



UWO alumni receive help from HGTV show



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH AND ALLI HUGHES

UWO alumni Josh and Alli (Kerwin) Hughes happily pose in front of their new Waukesha home.

by Zack Dion

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HGTV's House Hunters helped two UW Oshkosh alumni purchase their first home in Waukesha on an episode that premiered March 18.

UWO alumni Josh and Alli (Kerwin) Hughes purchased their home in September of 2018.

A 2011 UWO graduate of the radio/TV/film program, Josh found the opportunity to be on the show when browsing the Pie Town Productions website for jobs. He knew several RTF alumni that worked for the company and knew the show wanted conflict.

"People that watched the show say that it's 100 percent representative of our personalities, so what you're seeing there is how we act on a daily basis," Josh said. "If it looks like we're arguing, it's actually just playful bickering. I would say we pretty much like the majority of the same things, we're super expressive on a few things but we're willing to defend them for each other."

A UWO marketing major and journalism minor, Alli graduated in 2011 and works for Derse, a face-to-face marketing company located just outside of Miller Park.

"We were so nervous that we were going to come off as annoying or jerks because when you watch the show, everyone's like 'Ugh, that couple's so annoying' or 'I can't stand them,' but we were actually really pleased with how they portrayed us," Alli said. "They pretty much portrayed us exactly how we are: goofy, dry

sense of humor, really cared about the things we want in the house and really want to find the perfect home for the two of us."

The episode focused on the conflicts between the couple when searching for a home that fit both of their needs. Alli wanted an open-concept home while Josh wanted a vintage house with a big yard.

Another conflict they faced was the counters; at one point in the episode Josh says a counter looks like it was made for a 13-year-old girl and then calls Alli a 13-year-old girl for liking it.

The couple filmed for five 12-hour days, exploring three different houses and ending with their decision to buy a 1918 home renovated in the 1990s.

"The last house we toured was the house out in the country," Josh said. "That one was the most stressful because there was a huge storm the night before and the power got knocked out, so we got there and we had to sit around for the power to get back on."

Josh said he wouldn't recommend buying a home through House Hunters.

"It was really fun, but I think if I didn't work in TV before, I wouldn't know what I was getting into," Josh said. "I don't think people realize how stressful and how much hard work it is. You don't just show up and film, it's difficult."

Since buying the house, the couple have painted every room, worked on landscaping outside the house and refinished all of the hardwood floors upstairs.

Banfield McDonald for Students win OSA elections

by Christina Basken

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Banfield, McDonald for Students won the Oshkosh Student Association election for president and vice president positions with 411 votes.

Candidates were notified of the results on March 19, although the results were not official until the OSA body approved the election report this Tuesday.

Coming in second place with 364 votes for president and vice presidency were Alicia Obermeier and Hannah Johnson.

Austin Lee won the senator seat with 531 votes, and Austin Hammond came in second place with 468 votes.

OSA President Jacob Banfield said his first order of business as OSA president is to bring a new means of transportation to campus.

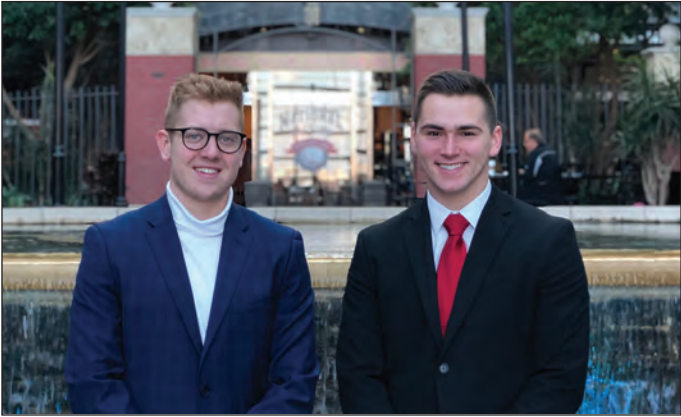
"We are going to get started on our Uber project to bring 21st century transportation innovation to our University," Banfield said. "We are also looking into implementing mandatory UW Oshkosh 101 training for all students that educates students on gender, race, religion, ethnicity and other factors that make our campus so diverse

to make all students feel welcome here regardless of who they are and where they come from."

OSA vice president Ian McDonald said they are honored to accept their new positions within OSA.

"When we found out that we won, we were very humbled to know we have the opportunity to serve our campus," McDonald said. "There's a lot of issues on our plate for our administration, and ever since we won, we've been strategizing on how to maximize our productivity and effectiveness in office."

The new positions will take effect at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester.



IAN McDONALD AND JACOB BANFIELD

Case dismissed: Roth v. Board of Regents

by Christina Basken

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UW Oshkosh English professor Christine Roth filed a restraining order against the UW System Board of Regents to block the release of documents requested by a reporter on Nov. 26, 2018.

On Wednesday morning at 11 a.m., during an oral hearing before Judge Barbara Key, several of Roth's motions were denied: that the University did not provide notice to other individuals, the motion to exempt records and the court also found that the public interest in releasing records outweighs public interest in non-disclosure claim to be dismissed.

An order to seal records will remain in effect until the appeal period passes.

According to court documents filed in the Winnebago County Clerk of Court's office on Nov. 26, a Wisconsin State Journal reporter submitted a request to the Board of Regents

on Oct. 9 for public records pertaining to UWO's investigation into allegations of plagiarism done by Christine Roth.

During an interview on Dec. 5, Roth told the Advance-Titan that the court action is an attempt to prevent further harassment from a disgruntled colleague.

"The court action is an attempt to prevent further harassment from a disgruntled colleague who continually refuses to accept decisions that have already been made and accepted by all," Roth said.

The request asked for the following documents to be handed over: a University complaint, an agreement between the University and Roth's attorney, an investigator's report filed by faculty members, a committee report of pre-tenure review, at least one email from Roth to the English department sent after the investigation's findings and "any and all records from Roth's personnel file that indicate salary changes, promotions, and/or



CHRISTINE ROTH demotions."

Prior to the oral hearing, Roth's attorney, Peter Culp, argued 10 specific policy interests that he said override the public's interest in disclosure, including that the records may contain information about the employment, performance evaluation and or potential discipline of one or more public employees.

At that time, Culp also argued if the documents were disclosed to the public, it would likely have a substantial adverse effect upon Roth's reputation.

