

The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

VOL. 135, No. 4

SEPT. 26, 2024

ADVANCETITAN.COM

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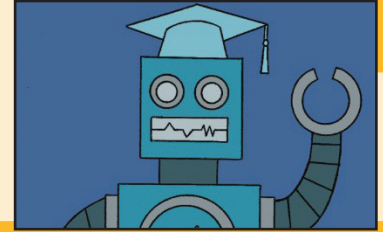
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UW-Superior
2,756

2024 preliminary headcount enrollment estimates

UW-River Falls
5,093

UW-Eau Claire
9,969

UW-Stevens Point
8,263

UW-Green Bay
10,749

UW-Stout
6,870

UW-La Crosse
10,438

UW Oshkosh
13,127

UW-Madison
51,729

UW-Milwaukee
22,517

UW-Platteville
6,419

UW-Whitewater
11,784

UW-Parkside
3,875

Data from Universities of Wisconsin

Graphic by Josh Lehner

UWO sees biggest drop in enrollment

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh is estimated to have seen a 4.7% drop in enrollment, the largest decrease in the Universities of Wisconsin system, according to preliminary data released Sept. 16.

UWO, one of five Universities of Wisconsin (UWs) to see a decrease in first-day student headcounts, reported 13,127 undergraduate, graduate and high school students on the first day of classes, which is a decrease of 651 students from last year's 10-day enrollment figures.

The only other schools that saw a decrease in preliminary enrollment data as compared to last year's 10-day enrollment figures were UW-Platteville (281 students), UW-Milwaukee (186), UW-Parkside (154 students) and UW-Stout (68 students).

UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said in an email to staff Sept.

16 that the university is still assessing its official 10-day enrollment census.

"As I shared at convocation, we factored an enrollment decline as a possible outcome and modeled budget scenarios accordingly," Leavitt said. "Indications are undergraduate headcount will be down about 5.6%. That's a reflection of a 2024 recruitment cycle that included difficult but necessary decisions to strengthen the university's long-term viability. Challenging publicity this year didn't help UWO."

Although the university has seen a decrease in enrollment, UWO's Honors College enrollment grew 14% to more than 500 students, and the college's first-year class was up 40%.

UWO's dual enrollment Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP), which offers college credit to more than 5,000 Wisconsin high school students, saw a 3% pro-

jected enrollment increase for fall 2024.

The UWs saw an increase of 1,058 students across a total of 13 universities, and the overall estimated system enrollment is 163,589 students for this school year, the most since 2020.

UW-Eau Claire (20 students), UW-Green Bay (411 students), UW-La Crosse (164 students), UW-Madison (1,394 students), UW-River Falls (25 students), UW-Stevens Point (79 students), UW-Superior (36 students) and UW-Whitewater (262 students) all saw an increase in enrollment data as compared to last year's 10-day enrollment figures.

Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman said that the increase comes despite severe challenges caused by the disruptive roll out of a new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) financial aid form and a lack of funding for the Wisconsin Tuition Promise.

"The fact that overall enrollment is up at the UWs despite the federal FAFSA fiasco is proof positive that Wisconsinites know that education unlocks opportunities," Rothman said. "We simply didn't see the typical late surge of enrollments that we would have in normal years and that comes down to FAFSA completion and uncertainty over financial aid awards — something that could have been helped with a tuition promise for the fall 2024 cohort."

According to Rothman, FAFSA completion was down about 9% in the state as compared to last year.

Rothman said that his \$855 million 2025-27 state budget request approved by the Board of Regents includes funding for an expanded tuition promise for fall 2025 and claimed it would provide the resources to preserve access at existing branch campuses.

"Today's enrollment growth marks our second year of increas-

es in the face of significant headwinds," said Rothman. "The consequences of public funding of our universities in the bottom 10 of the nation is making access and affordability much more difficult than it should be. Our hope is the legislature will provide relief for parents and students seeking the educational opportunities at our UWs."

Rothman said that if the Board of Regents' budget request was approved by the state legislature, he would not recommend a tuition increase for the 2025-26 or 2026-27 academic years.

Leavitt said that helping students see and reach beyond their potential is UWO's forte.

"On days when folks look to enrollment scoreboards, we must remember that students are more than inputs," Leavitt said. "They are achievers of outcomes even they couldn't imagine. We help them outdo themselves."

Oshkosh Police Department investigates park vandalism

By Jacob Link
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The Oshkosh Police Department is investigating several acts of vandalism that have occurred over the last week at South Park inside the public restrooms at 1210 Georgia St.

According to OPD, several juveniles damaged property in the restrooms by covering the walls, floors, sinks and toilets with graffiti, which cost several thousands of dollars to repair.

The suspects were caught on the park's video surveillance cameras vandalizing the re-

strooms, and officers are working to identify the suspects in the video footage.

In a press release, OPD reminded citizens to report any suspicious activity around South Park.

