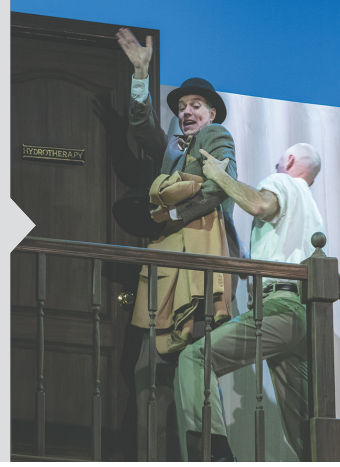


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Moving to Division II

Change allows scholarships in all sports, making athletics more accessible

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

Representing WolfPack athletics is not an easy feat. During their season, athletes are spending about 20 hours per week practicing, competing and traveling. Tournaments can span entire weekends and away games have players riding the bus late into the night.

In order to be eligible to play, athletes must be full time students. Not only that, but they have to maintain good grades to stay eligible.

Because of the time commitments to being a full time student and athletic obligations, little time is left for work. This can put athletes in a tight spot where many already struggle. In 2019, the NJCAA found that 37 percent of athletes come from households earning \$20,000 or less a year.

One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes.

Most athletes represent Madison College without

any financial help. All of the sports except for baseball and softball currently compete at the NJCAA Division III level, meaning no athletic scholarships are given. Baseball and softball have been playing at the Division II level and receiving athletic scholarships since 2000 and 2014, respectively.

But starting next season, Madison College athletics are moving to a whole new level. All sports will compete at the NJCAA Division II level. This shift greatly affects returning and future student athletes in many ways.

"It provides access," said Steve Hauser, athletic director. "It's not going to cost more in terms of the teams that we play and it provides better competition, which we're really excited about."

One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes. Scholarships can be used for tuition and books, but not for room or board.

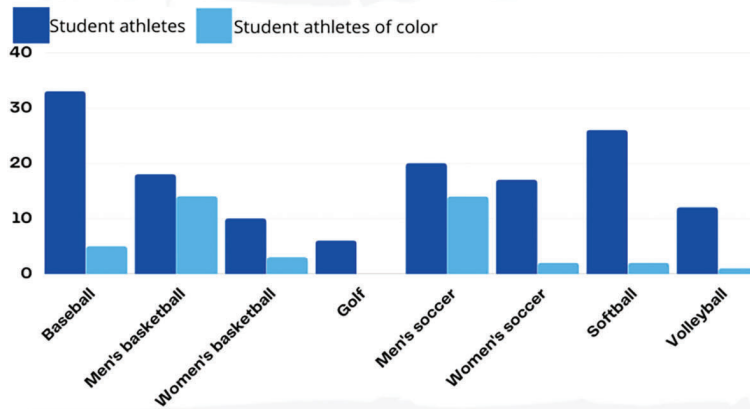
The school hopes to have at least \$200,000 avail-

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Looking at the numbers...

Diversity in WolfPack athletics

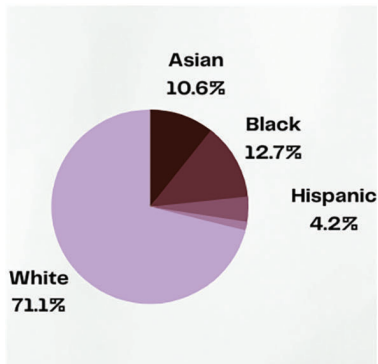
With the move to Division II, the new offerings of scholarships will likely impact equity within athletics. Here's a deeper look into some of the numbers...



In the 2020-21 season, there were 142 total student athletes, 28.9 percent were minorities.

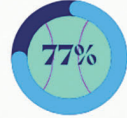


Across Madison College, student enrollment came to 22,852 people, with 26.1 percent were minorities, according to data provided by the athletic office.



It's one thing to see percentages...

And another to know the numbers. Across the student athlete body, there are 15 Asian athletes, 18 Black athletes, six Hispanic athletes, two multi-racial athletes and 101 white athletes.



FAFSA recorded

A majority of the teams filed for financial aid. In order of appearance from left to right: baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, golf, men's soccer, women's soccer, softball and volleyball.

WHO GETS THE MONEY?



The goal is to have 20 percent of the scholarships be awarded to athletes of color.

If the athletics program can meet the goal of \$200,000 then \$40,000 would be awarded to underrepresented athletes.

