The Titans held the Thunder to only 14 points, its lowest point total since 2021.

The schedule doesn't get any easier. The Titans will continue their non-conference portion of the schedule at home next week as they take on Linfield University (Oregon). The Wildcats are ranked No. 21 in the nation and are coming off of a 31-7 win against their last opponent.

Jennings said he knows that these last two wins are huge for the program but they need to keep focused for the future.

"Our toughest task ahead is always our upcoming opponent," Jennings said. "We will stay focused on our growth, urgency and execution."

The Titans will take on Linfield Sept. 14 at 1:30 p.m., at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

## Golf places 3rd at Marian University Invite

By Jacob Link  
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The UW Oshkosh women's golf team finished third with a total score of 686 and +110 over par across two rounds at the Marian University Invite held at the Whispering Springs Golf Club and at Rolling Meadows Golf Course Sept. 6 and 7 in Fond du Lac.

UWO's Taryn Endres finished tied for

second in the event with a score of 162 and finished +18 over par. Oshkosh's Josie Hofer placed 13th with 174 strokes and was +30 over par while Hailey Matenaer claimed 14th for the Titans with a score of 175 and finished +31 over par.

Sydney Bornhorst finished tied for 18th with 177 strokes and was +33 over par while Ava Downie tied for 21st with three other golfers with a score of 179 and finished +35 over par.

The UWO "B" team took sixth place at the event with a combined score of 727 and finished +151 over par. Leading the way for the second team was Kylie Herrin who placed 20th with 178 strokes and was +34 over par, and Alyssa Dreher, who tied for 25th with a score of 181 and finished +37 over par.

Marian University's Yinan Lu was the only golfer to shoot under 80 strokes in both rounds and won the tournament with a score

of 156 and was +12 over par. Lake Forest College (Illinois) had two golfers inside the top five, with Gabrielle Krebs tying with Endres for second place (+18 over par) and Ashlyn Bhatia taking fourth place with 164 strokes and finishing +20 over par.

UWO will be back in action Sept. 20 and 21 at Benedictine University (Illinois) for the Midwest Region Classic held at Brighton Dale Links in Kansasville, Illinois, with tee time set for 8:30 a.m.



# Sports



## Scoreboard

### Friday, Sept. 6

#### Women's Cross Country

UWO - 181 points (7th of 10)

#### Men's Cross Country

UWO - 150 points (6th of 9)

#### Women's Volleyball

UWO - 3

Whitworth University (Wash.) - 0

### Saturday, Sept. 7

#### Women's Golf

UWO - 686 strokes (3rd of 8)

#### Women's Volleyball

Match 1:

UWO - 3

North Central College (Ill.) - 0

Match 2:

UWO - 3

Aurora University (Ill.) - 1

#### Women's Tennis

Match 1:

UWO - 7

Ripon College - 0

Match 2:

UW-La Crosse - 7

UWO - 0

#### Football

UWO - 21

Wheaton College - 14

#### Women's Soccer

College of Saint Benedict - 3

UWO - 1

### Sunday, Sept. 8

#### Women's Soccer

St. Catherine University (Minn.) - 3

UWO - 0

### Wednesday, Sept. 8

#### Women's Soccer

Loras College (Iowa) -

UWO - (Past publication time)

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, Sept. 13

#### Women's Volleyball

at Hope College September Tournament vs. Otterbein University (Ohio) at 3 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 14

#### Women's Volleyball

Match 1:

at Hope College September Tournament vs. Juniata College (Pa.) at 10:30 a.m.

Match 2:

at Hope College September Tournament vs. Hope College (Mich.) at 1 p.m.

#### Men's Cross Country

at UW-Platteville Gender Equity Invite at 11 a.m.

#### Women's Cross Country

at UW-Platteville Gender Equity Invite at 11:02 a.m.

#### Women's Tennis

Match 1:

at Loras College Triangular vs. Wartburg College (Iowa) at 1:30 p.m.

Match 2:

at Loras College Triangular vs. Loras College (Iowa) at 5 p.m.

#### Football

vs. Lindfield University (Ore.) at 1:30 p.m.

#### Women's Soccer

vs. Milwaukee School of Engineering at 7 p.m.

# Titans soccer drops two matches

By Jacob Link  
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The UW Oshkosh women's soccer team dropped two games on the road over the weekend, falling to the College of Saint Benedict (Minnesota) 3-1 Sept. 7 before losing to St. Catherine University (Minnesota) 1-0 Sept. 8.