"Parks are meant to enhance the quality of life for everyone in

our community — a place where people can enjoy nature, relax, and create long lasting memories," an OPD press release said. "We strongly urge parents to remind children to be respectful of property, and that repairs to fix damaged items can be very costly. By working together, we

can help prevent damage to our parks."

If anyone has information regarding this incident, they are encouraged to contact the OPD at 920-236-5700 or the Winnebago County Crime Stoppers at 920-231-8477.

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About the Newspaper

The Advance-Titan is an independent student newspaper published on campus since 1894. The paper is written and edited by students at UW Oshkosh who are solely responsible for content and editorial policy. Any UW Oshkosh student from all three campuses is welcome to work on the newspaper staff. The paper is published on Thursdays during the academic year.

Correction Policy

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

Advance-Titan

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To apply or learn more, email atitan@uwosh.edu.

Oshkosh Police Department acquires new therapy K9

By Isaac Pischer
pischeris70@uwosh.edu

The Oshkosh Police Department recently had a new furry friend join the force. Therapy dog K-9 Gema is now with the team, following in the paw prints of K-9 Magic, who passed away in late 2023. Gema, a two-year-old treat and people-loving yellow labradoodle, will be used to provide emotional support to community members as well as officers. OPD officials note how her love, kindness and support will bring a sense of calmness to high-stress situations and will be an important asset to both the department and the City of Oshkosh.

Oshkosh police Chief Dean Smith stated, "We are very excited to welcome K-9 Gema to our team. She will continue the great work that K-9 Magic started and will be a blessing to our community."

Gema will be working with Behavior Health Officer Scott Sopata, who has dealt with behavioral health related calls and crises

since 2021 and holds the first position of its kind in Winnebago County.

Sopata stated, "I was very excited to hear that the City of Oshkosh and our police department wanted our facility dog program to continue. Magic opened so many doors of success, and I know that Gema will continue that legacy while this program continues to grow. It was an honor to work with Journey Together, their trainers and volunteers during this successor dog process."

Gema was trained in a program called Journey Together, a non-profit charitable organization in Oshkosh. Their mission is to provide highly-trained service dogs to people diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Journey Together typically trains their dogs from 8 weeks old until they are two years old. She has received several certifications.

UW Oshkosh Police Chief Christopher Tarmann mentioned that, while the city and university police are two separate entities, the departments do often share re-



Courtesy of OPD / Facebook
K-9 Gema, a two-year-old yellow labradoodle, poses with OPD Chief Dean Smith.

sources and work together. In the past, previous therapy dogs have supported UWOPD, which Tarmann believes will continue to be the case, while also noting the success their own previous K-9, Skylar, had and the joy she brought when dealing with mental cases.

"This is a great addition for the City of Oshkosh Police Department, and we look forward to the potential of this support for our community during specific types of calls," Tarmann said in an email statement.

UWO professors express impact of elephant conservation

By Taycee Zach
zacht38@uwosh.edu

Over the last 75 years, the population of savannah elephants worldwide has declined by more than 50 percent, making them one of the most endangered species in Africa. With a decreasing population, there also comes threats to the elephants' environment, which faces dangers such as climate change and lack of plant diversity.

Campus Sustainability Coordinator Bradley Spanbauer is an associate biology lecturer at Oshkosh, with a background in tropical and community ecology. Since earning his master's from the university, Spanbauer has focused his attention on the future of elephant populations and how their endangerment can influence the ecosystem in which they thrive.

Spanbauer specializes in elephant seed dispersal, a process in which seeds are transported away from their parent plant and germinated in another area through elephant digestion. Seed dispersal is a crucial factor in tree growth.

"Elephants are very good dispersal agents because the size of their mouth allows them to swallow their food whole," Spanbauer explained. "When they pass it out after a couple of days, the seeds are now growing in a ball of fertilizer, and this helps with tree recruitment."

According to a study conducted by Spanbauer in Tanzania in 2015, elephants are creating plant diversity across the savannah through digestion, with their dung acting as both a fertilizer and a protectant against insect predators. Savannah elephants are some of the most important seed dispersers in Africa, traveling up to 200 kilometers to fertilize these seeds.

"Elephants contribute to eating the seeds either directly off the tree or off the ground underneath the tree," Spanbauer said. "They're working their way through the elephant's digestive system. The elephants are spreading these seeds out into other parts of the environment, which helps enhance genet-

ic diversity by spreading those genes out across the landscape."

Along with his work studying seed dispersal, Spanbauer has also taken the time to investigate not only how elephants benefit their environment, but also how they are put at risk due to the illegal ivory trade in Africa. He spent the summer of 2015 as an intern for Save the Elephants, a conservation effort based in Nairobi, Kenya.

While in Kenya, Spanbauer found that due to hunting, elephant genetics are being modified in terms of tusklessness. Tusks are genetically determined and can occur in both sexes. However, a lack of tusks in males can result in poor mating, which could lead to a fall in reproduction rates.

"If humans are hunting the elephants that have large tusks, those elephants are not going to pass those genes on to their offspring," Spanbauer explained. "Females choose to mate with males who have large tusks because that's a sign of a healthy male carrying good genes. Without tusks, it could potentially make it hard for males to mate."