A tickler review date is scheduled for May 1, 2019 at 8 a.m.

Tammy Baldwin helps Senate to take on student debt crisis

by Nikki Brahm

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U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin helped reintroduce the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which would allow borrowers with existing public or private loans from 2017-2018 to refinance those loans to a 3.76 percent annual interest rate.

According to a press release Baldwin sent on March 19, the 3.76 percent rate was previously offered in 2016-2017. Outside of public or private loans, graduate school loans could be refinanced to 5.41 percent, and parent loans for a child's education could be refinanced to 6.41 percent.

"Higher education should be a path to prosperity, not suffocating debt. Right now, student loan debt is holding back an entire generation and creating a drag on econom-

ic growth in Wisconsin and across the country," Baldwin said. "This legislation will help bring relief to Wisconsin students and families by ensuring they can refinance their loans and pursue a repayment plan that works for them."

Assistant Director of the UW Oshkosh Financial Aid Office Karen Kennedy said not everyone is eligible to refinance under the act, and some people may not want to.

"I don't really have any feelings about it because you have to be careful as a consumer," Kennedy said. "If you refinance at a lower interest rate, that might be better for you, but you may lose some of the borrow benefits."

Kennedy said it's complicated because the department of education has other programs for people that can't pay their full payments.

"They have things like the standard repayment plan, graduated repayment plan, pay as you go, those kind of things," Kennedy said. "Would all these loans still be eligible for that? So it's kind of like you don't know who it would really benefit."

Kennedy said she has seen an increase in interest rates over the last several years.

"I think it was down about 3.4 somewhere around 2012, 2013," Kennedy said. "So those interest rates have climbed, and it's currently like 5.05 for undergraduates."

Kennedy said she doesn't believe the bill will pass due to lack of support.

"Everybody's talking about it," Kennedy said. "But the only provision for me in debt relief is to give more gift aid, which is Pell Grants, supplemental grants,

RTF students take home 16 awards

by Megan Behnke

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UW Oshkosh radio/TV/film students took home 16 out of 74 awards on March 6 during the annual Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Conference.

Titan TV operations manager Brandon Fuller said the WBA is a trade association that represents and supports all of Wisconsin's radio and television broadcast stations.

"Every year the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association hosts a student seminar in Madison for students to get the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions discussing the broadcast industry," Fuller said.

Titan TV news director Cody Barnes said WBA is one of the most crucial networking events in Wisconsin for any student to get their foot in the door with any state-owned radio or TV.

"But not only in the state, they have speakers from Minneapolis, New York, etc.," Barnes said. "So you gain excellent networking skills, great tips to help back here on campus and tips for out in the field."

Fuller said Titan TV won awards in multiple categories for Sports Play-by-Play, General Entertainment TV Program and Promotional and Public Service Announcements.

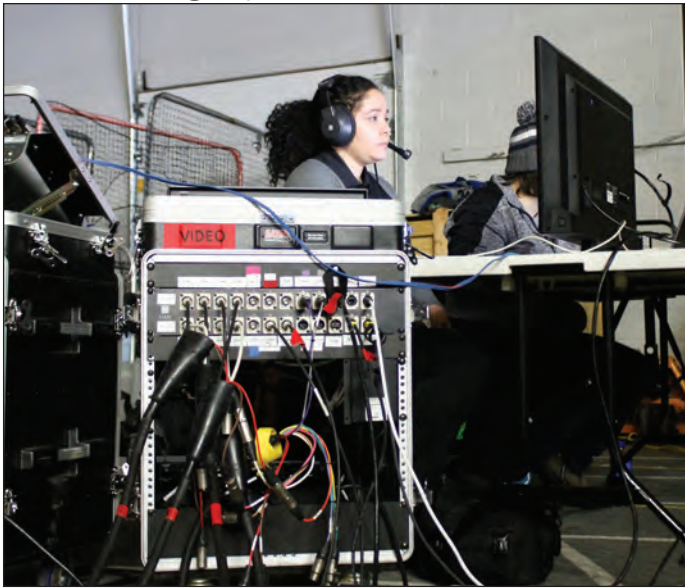
"We won first place in Sports Play-by-Play for Nick Bode and Stewart Atkinson's calling of the UW Oshkosh vs. UW-Stout game," Fuller said. "First place in General Entertainment for our sitcom Curtain Call episode three produced by Cole Boettcher, Amanda Beistle, Abby Adams and Trevor Woloszyk, and first place in Public Service Announcement for Alex Wright's radio/TV/film story promotional video."

Titan TV also brought in seven other awards for second and third places, including second place in General Entertainment Program TV for Wired Up by Aleksandra Milandinovic, Julia Beck, Vincent Platten, Bode and Connor Zornow; second place in Public Affairs TV for Let's Talk About Arts by Connor Zornow and Beistle; third place in Feature Story TV for Nick Wiesman's Robotics Competition; third place in General



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOLEE MALLMANN

ABOVE: UW Oshkosh RTF students pose with their WBA awards. Front row pictured left to right: Matilda Cretens, Taylor Mueller, Chris Bjornstal, Cora Seibt, Billy Piotrowski and Jolee Mallman. Back row pictured left to right: Justine Stokes, Brandon Fuller, Crystal Perez, Shiloh DeBauch and Cody Barnes.



LEFT: Titan TV Programming Director Crystal Perez runs audio and graphics at a basketball game. RIGHT: TTV Sports Director Chris Bjornstal runs play-by-plays while TTV Jonny Samp runs color.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOLEE MALLMANN

Entertainment Program TV for Sports Play-by-Play for UWO in 30 - Game Night by Crystal Perez, Adams, Chris Bjornstal and Brett Johnson; and third place Social Media for the Titan TV Instagram Page for Jolee

Mallmann. Fuller said it's unknown how many students were nominated. "The awards are based off submissions sent in by schools," Fuller said. "So it's hard to say how many students were nomi-

nated when we send in a multitude of pieces to be judged." Barnes said the station is one of the most valuable resources RTF students have available to them.

"Coupled with film society

and WRST, these areas of RTF give invaluable experience to students plus an opportunity to check out their options," Barnes said. "A great benefit of Titan TV is we understand and expect people to mess up because we

are all learning and it's much better to make a mistake here than in the 'real world.'"

Barnes said if you are an RTF student and aren't a part of Titan TV, WRST or Film Society, you're wasting your time.