Source Information was shared by the athletics department at Madison College

Legal help removes a barrier to employment

STUART PATE
News Editor

Students with convictions on their records face unique challenges in finding their careers. These "barriers to employment" are fought on Madison College campuses by Megan Sprecher, an attorney working with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

"The goal of that is to make it easier and more feasible for students to access their education, finish their programs and then find a job that can be fulfilling for them," said Sprecher. "Just having certain convictions on your record can make it difficult to find employment."

Sprecher's project utilizes pro bono and volunteer attorneys, paralegal interns and paralegal and law students from places like Madison College and UW Madison and focuses on expungements, pardons, corrections and removals as well as challenging driver's license suspensions and revocations.

When approaching Legal Action of Wisconsin, everybody goes through a background check to see what can be removed, corrected, expunged or pardoned. Then work is done either in house or through a network of volunteer attorneys.

Pardons are granted by the governor. According to Sprecher, a pardon hearing takes about 14 months. A pardon is something that restores civil rights that were lost because of conviction. Currently, Governor Evers is only considering felonies for pardons.

Madison College faculty and staff can play a role in an individual's pardon case.

A support letter would be

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Alternative Break featured 4 projects

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

This past spring break, the Madison College Volunteer Center stayed busy. Over the course of the week, the group did four different projects across Dane County.

On Monday, nine students volunteered at Second Harvest. The organization is southwestern Wisconsin's largest

foodbank.

On Tuesday, students gathered at the Truax campus to do some benevolent DIY.

Twelve students came together and made 24 blankets for Project Linus, nine cat beds for Dane County Humane Society, 18 posters for Bleed Shamelessly, and three Kynd Kits for project helping.

On Wednesday, five students helped out at the Dane

County Humane Society. Various volunteers said they had a good time with the animals.

On Thursday, seven students visited Little John's kitchen in Verona. There, the volunteers packed meals for those in need. The kitchen focuses on eliminating food waste and meal insecurity at

» SEE **PROJECTS** PAGE 4



PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

Students show the blankets they made for Project Linus.

A look at the Russia/Ukraine crisis

SHERRA OWINO

Assistant Editor

If you drive a car or even pass by gas stations on your commute, you'll notice that gas prices have begun to increase. You may even have heard or read that this is due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that's happening now. But what is happening and why is it affecting us in the U.S.? And what's the definition of the terms so common in the news right now?

WHAT DO THE TERMS MEAN?

There are a few terms that are heard regularly but not necessarily understood. So, what do they mean and how do they play into the current conflict?

NATO – Stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which was created in 1949 by the U.S., Canada and a number of western European countries to provide security against Russia.

Economic Sanctions – A withdrawal of standard trade and financial relations which could include travel bans, foreign aid reductions, capital restraints, frozen assets and others.

Autocratic vs. Democratic – Refers to governmental structure and leadership. Autocratic is to be ruled by one individual in a dictatorship, while democratic government is ruled open and free elections by the people.

HISTORY

To begin to understand and answer the question of what's happening and the effects on the U.S., one must first take a step back into history. To assist in this endeavor, Joel Ryan, instructor of history at Madison College, provided his knowledge.

"The relationship between Russia and Ukraine is pretty complicated," Ryan explained.

For starters, these two countries



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / POOL / AFP / GETTY IMAGES / TNS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky virtually addresses the U.S. Congress on March 16 at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium, in Washington, D.C.

(along with several others) used to be all part of a much larger nation considered the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). After the fall of the USSR, these countries, Ukraine included, broke off and gained their independence from what is now called Russia. An uprising and revolution occurred within Ukraine in 2014 on Maidan Square ("Independence Square") when Ukrainians fought to maintain their freedoms such as protesting from government officials being pressured by Russia.

An understanding was reached in the 1940s between Russia and Ukraine that Ukraine would not be part of NATO as that is not in Russia's best interests, according to Ryan.

Recently, Ukraine has been considering joining this organization. Ukraine's physical position in the middle between Russia and the rest of Europe also is a factor. Ukraine, by definition and the meaning of their name is "border or

frontier" Ryan said. This country joining NATO would have significant implications for Russia just with their proximity alone.

BRINGING IT HOME

"The world is so much more interconnected than it's ever been," Ryan explained.

With this crisis and sanctions going into place, Ryan said to expect gas prices to go up as a manifestation of what's occurring around the globe and travel, including study abroad or student exchange, halted in addition to an understanding of threatened democracy in democratic states.