The Titans (0-3-1) opened the scoring in the second half with an unassisted goal by forward Gabby Born in the 53rd minute. The Bennies responded two minutes later with an unassisted goal by Alli Voss in the 55th minute to level the score. Voss went on to score two more unanswered goals to complete the hat trick for Saint Benedict, with an unassisted goal in the 59th minute and a goal in the 65th minute off an assist from Emma Young.

UWO was outshot 20-13 in the contest and committed more fouls (10-3) than the Bennies. Midfielder Molly Jackson and forward Nadia Epshteyn both paced Oshkosh with two shots on goal while Titan goalkeeper Mallory Kerhin picked up the loss, but had 12 saves in the match.

For the Bennies, Voss finished the game with six shots on goal



Terri Cole / UWO Athletics

UWO's Gabby Born dribbles away from an opponent in a game earlier this season at Titan Stadium.

while goalkeeper Annie Waters picked up the win and had seven saves.

The Titans could not find the back of the net against St. Catherine as UWO was blanked for the second time this season.

The lone goal of the match came in the 64th minute when Ayah Makled scored on an assist

from Elyse Snortum.

Once again, the Titans were outshot 24-10 with only five of UWO's shots being on target. Epshteyn and Laney Wiebel led the Titans in shots, registering five and three, respectively. Oshkosh goalkeeper Emma Sauriol earned the loss and had six saves.

St. Catherine's Claire Cater

and Kallan Tuominen each recorded five shots in the match while goalkeeper Kate Praetz stopped five shots and picked up the win.

UWO will hit the road to take on Loras College (Iowa), ranked No. 13 in the nation, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m.

# Cross country runs at UWGB Open

By Jacob Link  
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The UW Oshkosh men's cross country team placed sixth with 150 points, and the UWO women's team took seventh place with 181 points at the UW-Green Bay Phoenix Open Sept. 6 at the Phoenix Alumni Cross Country Course in Green Bay.

On the men's side, the Titans were led by junior Cameron Cullen, who claimed 20th place and finished the 8-kilometer race in 25:30.1. UWO's Eli Traeder finished in 30th place in 25:56.3 while Alex Peterson ran a personal best time of 25:58 for a 32nd place finish.

The men's race, which featured nine teams, was won by Michigan Tech, which scored 44 points. UWGB took second with 70 points while UW-Stevens Point took third and scored 77 points.

Green Bay's Noah Jahnke and Riley Siltman took first and second place with times of 24:37.7 and 24:42.4, respectively. Austin Hall of Purdue University Fort Wayne claimed third place with a time of 24:43.9.

On the women's side, Oshkosh was led by senior Amelia Lehman who finished 20th with



Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

Cameron Cullen (right) placed 20th at the UW-Green Bay Phoenix Open Sept. 7 with a time of 25:30.1.

a time of 23:07.5. UWO's Jamie Catania took 28th place in 23:22.4 while Cyna Madigan claimed 42nd place, finishing with a time of 23:46.1.

The women's race, which featured 10 teams, was won by Winona State University with 39 points. Purdue University Fort Wayne took home second

place with 66 points followed by the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) in third place with 77 points.

UW-Milwaukee's Anelise Egge won the 6,000-meter race in 21:39.5. Winona State's Sophia Taarud and McKenna Taylor claimed second and third places with times of 21:54.2

and 22:16.5, respectively.

The Titans will head to Cuba City to compete in the UW-Platteville Gender Equity Invite at Cole Acres Golf Course Sept. 14, with the men's race scheduled to start at 11 a.m. with the women's race immediately after.

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## Arts & Culture

# Students and faculty react to Act 266

By Angela Satterlee and Jessica Duch  
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Hmong professors and students at UWO said that they are excited for the steps being taken to include Hmong and Asian American history in the Wisconsin education curriculum from grades K-12.

Last spring, Gov. Tony Evers signed Act 266 into law April 4 which stated that Hmong and Asian American history will become a part of the Wisconsin K-12 curriculum.

“The Hmong and Asian American communities are a critical part of our state’s history, culture, economy and our future,” Gov. Evers said in an April 4 press release. “It’s important that we celebrate our shared histories and honor the people who help make Wisconsin the state it is today.”