"There's only so much you can learn in class," Barnes said. "Your real education is going to come from working in the field and plain hands-on experience."

Titan TV station manager Taylor Mueller said she's been involved with the station for four years.

"I started as a freshman running camera and helping out with shows and moved on to being the host of a show," Mueller said. "Then I was assistant promotions director and made it officially on the executive board as programming director, and now my last year I am the station manager."

Mueller said she's gone to WBA three times, and it's a wonderful opportunity for students to attend educational workshops and network with professionals.

"The conference is beneficial for students to learn directly from professionals what it is like to work in different industries and learn from other schools what their TV and radio stations are doing," Mueller said. "We also receive awards for our productions, which is always nice to be recognized for all of our hard work."

Barnes said he hopes to use Titan TV as a way for potential employers to see what he's been working on.

"My hope for being with Titan TV is to create great content for my Reel," Barnes said. "So potential employers can see right out of the gate that I am a hard worker, talented and love what I do."

Mueller said she highly encourages RTF students to join Titan TV.

"In our industry, someone will not be hired if they have not taken the time and effort to build their résumés and gain experience," Mueller said. "This is exactly how students are able to gain those experiences. We take the time to teach students everything, and it is better to make mistakes while learning than at an actual job."

TransAction week hopes to bring optimism to campus

by Kaitlyn Scoville

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UW Oshkosh is celebrating TransAction week from April 1-5, which recognizes transgender and gender nonconforming individuals and will feature the TransAction conference this Saturday.

Director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center Liz Cannon said there is a theme each year for the event since it started in 2010, and this year's is "We Unite: Trans Rights and Advocacy."

"We were really looking at what the current climate is and thinking about how those of us who aren't in the community need to unite with those who are," Cannon said.

Cannon said that TransAction week is aimed at bringing an optimistic view to the transgender and nonbinary community.

"Most of the national days around transgender was Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is unbelievably

important, unbelievably depressing," Cannon said. "We wanted to do something in the spring that took a whole different, very positive focus."

Transgender Day of Remembrance is a day dedicated to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia.

The theme for the TransAction conference on Saturday "We Unite: Trans Rights and Self-Advocacy." Registration for the conference can be found on the LGBTQ+ Resource Center events page.

Cannon said that the TransAction conference is geared toward transgender and nonbinary individuals, but strong allies are more than welcome to attend.

"We have people coming from Milwaukee, Green Bay, Stevens Point and Racine to get together and to talk about issues of resiliency, self advocacy and various areas that are affecting their lives," Cannon said.

Co-programmer of Rainbow Alliance of Helping Others Perceive Equality Zachary Simonson said that opportunities like TransAction week are what can help make the campus community safer and more accepting of transgender and nonbinary folk.

"All this going on is a really good opportunity to educate yourself without grabbing a random trans person off the street and asking them questions," Zachary said. "It could take some of the weight off of people. Do it respectfully."

There is also a trans ally training taking place today that Cannon, department of professional counseling associate professor Amney Harper and diversity and inclusion programming adviser Lee Stovall will be facilitating.

"This is what we call our T-SAFE training," Cannon said. "It is basically a three-hour training to be an ally to the trans and nonbinary community."

Rainbow Alliance of HOPE is host-

ing their annual drag show on Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m. in the Reeve Union Ballroom 227 with emcee Vivian Storm.

Tickets for the drag show are \$3 for students and \$5 for guests.

Keynote speaker JamesAlice Catherine (JAC) Stringer will discuss commonalities between native and trans activist movements today at 7 p.m. in Sage 1214.

According to Midwest GenderQueer, Stringer is a trans-genderqueer femme, disabled, Cherokee two spirit, radical activist and performance artist.

Cannon said Stringer will be covering topics comparing transgender movement with a native movement.

"One of the reasons that I picked that is that we're always trying to look at ways in which our community intersects with other identities," Cannon said. "And also we're at a point where not only our trans rights are under attack, but native rights are also under

attack. So, to have somebody that could talk about both would be really good for our community."

Harper said she had met Stringer at a conference in the past, and Harper said Stringer was a perfect fit for this year's TransAction week theme.

"He embodies what it means to advocate and make change, including how to advocate for oneself," Harper said. "So just walking through the world as himself is an act of advocacy and self-advocacy."

Harper said that she hopes the TransAction week and conference will spread education and awareness about the transgender and nonbinary community.

"It provides an opportunity to get to know trans and nonbinary people and the issues that affect the community," Harper said. "Additionally, the conference is intended to be a safe place for trans and nonbinary folks to come together and learn and build community."

BALDWIN
FROM PAGE 1

make more people eligible. That would drastically cut loan debt. So if you don't have to borrow so much to go to school, that's a better thing."

According to estimates from the Department of Education, about 25 million borrowers would be likely to refinance under this legislation, and borrowers would receive an average savings of \$2,000 over the life of their loan.

Correction:

Michael Godfrey, a UW Oshkosh supply chain management professor, was incorrectly listed as one of six College of Business employees to make the Top 10 of those receiving overload pay for the UW System in 2017-18. The sixth UWO COB employee should have been Assistant Dean Dale Feinauer. The six made \$245,560 in overload pay, ranging from \$39,555 to \$42,508 each. Godfrey, who told a student reporter that he did not want to comment on the story, was actually 11th on the System list and seventh on the UWO list. The Advance-Titan regrets the error.



TITAN GUIDE PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your photos to atitan@uwosh.edu for a chance for them to be featured on the cover of the Titan Guide.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF UWOSH FLICKR

UWO student Elijah Tesch tends to the lettuce.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UWOSH FLICKR

Jericho Road Industries partnered with UWO to provide a method of growing plants without the use of soil in a unit under the stairs at Polk Library.

Lettuce grown hydroponically on campus

by Amber Brockman

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UW Oshkosh has partnered with Jericho Road Ministries to hydroponically grow lettuce and give the healthy produce choice to the Lutheran Food Pantry in Oshkosh.

Hydroponics is a method of growing plants in a water-based, nutrient-rich solution instead of using soil.

Chemistry professor Kevin Crawford said he is in charge of supervising the students that take care of the lettuce.

“I make sure that they’re growing the lettuce, doing what they need to do and

I get them enrolled in the course and make sure that goes well,” Crawford said. “I also interface any time I’m needed with Jericho Road and with campus people to make sure everything’s working.”