The trade of ivory became illegal in 1989, but poaching continues to be an issue in Africa. Despite the lack of legality in ivory harvesting, hunting is still legal in many African countries such as Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The killing of elephant populations could cause not only extinction, but could also lead to harmful impacts on climate change in the continent and its surrounding areas. Without elephant seed dispersal, tree recruitment will become scarce in these areas, causing a dramatic drop in oxygen and moisture in the air. Replanting trees can replenish plant diversity, but Spanbauer does not see human intervention as impactful as natural seed dispersal.

"Humans are changing the landscape and natural processes like elephant tree recruitment are being impacted negatively," Spanbauer said. "Some trees may not come back, even if people step



Courtesy of Bradley Spanbauer
Bradley Spanbauer studies elephants in Tanzania in 2015. Since receiving his master's degree, he has focused his attention on studying elephant populations.

in to help. There have been some tree species that do not return after replanting. Many of these seeds need to pass through the animal digestive tract to gain nutrients to grow."

Misty McPhee, an associate professor of environmental studies at UWO who has worked alongside Spanbauer, sees the fall in elephant populations as not only a continental problem, but as a global problem. Losing this source of dispersal will change how ecosystems work, and eventually change hydrologic and carbon cycles. These changed cycles will not only affect animals and plants, but also human populations.

"All of these huge planetary biogeochemical processes are being shifted," McPhee explained. "Those are going to affect water and access to water for people. Those then have huge humanitarian implications for those changes. One small thing causes this big cascade of effects."

McPhee, who focuses on conservation biology, said that diminishing animal populations could have a domino effect on natural evolution processes and change ecosystems for good, to the point

where the damage will be irreparable.

"Biodiversity loss implications are very real," McPhee stated. "From previous extinctions, we know that nothing is replaced exactly as it was 10 million years ago. If we get rid of these species, we are changing the course of evolutionary history for millions of years to come."

Savannah elephant seed dispersal is an important process for not only African ecosystems, but for evolution of future species. Spanbauer hopes to return to Tanzania in order to continue his conservation efforts, believing that illegal ivory trade is not only harming the elephants themselves, but also the environment in which it takes place.

"No one needs an ivory trinket on their shelf," Spanbauer stressed. "You cannot really get the ivory off the elephant without hurting or killing them. Without elephants, the land will lose tree growth and moisture and eventually suffer drought. So, ivory needs to stay right where it is, which is on elephants that are alive, happy, reproducing and roaming around Africa."

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Scoreboard

Friday, Sept. 20

Women's Golf
UWO - 13/33, 342-318 660

Saturday, Sept. 21

Women's Golf
UWO - 13/33, 342-318 660

Women's Volleyball

Match 1:
UWO - 3
UNW (Minn.) - 0

Match 2:
UWO - 3
St. Catherine University (Minn.) - 0

Women's Tennis

UWO - 5
St. Norbert College - 2

Football

Michigan Tech - 44
UWO - 7

Women's Soccer

MSOE - 2
UWO - 0

Men's Cross Country

UWO - 4th of 8 (130 points)

Women's Cross Country

UWO - 4th of 6 (108 points)

Sunday, Sept. 22

Women's Golf
UWO - 13/17, 349-345 694

Monday, Sept. 23

Women's Golf
UWO - 13/17, 349-345 694

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Women's Soccer
Marian University -
UWO - (Past publication time)

Women's Volleyball

UWO -
UW-Platteville - (Past publication time)

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 27

Women's Golf
at Milikin University (Ill.) Decatur, Ill.
at 8 a.m./1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Women's Golf
at Milikin University (Ill.) Decatur, Ill. at
8 a.m./1 p.m.

Women's Tennis

vs. UW-River Falls at 12 p.m.

Women's Soccer

at University of Chicago (Ill.) Chi-
cago, Ill. at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

Women's Volleyball

Match 1:
vs. Edgewood College 4 p.m.

Match 2:
vs. Carthage College 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Women's Soccer
vs UW-Whitewater 7 p.m.



Issac Fischer / Advance Titan

UWO's Robyn Kirsch (1) goes up for a kill vs UW-Whitewater at the Kolf Sports Center Sept. 19 on community night.

Volleyball sweeps the week

By Nolan Andler
andlern063@uwosh.edu

The UWO volleyball team continued its winning streak last weekend.

The No. 5 ranked UW Oshkosh played against No. 3 UW-Whitewater in the second annual UWO Community Night at the Kolf Sports Center last week, when they also faced off against No. 13 University of Northwestern (Minn.) and St. Catherine University (Minn.) in the UNW Faith Radio triangular at St. Paul, Minnesota.

UWO's match against the Warhawks was not only about Community Night, it also was revenge for last year's Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship game, where UWW swept the Titans in three sets. Coach Jon Ellman said that the returning players from the 2023 squad would have to stay focused.