Now, students and faculty from UWO are speaking up about how they feel about the bill being passed and put into action throughout Wisconsin school districts.

“I think this is kind of a long time coming,” Chong Moua, assistant professor of Hmong Studies at UW Oshkosh, said.

Moua said it was crucial to finally have the policy in formal writing so that educators could advocate for more resources and college students could come to class with a prior understanding of Hmong and Asian American studies.

“The possibilities are just so



Photo courtesy of the Hmong Studies Program

UWO Students from the course theorizing Hmong studies in spring 2024 pose in front of the College of Nursing building.

much more,” she said. “I think we’ve been waiting for not having to start at the beginning all the time, in terms of these courses and in terms of having people think about, ‘why is it important to learn Hmong history?’”

Moua also emphasized that the curriculum change will allow Hmong students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum and have classmates who understand their backgrounds.

Fong Yang, a senior at UWO and the current president of Hmong student union (HSU), said

she believes that it is important for students in Wisconsin to learn about the Hmong people as they are aggregated mainly in California, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

“Growing up as a first-generation Hmong student here in Oshkosh, we were always asked what we were,” Yang said. “All we knew was that we are Hmong and that’s kind of all we know until we learn more about it as time goes on.”

With the bill being passed into action Yang would like more students to be taught the Hmong

culture because there are so many pieces of their history missing from the curriculum.

“I hope that students will learn about the hardships we had to go through, so the few Hmong students won’t have to explain or feel excluded while learning about history. There are so many things missing in our history,” Yang said. “Many Americans have a knowledge of their own history such as what they are, where they are from and what their family traditions are and what their ancestors did. That is something we do not have

for the newer Hmong generations still to this day.”

As a member of the HSU Yang wants to bring awareness to the Hmong community, so that they are no longer overlooked like their history has been.

“[HSU] strives to make a safe space for Hmong students on campus, somewhere with others like us so we do not have to feel so left out or excluded,” she said. “We not only encourage Hmong students but everyone to learn about us and join our events here at HSU at UWO.”

## UWO continues to rebuild its campus buildings



Photo by Angela Satterlee / Advance-Titan

The Multicultural Education Center undergoes a 1.2 million renovation

By Angela Satterlee  
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The multicultural building at UW Oshkosh was in great need for a fresh look which means a lot of renovations. Beginning in early spring of the 2023 fiscal

year the Multicultural Education Center (MEC), along with a few other areas, were scheduled for some much needed upgrades and renovations. According to Vice Chancellor Robert Roberts, the entire renovation budget was set at \$1.276 million and 100%

state-funded.

Construction began immediately after getting the notification that they were ready to go, Byron Adams, Director of the Center for Student Success and Belonging and Interim University Diversity Officer, said. Adams also said that the project is progressing well and is expected to be completed in late November if everything continues to go according to plan.

Adams said that this was a long overdue project, and anything state-funded typically goes through a tedious process. It took almost a decade to get the approval they needed to begin the construction since the plans had to be approved by the border regions and then at the UW System.

Most of the renovations being made to the building are just for general upkeep. The MEC is over 80 years old now, and needed a lot of changes to keep up to codes. Many challenges come with renovating this building because it’s a historical landmark, so it’s on the Wisconsin Historical Registry so people are limited to what they can physically do to the building.

While they can’t knock down walls, they have made changes including maintenance to the exterior, including reroofing the shingles, redoing the porch, and more drastic changes like adding

an accessibility ramp and adding an ADA-approved bathroom.

All of the changes are going to boost the overall look to the building, but Adams said he hopes it also brings in more student engagement.

“It’s a student-centered building, and so having a facility where students feel like it’s somewhat up to code and standards and having some kind of modern technology, is important,” he said.

This renovation is all part of a campus capital project, of getting UWO up-to-date with some newer facilities, and renovation of some older ones. Because of this change, the Campus Center for Equity and Diversity buildings, including the Women’s Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, will be closing and will not reopen.

Adams strongly believes that a partnership between these groups alongside the MEC will allow the same services to be held in the newly renovated building and in the new addition to Reeve Union, called the Hub.

“We’re hoping that even though we lost the physical space of our LGBTQ+ Center and our Women’s Center, we still have the services and the support... We just lost the physical space,” Adams said. “We’re hoping, like with

the Multicultural Center, we can provide some gender pride equity space, again, just to offset that because we’re losing that facility.”