Crawford said Jericho Road organized this initiative.

“I was approached by Abigail from Jericho Road, and she was actually looking for a way to get more student volunteers to help her with the grow machines, and I suggested it might be better to have it here so it’s easier for students to get to,” Crawford said.

Crawford said students can earn credit for growing the lettuce.

“It’s a University-wide project, and we expect that any time there’s lettuce growing in the unit, we’re going to have a student getting course credit for either an internship or independent study,” Crawford said. “Elijah, the student that’s running it right now, he’ll be in charge of it for the semester.”

Jericho Road Ministries Lutheran Food Pantry special projects manager Abigail Miedaner said she started working with the machines last year.

“I started working with the machines about a year ago in January of 2018,” Miedaner said. “Jim, one of the volunteers, he was the one who initially took care of the machines when we first got them, which was October of 2017.”

Miedaner said this initiative is a way to incorporate healthier foods into their clients’ selections.

“There has been kind of a movement towards healthier eating, and a lot of our clients at the food pantry have health issues so eating healthily is very beneficial,” Miedaner said. “With that movement, sometimes there

has been a disconnect in that food pantries can’t provide healthy food even though we know that we want to do that, so this ties in really well with the initiative to provide healthy food for people coming to food pantries.”

Miedaner said helping clients with healthy eating can benefit other aspects of their lives.

“It is supplemental; it’s not meant to be their sole source of food. But in providing that supplemental food, if we can get it to last longer and to be higher quality, that’s going to help their health which, in turn, can help a lot of other things too,” Miedaner said.

Miedaner said this is the food pantry’s way of sharing their faith in the community.

“We’re passionate about sharing Jesus’ love for people,” Miedaner said. “So I think it’s just fantastic that we have a tangible way that we can show Jesus’ love by providing something fresh.”

Miedaner said it’s good to see people working together to support the community.

“I’ve been really encouraged by seeing various organizations and groups joined together to provide for the community, and I think this partnership really demonstrates that,” Miedaner said.

Officials respond to sexual assault and violence concerns

by Joseph Schulz

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UW Oshkosh, UW-Fox Valley and UW-Fond du Lac are responding to students need for more resources to deal with sexual assault and relationship violence with the hiring of a sexual and interpersonal violence prevention coordinator.

The new sexual and interpersonal violence prevention coordinator, Gabrielle Schwartz, started at UWO on March 18.

Acting Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Art Munin said Schwartz is the central coordinating person across the three campuses who will provide advocacy and support for victims of sexual assault, as well as heading prevention efforts.

“Every institution I’ve worked at, I’ve had a position like this, and it was really important for me to create that here,” Munin said.

Munin said the current campus victim advocate is a grant-funded position and that the grant will run out at the end of the year, while the sexual and interpersonal violence prevention coordinator is a position funded by UWO.

“We wanted something that was backed by institutional dollars, so that I know this po-

sition will be here every single year,” Munin said.

Munin said administrators are still trying to figure out how the position will split time between the three campuses.

“For the victim advocacy aspect of her job, there’s just an element of on call, where if somebody calls you go,” Munin said.

Schwartz said she recently received her master’s degree from Boston University in public health policy and law and interned at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

“As a state coalition CASA is not really in charge of implementing prevention work; they help other agencies implement that work,” Schwartz said. “I wanted to be [part of] one of those other agencies, and I really loved working in higher education. I found this position and the balance between student advocacy and support, as well as being able to do prevention work really appealed to me.”

Schwartz said one of the things that struck her about the position was the immense demand for it on campus.

“The search committee was made up of a lot of different departments on campus, ResLife, the counseling center, accessibility

services, the Women’s Center, student recreation and wellness and there were students on the committee,” Schwartz said.

Another change in sexual assault reporting on the access campuses is that UWO will be responsible for publishing the clery crime report numbers for UWV and UWFDL, which include sexual assault.

Munin said the change is part of the natural progression of combining three campuses into one university.

“I worked at DePaul University, we had a campus at downtown Loop and Lincoln Park, I’ve done this before,” Munin said.

Interim Dean of Students Buzz Bares said because the clery report covers a calendar year, rather than an academic year, and UWO began oversight of UWV and UWFDL in August, UWO had to get the numbers for 2018 sent to them from the UW Central Office for the two access campuses.

“Because of the oversight being split for half of the year, this year we will be submitting three separate annual security reports,” Bares said. “However, moving forward, we may submit one narrative, with three separate sets of clery reportable crime. That will be determined when we start working on the report for the 2019 year.”

Besides transferring the sexual assault reports to UWO, the access campuses will be doing more on campus to raise awareness for sexual assault during sexual assault awareness month.

Access Campus Administrator Carla Rabe said each school will have an interactive display with sexual assault prevention information from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

“We also provide some hands-on activities that students can participate in,” Rabe said. “We have a couple other tentative plans that may be planned throughout the month but [we] need to confirm a few things first.”

Bares said administrators are trying to raise awareness for multiple areas related to sexual assault, including the definition of consent, the definition of sexual assault, the possible effects of alcohol or other drugs, how to report an incident and what happens when a person does report.

“We will look to increase awareness of employees on the access campuses as to how they can be a support to those that may report,” Bares said. “We will try and increase the awareness of the access campus students on how to report and to advertise the link to report.”



APRIL: SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mondays 3:30 - 4:40 p.m., Reeve Union 215: Campus for Awareness and Relationship Education Meetings

April 4

- RAINN Day. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Reeve Concourse.
- Indigenous Historical Trauma. 5 - 6:30 p.m., Reeve 212.

April 10

- Acceptance of Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault. 12:40 - 1:40 p.m., Sage 3224.
- #MeToo, Now What? 7 - 8:30 p.m., Reeve 212.

April 15

- Exposing Human Trafficking. 12:40 - 1:40 p.m., Clow C240.
- Preventing LGBTQ+ Violence. 5:30 - 7 p.m., Reeve Union Theatre 307.

Free speech for some? UWO tackles 1st Amendment

by The Advance-Titan Staff
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President Trump signed an executive order on March 21 aimed at withholding funding from universities that do not protect free speech on campus. With social justice issues being brought to light at UW Oshkosh in recent weeks, some students have said certain types of speech should not be tolerated on campus. Could Trump’s order affect the UWO campus and provide a fertile environment for continuing hatred and division to grow?