"Those that were returners surely remember that match and we need to acknowledge that, but it plays no role in our approach," Ellmann said. "We were excited for the opportunity to play a really talented team on our home court in

the electric environment that our community night provided."

In another thriller on Community Night, UWO beat the Warhawks in a five set battle with set scores of 25-18, 13-25, 22-25, 25-23 and 15-10. Sami Perlberg led the way for the Titans in the win with 20 kills and a .108 kill percentage on 65 total attempts. Robyn Kirsch also had herself a great game with 11 kills. Kalli Mau and Izzy Coon led the team in assists with 27 and 23, respectively.

Set one looked like it could be a Titans blowout. Behind five kills from Perlberg, the Titans jumped out to a 12-5 lead. After that it was never close, and UWO closed out the first set with a kill from Riley Kindt.

Unfortunately in set two, the Warhawks flipped the script. Despite it starting 2-2, the Warhawks blew the set open early with a 6-0 run to make it 8-2. It was a sloppy set two as eight set errors by the Titans helped the Warhawks cruise to an easy set two win.

Unlike the first two sets, set three was a back-and-forth battle. UWW started the set with a 4-1 lead but UWO responded with a 5-1 run to take the lead at 6-4 be-

hind two aces from Abby Fregien. After UWO took the lead, both teams would respond to each other with neither team nursing a lead greater than two points for most of the set. With UWO clinging to a 22-21 lead, the Warhawks went on a 4-0 run to close out a set three win.

Set four began with the Titans in do or die mode and looked like it was going to be a smooth ending for the Titans. Up 13-12, UWO went on a 4-0 run behind two service aces from Perlberg to go up 17-12. However, the Warhawks were able to come back and tie the game at 23-23. The Titans were able to stave off the Warhawk rally behind a kill from Olivia Brunig and a UWW attack error to win the fourth set.

After tying the match at 2-2 in the fifth set, UWO took the lead at 3-2 with a UWW attack error and never looked back. Despite a couple runs, UWO never relinquished the lead. The Titans ended the game on a 4-0 run and clinched the match win with a kill from Perlberg.

Community Night is UWO's attempt to break the NCAA division III volleyball attendance record.

"It was a special night at Kolf Sports Center," Ellman said. "Our team is grateful for the support, and we hope that the campus and community members enjoyed the match."

Over the weekend, the Titans traveled to the University of Northwestern for the UNW Faith Radio Triangular. UWO opened up their doubleheader on Saturday against the host school and No. 13 nationally ranked UNW. Last year, the Eagles took the Titans to five sets ultimately resulting in UWO winning 3-2. This year it was a better match for the Titans. Even though the first two set scores were close in 25-20 and 27-25 wins for the Titans, UWO was able to sweep the Eagles in set three with a 25-12 win. The Titans second match of the day against St. Catherine University went even better. UWO swept the Wildcats with set scores of 25-13, 25-17 and 25-18.

UWO will travel to UW-Platteville on Wednesday Sept. 25 to face their second WIAC conference opponent. First serve will be at 7 p.m., you can catch the results of the match at the UWO athletics website.

UWO ties Dubuque in 151Derby

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women's soccer team earned its first win of the season after defeating St. Norbert College 1-0 Sept. 16 at Titan Stadium, but the Titans fell to the Milwaukee School of Engineering 2-0 at home Sept. 14.

The Titans (1-5-1) were able to secure their first win of the season after UWO's Shannon Walsh scored her first career goal when she sent the ball into the top corner of the net off a corner kick from Laney Wiebel in the 70th minute.

Oshkosh goalkeeper Emma Sauriol picked up her first win of the season after tallying six saves. Wiebel and Lauren Janssens led UWO with two shots apiece, but the Titans were outshot by the Green Knights (1-2-0) 18-9 and committed more fouls (7-5).

St. Norbert's Aleah Reesman had a game-high four shots and had two shots on target to lead the Green Knights. Goalkeeper Taylor Wilson earned the loss after allowing a goal and making three saves.

MSOE (4-2-0) took down the Titans earlier in the week at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium after Hadleigh Ostrenga scored a penalty kick in the 32nd minute and Claire Bradford added a goal in the 59th minute.

The Raiders outshot the Titans 16-9 and were led by Grace Quinn, who had a game-high five shots and put two shots on target. MSOE goalkeeper Page Sanchez picked up the win after saving two shots and not allowing a goal. Ayla Zuzek played eight minutes in relief of Sanchez, saving one shot.

UWO's Mallory Kerhin earned the loss after giving up two goals and saving five shots. Offensively, the Titans were led by Wiebel, Maddie Daigle and



Courtesy of Steve Frommell / UWO Athletics

UWO's Shannon Walsh dribbles the ball at Titan Stadium Sept. 16. Brynn Higgins, who each recorded two shots in the contest. Oshkosh's Maddie Anderson received the only yellow card handed out in the match in the 64th minute.

The Titans will be back in

action Sept. 21 when they take on the University of Dubuque (Iowa) (3-1-1) for the 151Derby/Clash's Kids Day, with kickoff scheduled for 5 p.m. at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium.