Adams said that students who have the needs for these spaces still exist, and he always wants to make sure the school is still providing services and support to the students who need it.

“The financial issues we’ve been having as an institution... and kind of where things are happening right now with the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)], in the state, there’s some pushback on DEI services and all that kind of stuff,” Adams said. “And so we’re just looking for new ways to just ingrain and kind of weave in DEI within the school system.”

This new space will allot a community for students, and the campus is excited to be able to keep the facility, Adams said, which came as a result of Black Thursday, a civil rights demonstration at UWO from the late sixties.

“The fact that we’re having it physically as a symbol there and also providing services that actually do that, that bring people in and build community is great,” Adams said. “I’m just glad we’re able to keep that, and I think it’s an exciting project.”



## Arts &amp; Culture

## Enter: Dance-punk

## Smoke Free Home ignites Oshkosh's punk scene

By Taycee Zach  
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In the heart of Oshkosh's underground punk scene, a genre-defying group called Smoke Free Home has been rocking the community with their electrifying rhythms and honest, abrasive lyricism — without the help of a lead guitar.

For the trio consisting of 29-year-old vocalist and primary songwriter Jesse Tubeszewski, 28-year-old Kevin Sonnleitner on bass, and 26-year-old Alex Lautenschlager on drums, the type of punk they produce puts them in a league of their own, blending raw punk intensity with infectious dance music.

"We like to consider ourselves 'dance-punk,'" Tubeszewski said. "We want it fast, we want it loud, and we want people to be able to move to it."

Inspired by Canadian rock duo Death from Above 1979, the absence of a guitarist might seem like a limitation, but Lautenschlager sees it otherwise, noting that Smoke Free Home's dance-punk sound is an advantage to fit the energy of various showcases.

"I think the weird thing is that we fit in a lot of bills, punk, metal, whatever," Lautenschlager said. "The genre of punk that we're producing is a lot different, but it still has that edge to it. Sometimes we'll play with some softer bands, and it still works."

Formed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Smoke Free Home has garnered a loyal fanbase in their short run, drawing in large crowds and releasing their music digitally and physically, with their latest single "Fire Bug" being released on July 19.

Their previous EPs, "Nervous Wreck" and "Bad News," were both made available on the unlucky day of Friday the Thirteenth, and the latter, with its simple, but daring, cover art of a burglar equipped with a crowbar, made way for humorous marketing strategies.

"When we looked at the group of songs that we wanted to put on there, they're all about bad things," Tubeszewski said. "It's bad things emotionally and socially, none of it's real happy stuff. Collectively, it's bad news. So, we thought it would be really cool that when we were promoting it, we could say 'we've got bad news.' And it worked."

The production of "Bad News" was done with the help of Gage Brunes, drummer of Madison garage rock band Lunar Moth, at his recording studio, Fuzz Tapes Studios. The recording process for "Bad News" was fun but did not come without its share of downfalls, with the hardest part being distance, Lautenschlager said.

"It was hard with how far away Gage was," he said. "So,



Photos by Taycee Zach / Advance-Titan

Smoke Free Home members vocalist Jesse Tubeszewski, bass player Kevin Sonnleitner, and drummer Alex Lautenschlager rock out at Jambalaya Arts Inc.

anything that we wanted to tweak, we would have to do it via phone, texting him or something. And there was nothing we could really do to be there to point out ourselves and be hands-on. Lunar Moth is touring all the time, so they're busy people too, but he was very responsive."

In terms of "Bad News" track list, one song that stands out is a crowd favorite among Smoke Free Home's ever-growing fanbase, a cacophonous thrash number about the horrors of dental insurance entitled "Pressure."

"It's about being frustrated with dental bills," Tubeszewski said. "And that's something that I've dealt with most of my life. I think it's a genetic thing, but I do have good insurance now. Don't tell anyone. But I thought it'd be a funny song people could relate to."

Their live shows are as brash as they are encapsulating, with Tubeszewski rolling on the floor wrapped like a mummy in his microphone wire while Lautenschlager and Sonnleitner pound out rhythms with sticks and strings, rattling the bones of those in the mosh pit.

"Our shows are nothing but high energy," Tubeszewski said. "We're going to go hard, and we're not going to let up until our 30 minutes is up. Live shows are important for the youths. That's what it always was for me. It was an opportunity to let go of some aggression and just physically express yourself and get that shit out. I take a lot of pride in my lyrics. I'm hoping

that some of it is relatable. And God forbid it inspires somebody."