Free speech or lose funding

Trump’s order would require 12 federal agencies to create regulations to ensure that colleges and universities that receive grants are upholding free speech on their campuses. The order was created in response to concerns that colleges are too liberal and are not allowing conservative speakers on campus. Trump said the order would ensure public universities uphold the First Amendment or risk losing billions in federal tax dollars. “If a college or university doesn’t allow you to speak, we will not give them money,” Trump said.

Although the order does not affect federal student loans or grants, assistant professor of political science Jason Kalmbach said the order does add new reporting requirements for universities. He said universities that do not honor the free speech requirements could be denied federal funds as a potential penalty. However, Kalmbach said universities are already required to uphold the First Amendment on campus, and the order is aimed at ensuring conservative speakers are allowed on campuses. Assistant professor of political science Jerry Thomas identifies as gay and considers himself an unabashed champion of racial and sexual minority rights. He said the executive order is mostly symbolic. “This thing is saying, from a conservative president, that conservatives have a right to speak,” he said. “And guess what: they do.”



Free speech vs. offensive speech

Thomas quoted the bedrock principle of the First Amendment cited in many Supreme Court decisions. “It is that government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable,” he said. Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said UWO has been trying to address the overlap between freedom of speech rights and the rights of individuals to have an educational experience free from harassment. “We cannot pursue sanctions against a student based on the content of what a student said because that’s free speech,” he said. Kalmbach said there is a fine line between freedom of speech and harassment or discrimination that is difficult to address.

“You don’t want students to feel threatened. You want people to be able to say what they say,” he said. “But sometimes what people say makes people feel threatened. So how do you balance that out? It’s not an area where there’s a clear answer.”

Should certain speech be restricted?

Some students say certain types of speech should be restricted on campus. “Racist speech, speech hurting others based on race or religion, should not be covered by free speech,” UWO junior Shifa Ahamed said. “Speech that offends people.” UWO junior Chueyee Thao agreed. “There are some things you can’t say, and I think discrimination should be part of that,” he said. But Thomas said we can’t ban specific types of language

on campus. “The courts have said that so long as the speech activity does not materially and substantially disrupt the school’s mission and purpose, you have to allow it,” he said. Thomas said a university, more than any other place, needs to be a marketplace of ideas. “No matter how offensive the idea is, no matter how crazy the idea is, or how stupid the idea is, a public university cannot be in the business of squashing them out.” Kalmbach agreed. “Censoring someone doesn’t change their beliefs,” he said. “The question is, how do you change attitudes?”

Silencing offensive speech

Leavitt said with nearly 3,000 new students on campus each year, it’s impossible to stop students from using their

free speech in negative ways. He said UWO needs to send a strong message that we condemn hate speech or speech that’s meant to hurt people based on their identity. “What we can do is set the expectation of this community that we are very concerned about bias incidents,” he said. “That we want to have a safe and welcoming environment for everyone and that we have an obligation as an institution to set that expectation for everyone who’s on the campus.” Thomas said he will be leading a 3-credit spring interim course in reaction to the UWO Call-for-Action forum held March 18, creating a platform for students to address racial, sex and sexual discrimination on campus and in the community. Political Science 370 will be focused on group and class projects aimed at increasing inclusivity and will be 100 percent participation based, with

students choosing their own grade at the end of the course. Thomas said he has experienced discrimination throughout his life due to his sexual orientation, which puts him in a unique position to tackle social justice issues on campus. “I know what it’s like to be oppressed, to have people hate you,” he said. “There is not anyone who is better equipped to do something about this than me.” Thomas said he is giving students a forum to spark change. “What I want to do is ignite them and empower them and then step back and help them when they ask me,” he said.

Free speech: A core value

The UWO campus cannot have freedom of speech only for ideas and people that aren’t offensive. If we restrict the speech of one student on campus, it provides the opportunity to restrict the speech of all students on campus. Trump’s order only reiterates principles that are already applied at UWO, that free speech needs to be a core value for all. But just because UWO students have free speech rights doesn’t mean those rights should be used to disparage others. Recognize that each individual’s experience is unique. Rather than letting our differences divide us, let’s embrace our differences and use them to empower us. Instead of silencing the viewpoints of those who harass and disparage others, let’s take steps to address the root causes of bigotry. Thomas said college Republicans, college Democrats and people with a variety of political beliefs are all coming together to see what UWO can do when we work together. He believes the answer isn’t to censor or punish offensive speech, but to confront it with more speech. Thomas said students have an important question to consider: “What can we do to make ourselves more unified as a country and more unified as a community and a campus so that we can change this culture and shift it in a major way?”

Dear Editor,

Smartphones have been prominent for around 10 years now. The idea that a computer can fit in the palm of your hand is no longer so astonishing. The majority of Americans are smartphone owners, 77 percent to be exact according to the Pew Research Center. Is this incredible access to technology a potential problem?

Does anyone really need answers to any question imaginable on command continuously? We have all become too dependent on an instant answer. This convenience is helping us avoid critical or logical problem solving. Soon we will have a hard time thinking things out independently and won’t know what steps to take to find solutions.

To solve this problem of instant gratification winning over our own thought processes, I am going to suggest the most extreme solution first: We all need to downgrade our smartphones. In this day and age, people would argue that everyone needs a mobile phone. But does your phone also need to be a computer, television, camera and everything else on top of that? I think not. By downgrading our phones, we will have the opportunity to examine problems ourselves first and try to improve our deductive reasoning skills. I know that getting rid of your smartphone is seen as the end

of the world. So, here’s a more practical solution: Try to limit the number of times you choose the knowledge on the internet over your own. For example, if you know the way somewhere, don’t doubt yourself. If you need to do simple math, use your thinking skills. The brain power we each have and its skills of adaptation cannot be beaten.

By choosing to determine things using our own reasoning, we are improving ourselves and our own mental capacity. We have only had smartphones for around ten years. We have had reason and willpower forever.

Moira Gilles
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Advance-Titan
Sports
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Evan Moris - Sports Editor
Ally Gwidt - Assistant Sports Editor

Attwood throws first UWO no-hitter in 24 years



by Evan Moris
morise36@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh baseball team won eight straight games beating Earlham College (Ind.) three times, Milwaukee School of Engineering once and Finlandia University (Mich.) four times.

The Titans played two double headers at home on March 30 and 31 versus Finlandia University and won all four games.