Titans place 4th at UWW

By Jacob Link
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The UW Oshkosh men's and women's cross country teams both placed fourth at the UW-Whitewater Tom Hoffman Invitational Sept. 21.

On the men's side, the Titans scored 130 points and were led by freshman Bennett Midthun, who placed 36th with a time of 28:02.5. Oshkosh junior Owen Bostwick finished 42nd in 28:15 while sophomore Evan Peterson claimed 48th place with a time of 28:35.8. UWO's Alex Bernhardt came in right behind Peterson in 49th place with a time of 28:38.3, while Zach Nelson, Oshkosh's final point scorer, placed 64th with a time of 29:07.4.

UW-Whitewater, which as a team won the meet with 19 points, had the top three individual finishers in the 8,000-meter race. Gunner Schlender won the meet in 25:44.5, Christian Patzka took second place with a time of 25:46.8 and Dan Anderson claimed third in 25:47.2.

In the women's race, UWO scored 108 points and was led by sophomore Zoe Watson, who finished in 19th place with a time of 25:53.7. Oshkosh's Emma Maly finished 34th in 26:56.3 while Autumn Jacks and Ella Galaszewski placed 35th (26:56.9) and 36th (27:04.1), respectively. UWO sophomore Kate Haffner finished in 39th place with a time of 27:23.8.

UWW won the team title in the 6,000-meter race with 19 points and had the top three individual finishers in the event. Ari De La Cerda won the race with a time of 23:16.7, Payton Scoggin took second in 23:18.7 and Katie Erb finished third with a time of 23:52.2.

The Titans will travel to Terre Haute, Indiana, to compete in the Division III Pre-National Meet hosted by the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Sept 28.



UWO's Connor Lund (26) tries to maneuver his way around a Michigan Tech offensive lineman at J.J. Keller Field at Titan Stadium. Issac Fischer / Advance Titan

Football falls to Michigan Tech

By Nolan Andler
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The UW Oshkosh football team returned to action for its third and final nonconference opponent Saturday at Titan Stadium, falling to the Division II Michigan Tech Huskies 44-7.

The first quarter was promising, in quarterback Cole Warren's first start. UWO, ranked No. 14 in the nation by d3football.com, started the game on offense and was driving the ball down the field thanks to three big completions from wide receiver Trae Tetzlaff which combined for a total of 36 yards. The Titans were able to get all the way to the Michigan Tech 27-yard line, but they came away with nothing as the Huskies blocked the field goal at-

tempt from Nolan Mobley. The first quarter was the only scoreless quarter in the game as both defenses held their own.

On their first drive of the second quarter, Michigan Tech cracked the scoring open with a 7-yard touchdown from running back Jake Rueff to make it 7-0 Huskies. After holding the UWO offense to two consecutive three-and-outs, Michigan Tech was once again able to punch it in with a deep 40-yard pass from quarterback Alex Fries to wide receiver Brandon Michalak to make it 14-0 Huskies. To make matters worse for the Titans, Michigan Tech converted an onside kick attempt and got the ball back. The Huskies were able to take advantage of that and get another touchdown from Fries to Michalak,

again to make it 20-0. Michigan Tech missed the extra point kick, but thanks to a UWO interception, they were able to end the half up 23-0.

Even though UWO moved the ball well in their first drive of the second half, a pass to Tetzlaff which was deemed incomplete in the endzone on fourth down ruined any chance UWO had at getting back in the game. The Titans were able to get on the scoreboard with a touchdown from Tristan Taylor, but it was with 28 seconds left in the game.

Despite the big loss to Michigan Tech, Coach Peter Jennings said he was happy with how his team performed last three games as they now shift their focus to Wisconsin Intercollegiate Conference.

"I think we are a good team

and we have the potential to make noise in conference play," he said. "You don't know what you got if you don't challenge yourself." The Titans non-conference schedule consisted of two ranked teams No. 9 Wheaton and No. 21 Linfield and Michigan Tech. Unfortunately, the road ahead doesn't get any easier for the Titans as their next two games are against No. 10 UW-Whitewater and No. 3 UW-La Crosse. Thankfully, the Titans will have an off week to reset this weekend to get ready for the grind of WIAC football.

The Titans will return to action Saturday, Oct. 4th for their WIAC opener. UWO will travel to Perkins Stadium at UW-Whitewater with kickoff scheduled for 1 p.m.

UWO tennis defeats Green Knights 5-2

By Jacob Link
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The UW Oshkosh women's tennis team took down St. Norbert College 5-2 Sept. 21 at the Green Bay Tennis Center in De Pere.

The Titans improved to 4-2 on the season after beating the Green Knights (4-1) in four of the six singles matches and claiming the lone doubles point.