Rather than a specific venue, the band gets the most enjoyment out of playing shows at houses owned by friends and fellow punk bands, where the energy is a lot more hectic and unexpected.

"I feel like we've had a lot of intimate experiences at certain house shows where no bar or club holds a candle to a house show," Sonnleitner said. "Everybody that comes there is there for music, not just the atmosphere. It's more intimate, it's wilder and crazier, especially being in a punk band."

"I'm never going to stop being surprised when I see people crowd surfing through a living room and kitchen," Lautenschlager added. "People have lit off fireworks indoors. There are always all sorts of things happening. Once there were cans of beans and frozen turkeys getting thrown around."

Smoke Free Home follows the traditional DIY punk strategies of creating their own album art and tee shirts, as well as self-promotion through physical media rather than solely the convenience of social media in the modern digital age.

"We still print off a lot of physical flyers and go hang them up," Lautenschlager said. "We go to other shows that we're not playing, hand out flyers to let people know. They crumple them up, we pick them back up."

Lautenschlager said that the



small punk music scene of Winnebago County has potential to grow if given media coverage, but prefers the chaos to stay quiet.

"It really takes knowing some of the people and going to the shows, otherwise it could totally slip you by," Lautenschlager said. "We've got some decent coverage from outlets like Discover Oshkosh. But the underground punk scene could have a light shined on it. People could know more about what's going on, but those kinds of media don't touch on it. It's kind of nice that way though."

The trio considers punk less a genre or clothing style, but rather a lifestyle and craft that is very different than the cliché of anarchy masking punk music.

"Everyone thinks it's just Doc Marten boots, hair gel, patches on your jackets, face piercings,"

Tubeszewski said. "Punk means DIY, everything is done yourself. When you've got less people involved in telling you what to do, then you're going to get a pure product. And I take pride in that."

"With Smoke Free Home specifically, it's about the rawness of expressing those emotions through music," Sonnleitner added. "Honestly, I'm very grateful to kind of like to be a part of it. There's something about the raw emotions of everybody getting together and sharing that energy in that sweaty room together. It's magical, it really is."

Smoke Free Home will be playing their final show of 2024 on Oct. 5 at the Strange La-Grange Music & Arts Festival in Whitewater.





Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

Antczak (12) does her weekly planning at the kitchen table. She has one large calendar for places and dates, and a smaller one dedicated to her assignments.

# How to start this year off strong

By Cassidy Johnson  
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

I know it's only the second week of classes, but the first few weeks of classes are actually the most vital in determining the rest of your academic year. You've probably heard it so much that the message has become static, but it's true: Once you fall behind, it's hard to catch up. So, set yourself up for success this school year by working hard these first few weeks and starting the semester off strong with these tips. After all, it's only going to get harder and busier.

## 1. Take notes on your syllabus

The first tip I recommend is taking notes on your syllabus. I know syllabi can be boring, but make sure to at least skim through it and take notes on important information such as the attendance policy, office hours and the policy on late work. It can also be helpful to jot down the grade distribution amongst assignments, essays and exams to help with prioritizing your work when it gets busy. I have this information on the first page of each and every one of my notebooks so it's easy to access whenever I need to reference a policy or any other course information.

## 2. Get organized

My second piece of advice is to get a planner or calendar and get organized. I personally prefer using a paper planner because I remember things better writing them down versus typing them. It also helps to be able to see my whole week planned out all at once. You can also take the approach of my roommate, Sydney Antczak, and write your tasks down on a physical calendar. She prefers doing it this way because it allows her to see a whole month's schedule at a glance so she can better plan ahead. "I also just like the pure satisfaction of physically crossing something off," said Antczak.

However, everyone's brain operates differently. If you prefer using an electronic planner, there's tons of awesome apps and websites you can use on your phone and/or laptop to help organize all of your to-do's. Some options include using the calendar app on your phone or apps like MinimaList. Both of these will send notifications to ensure you won't miss a task or plan, and MinimaList even has widgets available to put on your home screen so you're always in the know. I would also recommend writing any major assignments or exams down ahead of time. This

reduces the chance of you missing important tasks, especially as the school year picks up and you have less time to devote to your planner. It also helps with planning the rest of your week and with prioritizing your work.