In the third game versus Finlandia, senior Chris Atwood threw the tenth no-hitter in UWO history and the first since 1995. Atwood finished with only 88 pitches striking out 13 batters walking none.

Atwood said the prospect of completing a no-hitter was in the back of his mind as he entered the final inning.

“I had been thinking about it for awhile at that point,” Atwood said. “I was facing the ninth hitter and then the top of the order and my main concern was the lead off hitter. I tagged the first guy right away. The lead off batter grounded it right back to me and the next guy I really had to focus to make sure I was hitting my spots. I tried to take it as any other inning, heart was pumping a little harder than usual but I did my best to work through it.”

Finlandia University

In the first game, Colan Trembl pitched a shutout, giving up only one hit and recording 11 strikeouts. UWO mercy-ruled the Lions 10-0 in seven innings.

Trembl said winning starts at all facets of the game.

“Baseball is a simple game,” Trembl said. “Got to have good pitching, good hitting and good defense. We have to have all three aspects.”

In Saturday’s second double header, the Titans mercy-ruled the Lions again, this time 21-7 in seven innings. UWO scored 10 runs in the first inning, two runs in both the second and third innings and pulled ahead of the Lions 14-1. In the fifth inning, the Titans recorded five runs and scored two runs in the sixth.

Leadoff batter Zack Radde recorded four hits and scored two runs while batting in two runs. Teammate Hunter Staniske also recorded four runs, four hits and four runs batted in.

On Sunday, the Titans won both games versus the Lions. UWO defeated Finlandia 8-0 in the first game and 10-2 in the second game to complete the sweep and extend the Titans winning streak to nine games.

Milwaukee School of Engineering

On March 26, UWO traveled to Kenosha to play Milwaukee College of Engineering, winning 14-9.

The Titans scored five runs in top of the first inning led by Sean Cummins’ two-run homerun. In the bottom of the first inning, the Titans gave up six runs to fall behind Milwaukee School of Engineering 6-5.

UWO only allowed three runs for the rest of the game while scoring in nine of their own. Cummins led the offensive charge with three hits, three runs and six runs batted in.

Earlham University

The Titans traveled to Earlham College in Indiana to play a three-game series on March 23-24.

In the first of three games, Trembl pitched 8.2 innings allowing zero runs and only four hits while striking out nine batters en route to a 8-0 victory over the Quakers. Offensively the Ti-

tans recorded nine hits as a team, leading to eight runs. Senior catcher Jensen Hinton batted in three runs on two hits.

In the second game of the Saturday double header, UWO won 7-5, riling from a four-run deficit. After giving up four runs in the second inning, the Titans buckled down defensively, allowing one run for the remainder of the game.

UWO scored three runs in the third inning, two in the fifth and one run in both the seventh and eighth innings. The team carried a balanced offensive performance with seven players recording a hit and scoring efficient seven runs on 10 total hits.

On March 24 the Titans wrapped up their three-game set against the Quakers with a 6-5 win in 10 innings. UWO led 5-2 entering the bottom of the ninth inning. The Quakers forced extra innings bringing in three runs.

In the 10th inning, freshman catcher Kade Bohlman drove in the game-winning drive with two outs in the top of the inning to put away Earlham College, completing the sweep of the Quakers.

The Titans outscored opponents 84-28 over the past eight games shutting out the opponent three times.

Head coach Kevin Tomasiewicz said his team has come a long way from the beginning of the season.

“We knew we had talent on the team,” Tomasiewicz said. “It was going to be a lot of time before they were able to get some get experience. We have a lot of guys who have been in the program for a while now and they just need some playing time. We’ve played better every single week.”

UWO will begin conference play when they travel to UW-Whitewater to play two double headers Saturday and Sunday. Game times are set for noon and 3 p.m. both days.

COURTESY OF STEVE FROMMELL

ABOVE: Dylan Ott hits the ball versus Finlandia University. BELOW: Chris Atwood throwing a pitch versus the Lions. Ott threw the tenth no hitter in UWO history and the first since 1995. Atwood recorded 13 strikeouts on 88 pitches.



Softball finishes 6-2 on Florida trip

by Neal Hogden
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The UW Oshkosh softball team got its season underway in a roller coaster road trip to Iowa and Florida.

The team began its trip with a four-game set in Iowa against Loras College and Wartburg College, dropping three out of four games against the two schools.

UWO lost the front end of their double header against Loras College in a pitcher’s duel, 2-1. Senior Bailey Smaney pitched a gem but a sixth-inning home run by Loras’ Ashley Lentine gave the Duhawks the victory.

The lone win came via a 10-7 win against Loras College. Senior catcher Abby Menting led the Titans, going four-of-five and driving in two runs. Junior Claire Petrus got the win in circle as she went five innings, giving up three runs.

The Titans fell victim to giving up 13 walks between the two games against Wartburg College and ultimately fell to the Knights 13-5 and 11-3.

Head coach Scott Beyer said the team hadn’t had an outside practice yet and wasn’t prepared for the dirt

field.

“Those were our first games on dirt this season, and there is always a little learning period each year when we first get outside,” Beyer said. “We found out the speed of the game was a little quicker than what we were ready for.”

Junior Natalie Dudek said it was important for the team to pull together after dropping three out of its first four games.

“After losing a couple games in Iowa, we talked a lot about playing for each other and getting more comfortable in pressure situations,” Dudek said. “I think we made a big turn around in Florida against some good teams by doing just that.”

UWO spent spring break in Florida as they went 6-2 against teams from Minnesota, New York, Maine, Illinois and Indiana.

The team began the trip with a pair of victories against St. Olaf College (Minn.) and Thomas College (Maine), 6-5 and 7-0, respectively.

Smaney got the win in the first game, going six innings and giving up five runs on 10 hits.

Beyer said knowing that you have someone pitching that will keep you in the game is huge for the offense.

“As a team, knowing you have a competitor in the circle that will keep you in every game has a calming effect,” Beyer said. “She takes pressure off of our offense, and she knows we will score runs for her.”

Petrus played an important role in the two games as she collected two hits and an RBI in the two games and pitched a seven-inning, three-hit shutout against Thomas College.

The following day, the Titans lost a pair of games to Midwest schools.

In the early game of the double header, UWO could only muster-up one run as they lost to St. Catherine University (Minn.) by a final score of 5-1.