UWO's Olivia Pethan defeated Jordan Domnick 6-0, 6-3 in the No.1 singles match, while Oshkosh's Mana Usui took down St. Norbert's Allison Unverzagt 6-1, 6-0 in the No. 2 match. In the No. 3 singles match, the Titans' Alysa Pattee bested Grace Peters 6-0, 6-2, while UWO's Brianna Owens defeated Anna Vechart 6-2, 6-4. Oshkosh dropped both the No. 5 and No. 6 singles matches, with Vienna Dao falling to Mayghan Bongle 6-1, 6-3, and Grace Brown falling to Irene Multhauf 6-4, 4-6, 10-7.

The Titans were able to claim the

doubles point after doubles partners Pethan and Pattee beat Unverzagt and Peters 6-3, and UWO doubles partners Courtney Carpenter and Owens defeated Bongle and Vechart 7-6 (8-6) to take the best-of-three series. In the third doubles match, St. Norbert's Alyssa Tegen and Domnick took down UWO's Cate Gerl and Mana Usui 6-3.

Oshkosh will be back in action Sept. 25, when the Titans will take on Marian University (3-1) at the Kolf Sports Center Outdoor Tennis Courts at 4 p.m.

WIAC Standings

UW-La Crosse	-----	4-0
UW-Stevens Point	-----	2-1
UW-Eau Claire	-----	2-1
UW-Whitewater	-----	2-1
UW-Oshkosh	-----	0-1
UW-River Falls	-----	0-3
UW-Stout	-----	0-3



UWO's Brianna Owens tries to hit the ball back to the other side of the court. Courtesy of Steve Frommel / UWO Athletics

Banned Books Week UWO

By Anya Kelley
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Book banning – it’s been a hot topic since 2021, when Republican politicians began a wild spread campaign targeting books containing conversations about gender identity, sexuality and race.

Sept. 22-28 is Banned Books Week, and UW Oshkosh’s University Books & More is celebrating with a banned books display.

“This is the second year the bookstore has been actively promoting Banned Books Week, using the graphics and marketing campaign offered by the American Library Association,” Emily Loper, the trade buyer for the bookstore and curator for Banned Books Week, said.

Loper said it’s hard to determine whether or not the promotion is largely popular amongst students, because so many of the books are extremely popular anyway.

“We’re hoping the bookmark giveaway this year will draw in some people who might not usually shop with us,” Loper said.

Though banned books have been getting pushback across the country, Loper said she hasn’t heard anything negative about the display. A student employee of the bookstore agreed.

“People really like this kind of thing,” the student said. “It seems to draw their attention, lots of people



The A-T’s managing editor Kelly Hueckman looks over a banned book display in the bookstore. The display is up through Sept. 28.

go over and look at it.”

“I have never heard any direct complaints or had any pushback from institutional leadership,” Loper said. “If anyone has complained to our cashiers or other staff, they have not passed it along.”

In 2023, the ALA found that 4,240 unique book titles were targeted for censorship and 1,247 demands had been filed asking for

censorship of library books, materials and other resources.

“So many books are being challenged in libraries and public schools right now,” Loper said. “I think it’s important to highlight these titles so people who may not have been paying attention can see whose voices and perspectives are being pushed aside, and how these very normal and relatable stories

are being demonized.”

Loper’s personal favorite banned books are “The Left Hand of Darkness” by Ursula K. Le Guin (banned for its exploration of gender) and “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Thatcher (banned for its sexual content, offensive language and being unsuited to the age group).

“I think the most ironic part

of the current book challenges is how few of the people challenging these books have even read them,” Loper said. “If more people read outside of their own experiences, our society would probably be a better and more tolerant place.”

Celebrating: Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month

Latin Dances Instruction and Performances
5 p.m. Titan Underground

Sept. 28

Oct. 2

Information for Chicana/o & Latinx Studies Program
5 p.m. Reeve 209

First Chicana/o & Latinx Club Meeting
5 p.m. Reeve 209

Oct. 9

Oct. 9

Paint ‘n’ Sip with Student Organization of Latinos
7 p.m. Reeve 305

Mariachi San Jose Community Concert
10 a.m. Oshkosh Farmers Market

Oct. 12

Oct. 12

Mariachi Class
3 p.m. Arts & Communication Building

Día de los Muertos Celebration
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oshkosh Public Museum

Nov. 2



AI within the music industry

UWO students react to how AI is changing music

By Taycee Zach
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Views about the implementation of artificial intelligence in the music industry differ among artists, but independent musicians at UW Oshkosh feel as though such technology could do more harm than good in terms of their own discography.

Chris Jewson, a music industry student at UWO, said that AI will never be able to fully replace humans in the studio or on stage.

“Human musicians should always be part of the musical process,” Jewson said. “You can recreate the sound of a musician’s performance through audio recordings, but you can’t recreate someone like Elton John’s playing.”

In recent years, the use of AI has become more prominent in media production, going as far as to influence music development in terms of both vocals and instrumentals.

A 2023 survey conducted by music distribution company Ditto Music found that 60% of independent artists are already incorporating the use of AI into their work, and that number is only increasing.