## 3. Ask for help

Another vital piece of advice is to utilize the many campus resources available to help you with your studies. UWO offers tutoring sessions via the Student Success Center in almost all subjects, and almost all professors have designated office hours that you can find on your syllabus. Select subjects also have Supplemental Instruction sessions where you can review content from the week from a student who has already taken and passed the class successfully.

"I took advantage of the SI sessions for my U.S. History class freshman year, and it was very beneficial and even helped me pass the class," Kremer said. SI provides a great opportunity to both recontextualize the information by going in-depth and providing more examples on some of the more confusing content. There's also an opportunity to further connect with some of your classmates if you're looking for a study bud-

dy. Don't forget that the school also offers the Counseling Center if you just need somebody to talk to about educational strains or any other mental strains in your life. You can also apply for accommodations for any learning disabilities you may have such as dyslexia, anxiety, ADHD and more.

## 4. Don't skip class!!!

I mentioned this before in my previous article, "Freshman survival guide: 10 tips and tricks," but I'm going to mention it again because it's that important. The truth is, you're paying for your classes. You might as well get everything you can out of the class.

Obviously, mental and physical health are also a big priority, so don't go at the expense of your well-being. At the same time, you should save your absences for those days instead of skipping just because you "don't feel like it." Skipping is also more work in general as you have to both only figure out what you missed and teach yourself the content you missed from class.

I also find that the guilt I get from skipping class inhibits me from being productive the rest of the day. It's a pretty rough cycle. At this point, I'm pretty much an

expert at forcing myself to go to class even when I don't want to, and I can confidently say that I have never regretted going.

## 5. Don't overdo the drinking

Last but not least, remember not to overdo it with the drinking. I know there's lady's night on Wednesdays, karaoke on Thursdays and, of course, you have to go out Friday and Saturday... except that you don't.

It's fine to go every once in a while, but like skipping class, drinking can be a slippery slope. Not only can this have detrimental effects on your education, but also on your relationships and physical health. Drinking four times a week consistently can also promote alcoholism. According to NPR, excessive drinking is defined as fifteen or more drinks a week for men, and 8 or more drinks a week for women.

I understand that college, and especially UWO, is known for its excessive drinking, but remember what you're paying tuition for: an education. Don't be afraid to have fun and let loose after a hard week, but just be careful to make sure it doesn't hinder your education.

# A-T's statement regarding advertisements

By The Advance-Titan Staff

The Advance-Titan has received a few concerned emails regarding political campaign advertisements that are posted in Reeve Union.

As we approach the election

in November, political advertisement is bound to increase.

We would like to reiterate that the A-T is a nonpartisan organization and does not discriminate between political parties when deciding who it does and does not take advertising

money from. Ads run on a paid for schedule and all ads will be left up until their contract has expired.

Due to cuts in both federal and state funding, many student media organizations across the nation rely heavily on advertis-

ing revenue to fund their operations. As long as advertisements follow our guidelines for appropriateness, we will run them.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns on advertising or would like to see other types of advertisement in

the A-T, we encourage you to reach out to our editor-in-chief Anya Kelley and our ad manager Luke Bussey.

Thank you for your understanding.



# HARRIS WALZ

As the school year begins, I would like to take this special moment to welcome you back to campus.

It feels like yesterday that I was a student at Howard University. I found forever friends, people who shaped me and supported me. I found my beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters. Like many, college is when I started to become politically engaged. Together, we learned that progress happens in our country when young people fight for it.

Throughout my travels as Vice President, I love talking to young leaders. I am continually amazed by your grit, your perseverance, your intellect, and your deep passion for making our world better.

It is because of the record turnout among college students in 2020 that I am Vice President today. And to win this election, I need your support.

This November, so many of our fundamental freedoms are at stake. The freedom to vote. The freedom to live safe from gun violence. The freedom to love who you love, openly and with pride. The freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water. And the freedom to make decisions about your own body.

Later this semester, you will have the opportunity to vote in an election that will decide the future of our country. You will have the power to shape our future. To continue to build the country you want to live in—one where your fundamental rights are protected—by taking to the ballot box and making your voice heard.

Your vote has never mattered more. When young people fight for progress, it changes the course of our nation. I believe in you. I am inspired by you. And I am rooting for your success.

Sincerely,



Vice President Kamala Harris





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