Smaney got the start for the Titans as she went five innings, giving up four earned runs on seven hits. UWO left seven runners on base as Menting drove in the lone Titan run.

Later in the day, the Titans were at a one-run disadvantage late in the game but were never able to recover

against Franklin College (Ind.) as they ultimately lost 6-2.

UWO bounced back after a day off in Florida as they defeated The College of New Rochelle (N.Y.), 8-2.

Sophomore Carly Szada led the Titans offensively as she recorded two hits and drove in three runs. Smaney kept the Blue Angels at bay, pitching seven innings and allowing only two runs while striking out nine.

Smaney said the cohesion between herself and Menting allows for the duo to keep hitters off balance.

“I’ve been working with my catcher Abby Menting to keep batters off balance,” Smaney said. “We’ve kept a good mix of pitches and were able to adapt to different teams and batters. Usually, my game plan is to just get ahead in counts and trust my defense.”

The Titans then finished out the trip with a 8-0 win against Colby College (Maine) and two victories against the University of Chicago (Ill.).

The Titans will host Lakeland University on Thursday in a double header with the first game starting at 3 p.m.

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Gymnastics places fourth at nationals

Five Titans recieve All-American honors as UWO records a 189.400 point total to conclude its season in Kolf Sports Center on March 23



Freshman Emily Gilot poses during her floor exercise which won her an All-American Honor.

by Evan Moris
morise36@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team competed at the National Collegiate Gymnastic Association Championship on March 23, finishing fourth out of six teams with a score of 189.400. Brockport State University (NY) took home first place, scoring 191.050 ahead of UW-Stout and UW-Whitewater, who scored 190.275 and 190.150 respectively. Despite coming up short teamwise, the Titans earned several individual

honors, including five athletes receiving All-American honors. Freshman Emily Gilot bagged two All-American honors on the floor exercise and vault performances. Gilot scored a season high on the floor routine at 9.725, landing her a sixth place. On vault, Gilot finished tenth on the vault with a score of 9.650. The freshman also placed 16th on the uneven bars with a score of 9.425. Gilot said her NCGA performance is something she will cherish forever. “To earn two All-American honors my freshman year is such a cool

experience I will never forget,” Gilot said. “Having the opportunity to compete for such an amazing and supportive team is one of the best experiences I have been given, and I am truly grateful.” Four other Titans claimed All-American honors at the NCGA Championships: Junior Jessica Bernardo in the all-around competition, freshman Kaira Hammond and junior Baylee Tkaczuk on the uneven bars and freshman Rahdea Jarvis on the vault. Bernardo took home third out of

10 total all-around participants with a score of 37.525. The junior placed 24th on the floor routine with a score of 9.525, 26th on the balance beam posting a 9.325 and 27th place on both the uneven bars and vault with scores of 9.475 and 9.200, respectively. Bernardo scored a season-best on the vault. Hammond placed fifth on the uneven bars at 9.600. In addition, Hammond took 15th on the balance beam with a score of 9.550. Two-time defending uneven bar champion Tkaczuk, posted a score of 9.625, earning herself a fourth-place finish. Tkaczuk also placed 18th on the balance beam with a score of 9.525. Rounding out the Titans top 10 finishers, Jarvis took eighth on the vault landing a score of 9.650. Teammate Haley Minor posted 9.600, giving her 11th, place and Amira Ali took home a score of 9.475. All three vault, scores were season bests. Notable UWO performances from the NCGA Championship included Olivia Keller’s 9.700, ninth-place performance for her floor exercise. Also on the floor exercise, Jarvis placed 18th with a score of 9.600 and senior Bailey Finin capped her career with a score of 9.550 to earn 21st place. Jarvis said this team came a long way from the beginning of the season to be in position to compete for a national title. “Looking back at the beginning of the season, we struggled and had a lot of unexpected curve balls that made making it to Nationals seem harder and harder,” Jarvis said, “by the middle of season, I think the road to home became clearer, but we still

keep pushing ourselves. When regionals came, and we placed second as a team, I think everyone was overwhelmed with the emotions and the reality that we actually accomplished and exceeded our team goals.” Jarvis said the team expects to be back at the NCGA championship next season if they keep up the hard work. “I think we all would just like to keep doing what we know how to do,” Jarvis said. “From the start of season to the end and stay on the road to nationals in Ithaca next year.” Despite not receiving all-american honors in gymnastics, Finin earned academic All-American honors for her excellence in the classroom. Finin said she is happy to receive the award and recognized the sacrifices she and others had to make in order to compete in the sport she loves. “Balancing gymnastics and nursing school has not been an easy road, but it has been extremely rewarding,” Finin said. “I have had to do a lot of adjusting to both my school and gymnastics schedules to be able to make it all work. Both my coaches and professors have been very supportive and understanding, which has helped me with my overall success.” The NCGA recognized the top eight finishers in each event as All-Americans and named UWO’s head coach Lauren Karnitz and Ithaca College’s Rachel Lee as its 2019 Coach of the Year and 2019 Senior Athlete of the Year, respectively. UWO gymnastics team will look to build on this year’s success next season.

Track and field men place first and women third

by Evan Moris
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The UW Oshkosh men’s and women’s track and field teams commenced the 2019 outdoor track season last Thursday at the Carroll University Invitational in Waukesha. The men’s team took home first place while the women’s team placed third at the event. The women’s team had six first-place finishers at the Carroll Invitational. UWO senior Lauren Wensch took home first place in the women’s 100-meter dash with a time of 12.56 and first place in the long jump with a measurement of 19-4. Wensch made last month’s indoor national championships in the long jump, 200-meter dash and the 400-meter run. Wensch said the transition from indoor to outdoor brings pros and cons. “Indoor, you don’t have to deal with any weather issues, but since the track is smaller, the tight turns are harder on your body,” Wensch said. “Outdoor wind is definitely a factor, sometimes good sometimes bad, but it’s nice because the track is larger, so it allows me to open up more in my running, which creates faster times.” Junior Taylor Pralle earned first place in the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.63 seconds. Pralle also placed third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.87.