On March 21, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed an updated bill called the ELVIS Act, or the Ensuring Likeness, Voice and Image Security Act, in order to protect artists and their voices against unauthorized use through AI. Though this bill has been passed, this does not stop willing participants throughout the country from testing the waters of AI software in their own productions.

Boston Gies, a senior majoring in music industry, said that the human aspect of music creation could be lost through the creative

process when using AI.

“I’ve known people who’ve used AI for lyrics,” Gies said. “Especially with ChatGPT, I feel like it’s just going to take away the human touch and crafty side of making music.”

Gies, who has been producing electronic music since 2019, said that while artists themselves may be directly impacted by the use of this technology, other fields of music production could also suffer.

“It’s scary that people might lose their jobs,” Gies said. “People might not have the creative space of being a musician, being a producer, being a mixer, and even the job of doing the cover art might be in jeopardy.”

Jewson said that something as powerful as AI could eliminate jobs for engineers, which he has seen happen among his peers.

“One of my best friends just informed me that instead of contacting a mastering engineer, he used an AI mastering program to master a selection of his songs,” Jewson said. “I was shocked by this because this is one of my most musically critical friends, so it makes me wonder how complacent music fans will become to AI-quality music and whether AI-quality music has the potential to be better than a human’s.”

Jewson, an independent musician who has been crafting music since he was eight, said that his views on AI in music are pessimistic, and he sees its employment as a vessel used to copy rather than create.

“I have more often than not seen its ability to recreate others rather than allow creators to expand their own palettes,” Jewson said. “AI relies on already



Courtesy of UWO Music Department

Music industry students work in a recording studio located in the Arts & Communications building.

existing content, whether that be through written music or audio recordings. There are already thousands, if not millions, of examples of AI-generated songs ‘in the style of’ popular artists. When looking for producers or artists to work with, it is rather difficult to determine what is newly-created versus AI-generated.”

Alyssa Proell, a music industry and audio production graduate, said that the use of AI could potentially strip away any emotional appeal from music.

“People are always searching for authenticity and relatability in music,” Proell said. “And if music becomes all AI, there won’t be anything completely raw and original anymore.”

Proell, a singer-songwriter who has performed at many venues including UWO’s ByeGosh Fest, said that while AI could potentially take over the production side of music, live performances should always be led by humans.

“A hologram performed at Coachella this past weekend, which was very strange, because people will want to see a live person on stage,” Proell said. “Performances are a huge part of being a musician, and that shouldn’t be replaced by AI, even though it could be.”

In terms of the future, Jewson said that while music could be enhanced with the power of AI, it is too early to be certain.

“I believe that if used properly,

it has the potential to enhance musical production,” Jewson said. “I am hopeful that the human element in the creative process will outlive AI-generated elements, but I am fearful of AI’s unknowns.”

Gies said that while people should be open to the idea of integrating AI into the music world, musicians should consider the consequences before they do.

“I want to make sure that I’m not supporting something that’s going to bite me in the butt in the future,” Gies said. “I hope that all musicians give it some thought and don’t completely integrate it right away. We have to think through this, and consider the ramifications of replacing humans.”

Find these words from this week’s issue!

- Surveillance
- Elephants
- Volleyball
- Abortion
- Discussion
- Soccer
- Vandalism
- Gemma
- Decrease
- Enrollment
- Canine
- Protestors
- Kenya
- Musicians
- Environment
- Football
- Department
- Banned
- Recordings
- Books

V U E M K S J C S T Q E P J Q V G R K X S J R Y E
T O B B A N N E D U Y H Y R O H C G K N T I D I G
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B F N L Q G N X D X H V K S U T B V N V Z U A A W
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Y D M M H P N B E O I D G E M K I R C J G S F U C
Q U A S I E A F H C O F I J N F U O Q E X O H Y B
O H V C O N R R T K O T E S D T W W N O I K U S O
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J V V A N D A L I S M J O P U F W Z J H N J V Q O

Dealing with abortion protestors:

Use this as an opportunity to enact your liberal education

By Doug Newhouse & Cassidy Johnson
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By now, most students have likely seen all of the abortion protestors around campus last week Monday – it was hard not to. I passed at least six different protesters on my way to and from class, and the images and rhetoric being spread was definitely upsetting for lots of students and faculty alike. However, this protest is part of freedom of speech that we in the U.S. hold dear.

You may be wondering why anti-abortion protesters and a preacher in front of Polk are allowed a platform on campus. UW Oshkosh is a state run university and is considered a public space, meaning it's the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

There have been other protests on campus. Last semester, we had a march for Palestine, and in 2023 there were protests against the administration when they laid off 200 employees because of the deficit. On campus, the First Amendment is alive and well.

However, it's no secret that some protests are more upsetting than others. I saw people ripping up the pamphlets given out by protestors, some arguing with the protestors, and some even calling the cops on them.

While these reactions are definitely valid, it doesn't mean that they're the right action. I know it's tempting to yell at them, but all you're doing is proving them right, giving them what they want and contributing to the di-



Cassidy Johnson / Advance-Titan

An upset student crumpled up an anti-abortion flyer and threw it on the ground after being handed one by protestors on campus.

vision in this debate.