Stephanie Belmas, the Director of the Center for International Education expressed her thoughts:

"This is a very challenging, difficult, and troubling time on many levels, especially for individuals from both of these countries," said Belmas.



MADALYN BREUNIG / CLARION

Madison College students participating in the Volunteer Center Alternative Break programs fill food boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank.

PROJECTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the same time.

Some volunteers made it to every event. Two of those people, Arya Kethireddy and Zora Smith, are STEM students at Madison College. They enjoyed spending their break giving a helping hand to others.

"I always feel like, 'Oh my gosh that was so nice.' I got to help these people...even if it's like directly like helping them, but it's like doing these things that'll make their life easier and it just feels good," said Smith.

Kethireddy shared similar sentiments by saying, "It's just it really doesn't feel good when you see other people struggling in any kind of way and helping out the community."

The Volunteer Center has a busy April lined up, with events on April 15 for Earth Day, April 27 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and another event at Goodman South.

Senate hosts Town Hall event

STUART PATE

News Editor

The spring Student Senate Town Hall was held Tuesday, March 1 to discuss issues affecting Madison College students. The event was hosted by Student Senate members, Sean Green and Lisa Linger from the Truax campus. It was largely attended virtually by students from the Goodman South campus.

Issues including the textbook rental program and transportation for students were discussed via interactive polls.

There were presentations from student run organizations such as the Volunteer Center, Executive Leadership Team, the Student Senate as well as from The Clarion.

Also discussed were the upcoming Student Senate elections which begin March 28.

HELP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

really helpful in showing that a person is on a good path and also potentially why they need a pardon said Sprecher.

For Sprecher, this project is personal.

"It's really rewarding, having people trust you with their story." She continues, "Our job is to paint a picture for the pardon advisory board about who this person is, as a person, not their

paper court records, but like who they are and how they've grown."

Those interested in utilizing these services can go to legalaction.org or find Sprecher at the Goodman South campus every Tuesday and at the Truax campus on Wednesdays.

A struggle Sprecher faces is to reach people who would benefit from her services.

"I think as things pick up in person on campuses, we're hoping to reach more students," said Sprecher.

DIVISION II

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able for scholarship funding, which equates to 32 full ride scholarships. Each coach will be allotted a certain amount of money that they can use however they see fit. Full ride scholarships could be offered to a couple select players or be divided into multiple smaller scholarships.

This money comes from funds raised by the athletic office. Some of it comes from ticket and concession revenue, while some of it comes from training camps that the school hosts.

The idea of Madison College athletics making this move has been in the works since 2014. There were a couple different reasons why the shift was finally made, most of which relate to accessibility.

Many of the schools Madison College currently plays are also moving to Division II. Because of this, scheduling would become incredibly difficult had the switch not been made.

The WolfPack will still travel mostly to Illinois for games. Travel costs will remain relatively the same, as will travel times. The main difference is teams that would usually be played just in tournaments will now be conference rivals.

Another perk for athletes is they'll be facing higher levels of competition.

"As a student athlete...we want you to have the best experience you can have. We want you to participate against the best teams possible because it does make a difference," said Hauser. He also noted that playing against the higher ranked teams will provide athletes hoping to move on to a four year school more exposure to coaches.

The new division change also hopes to attract more students, especially from underrepresented communities. One goal is to have at least 20 percent of the 32 scholarships awarded to athletes of color.

For the 2020-21 season, the athletics diversity was similar to the overall Madison College student body, not including esports. It found that 28.9 percent of athletes are from communities of color. Data from the athletics department showed that 26.1 percent of all Madison College students are diverse.

However, the only teams that had over half of their athletes from diverse backgrounds were men's basketball and men's soccer, with 14 athletes each. Baseball came next with five players of color on a roster of 33.

Five of the sports offered had over half of the athletes on the team qualifying for FAFSA.

Having the scholarships available should help the college recruit and retain athletes of color.

"This gives us an opportunity to, for example, attract a basketball player that now would typically go to Illinois if they're going the junior college route and receive aid where maybe they'll stay home if we're able to help provide assistance financially for their tuition," said Hauser.

This move will not affect esports, as they currently don't get scholarships. However, they can compete in leagues that offer cash prizes which other athletes can't do. If an esports player wins, they get to get half of the prize money and the rest goes to the program.