It's no secret that the abortion debate is heavily divided and emotionally charged, especially with this being one of the main topics in the 2024 election coming up. This is often why people shy away from the topic, but I think we should be talking about it more because of its emotional and divisive nature.

Instead of getting angry, use this as an opportunity to enact this liberal education we're spending thousands of dollars on. The whole idea of a lib-

eral education is to practice open-mindedness, critical thinking and connection — even if it's with people you don't want to connect with.

These anti-abortion protesters are an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, consider different perspectives, practice self-control and challenge our own views.

Some people will be willing to listen, while some will refuse to budge on their beliefs and will bear down harder. Regardless of their reaction, take this

opportunity to gain experience in enacting this liberal education you work so hard for.

I took this chance last Monday to talk to one of the abortion protestors, and while it was frustrating and definitely anxiety-inducing, it was also rewarding.

We both walked away having learned something from the other, and that can be a beautiful thing. I didn't solve any world problems, but it was a step in the right direction. After all, the world can't be

changed overnight.

If this becomes too overwhelming and it's time to bail, agree with them and walk away, saving your true beliefs and opinions for someone who is willing to consider a different perspective. But, at least give it a shot.

Competent and productive communication is the only medium we have to combat this division, so get to talking!

Have students taken AI too far?

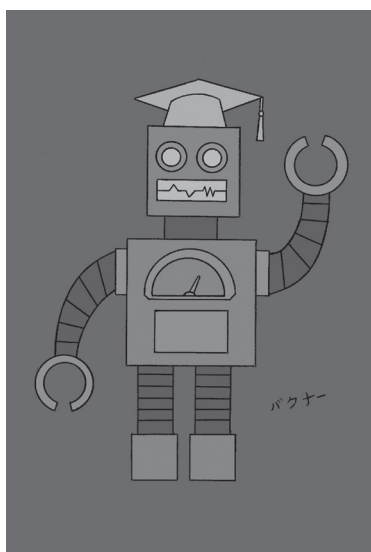
By Cassidy Johnson
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Living in the digital age has given our generation many advantages. The ability to instantly reach those close to us, post content for both them and acquaintances alike, the ability to stream videos, shows and movies instantly and the ability to get information in seconds gives users immense power.

This last point in particular has changed the education system a fair amount. Some argue it's for the better, while some argue it's for the worst.

It's definitely better in the sense that education is far easier. Gone are the days where we need to flip through massive encyclopedias to find answers, and while we still must flip through textbooks for our classes, we always have a second option constantly looming over our heads: "I could just look it up."

While you still need to sift through information to find your answers, it's definitely still



Graphic by Michael Buckner

much easier than sifting through hundreds of pages in a book.

Recently, however, a third option has been added: ChatGPT. Developed by OpenAI, ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot created to give answers even more instantly and sometimes more accurately than Google.

Moreover, this AI tool can

help mitigate the issue of information overload, a primary caveat of technology in this digital age, specifically with search engine technology. With ChatGPT, on the other hand, users are given one, lengthy answer to their queries, making assignments, studying and writing essays much easier.

You can use ChatGPT to answer questions on your study guide that you just don't understand, you can use it to create citations and you can even get it to write an essay for you (though I wouldn't recommend it per UWO's AI policy).

This sounds awesome, right? What could possibly be the problem with this technology? To be honest, I don't think there's anything wrong with this technology in nature. Besides the few errors this AI tool produces, the real problem is the users.

Now, before you get too defensive, I'm not saying you specifically. That is unless you feel called out, in which case I am.

I'm talking about the people — students specifically — that depend on ChatGPT to get through the school year successfully.

I think that we forget sometimes that college isn't high school, and that we are all going to college to hopefully get a career in our area of study. This is when reliance or even just overuse of AI can get dangerous.

I don't know about you, but I definitely don't want to be operated on by somebody who aced all their classes using ChatGPT. At that point, why are you even in school?

I think that sometimes we have the tendency to treat college like high school, and while they are similar, they are not the same. We choose to go to school in hopes that we can one day find a career in our field, hopefully one that surrounds our dreams and passions. In order to get that job and stay in it, you need to be able to do the things you spent four years studying without having to reference AI first.

Some students will just use ChatGPT to help brainstorm titles or prompts for their essays, and while this isn't nearly as problematic, they are still doing a disservice to themselves.

According to Psychology Today, creativity is a muscle that needs to be used or "exercised" in order to develop and grow. Relying on ChatGPT will not only create lackluster and impersonal prompts, but it will weaken your creativity muscle.

After all, "creativity is intelligence having fun," as the genius Albert Einstein once said. It would be a crime to deprive yourself of one of the most fun parts of being a student.

Don't get me wrong, ChatGPT can be an amazing tool when used right. Technology is not innately bad, and it is not the enemy. The enemy is us when we overuse, misuse and rely on AI to do our work.