Junior Hannah Lohrenz ran a 4:53.49 in the 1,500-meter run to bring home first place. Teammates Breanna Van Den Plas and Melissa Srnka finished fifth and seventh with times of 5:03.47 and 5:11.91 respectively. Junior Ashton Keene was the lone point scorer in the 10,000-meter run with a time of 40:12.34. In the women’s 3,000-meter steeplechase, Amanda Van Den Plas bagged a first-place finish at 11:42.44 minutes. Van Den Plas competed at last month’s indoor national championship in the 1,500-meter run. Van Den Plas said she procured trust in herself over the course of the indoor season, and she will try to propel herself forward in the outdoor season. “I plan to use my indoor season and build to my outdoor season by using the confidence I have gained to better myself and the team,” Van Den Plas said. “I plan to attack every workout as strong as I did during indoor and continue to set goals.” Notables from the women’s team: sophomore Sadie Huth finished second and third in the 100-meter hurdles and in the long jump with a time of 16:07 seconds and a measurement of 17-3.50, respectively. Junior Morgan Endries placed fourth and eighth in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash with times of 13.06 and 27.36, respectively. In the women’s discus throw, sophomore Allie Marineau and freshman Elise Deaver

finished fourth and fifth with throws of 37.80 meters and 37.66 meters, respectively. On the men’s side, the Titans had nine first-place finishers at the Carroll University Invitational, including Robert Ogbuli, Benny Jung, Steven Potter, Andrew Muskevitsch, Abel Christiansen, Andrew George, Joe Vils, Jonathan Wilburn and Nick Tegtmeier. Ogbuli and Jung placed first and second in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. In the 100-meter dash, Ogbuli took first while Jung placed second with times of 10.74 and 10.82. In the 200-meter dash, Jung took first as Ogbuli landed in second with times of 21.92 and 22.08, respectively. Ogbuli said his goal for the season individually is to set a personal record in the 100- and 200-meter dash events. “I want to go 10.5 in the 100, qualify for nationals,” Ogbuli said. “I wasn’t able to break 11 [seconds] last year. Coming into the first meet that’s something I wanted to do. Running the 10.74 really boosted my confidence because last year I wasn’t even a top guy on the team. Being one of the top guys is really special to me. In the 200, I want to get down to a mid-21-[second] time and qualify for nationals.” Potter outpaced teammate Justin Skinkis in the 800-meter run to take first place with a time of 1:55.27. Skinkis took second at 1:55.73. Led by Muskevitsch, the Titans took three of the top four spots in the 10,000-meter run.

Muskevitsch finished first at 33:20.22, freshman Noah Bruehl followed in second with a time of 34:02.74 and junior Henry Laste finished in fourth at 35:59.26. Christiansen took first in the 110-meter hurdles with 15.07 seconds. Fellow Titan Kunmi Olatunde finished in third at 16.32 seconds. George took first in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, recording a time of 9:41.94. In the men’s pole vault, UWO took the top three spots. Vils took first with a measurement of 16-00.75 meters. Junior Zach Emmer and freshman Cade Ellenbecker finished second and third with heights of 14-05.25 and 13-05.25. Wilburn continued his success from the indoor season by winning the triple jump with a measurement of 47-09.00. Teammate Jared Ollhoff finished third at 42-07.50 meters. In men’s shot put, UWO claimed the first and second spots. Tegtmeier finished first with a throw of 49-06.50 as freshman Jackson Sheckler placed second at 49-2.25.

Rex Foster Twilight Invitational
Place: UW-Whitewater
Date: Friday, April 5
Time: 3 p.m.

Titan of the Week




Emily Gilot
Events: All-Around
Year: Freshman


NCGA Championship


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COURTESY OF PAUL WILKE

ABOVE: Wilke keeps a tight form before entering a his back tuck and diving motion at the NCAA Division-III Diving Championship. LEFT: Wilke eyes his landing in a full form diving motion. BELOW: Wilke concetrates as he prepares his dive attempt on the 1-meter board. Wilke finshed 13th in the 3-meter dive and 16th in the 1-meter dive.



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Jack Tierney - Campus Connections Editor

On this day in history

1865 - Wisconsin troops meet Confederate troops in Virginia. Seven Wisconsin infantry units chase General Robert E. Lee through Virginia after the fall of Richmond. The Confederate troops pulled out of the battle before it ever began.

1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is signed in Washington D.C.

1968 - Civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

1973 - World Trade Center, once the world's tallest building, opens in New York.



By Ethan Uslabak

1975 - Microsoft is founded as a partnership between Bill Gates and Paul Allen.

2013 - A federal judge sentences five former New Orleans police officers to prison for deadly shootings in the days following Hurricane Katrina.

2018 - Democrat Rebecca Dallet defeats Michael Screnock to win Wisconsin Supreme Court seat. Dallet was the first nonincumbent liberal to win the seat in 23 years and inspired former Gov. Scott Walker to tweet in warning of a blue wave.

Upcoming events

April 4 - Fascinating Facts About Birds; Artist Kim Russell will be giving a presentation of birds as seen through her eyes for "Feathered Portraits: Stylized Bird Drawings in Ink and Acrylic," an exhibit. Gail F. Steinhilber Art Gallery, Reeve Union 6 p.m.

April 4 - TransAction week keynote speaker Jac Stringer will talk about Related Histories; Commonalities between Native and Trans Activist Movements in Sage 1214 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

April 5 - Titan Nights and Rainbow Alliance for HOPE (UW Oshkosh) hold their annual drag show at Reeve Union with spotlight performer Vivian Storm; tickets are \$3 for UW students and \$5 for guests — cash and Titan Dollars are accepted. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m.

April 6-7 - The State Indoor Sports tournament comes to UW O for its 42nd year. There will be 15,000 athletes and coaches competing this year in basketball, gymnastics and dance. Competition takes place at Kolf Sports Center (785 High Ave) at 3:30 p.m.

April 8 - UW Oshkosh LGBTQ Resource Center offers a Bi/Pan/Poly group discussion from 4:14-5:15 p.m at the Women's Center (717 W. Irving Ave.)

April 9 - Taste of Nations: Japan, presented by University Dining and the Office of International Education in Reeve Union Ballroom 227 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 9 - Dementia Touches Us All Workshop #1 Understanding Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease at Culver Family Welcome Center. The workshop starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. Admission priced between \$25 and \$45.

Airpod users know the wave

by Jack Tierney

tiernj03@uwosh.edu

Apple continued to walk their way through the world of wireless tech on March 20 with the release of their second-generation AirPods headphones, and UW Oshkosh students took notice.

Sophomore Nik Klessig said he wears his AirPods daily and said they've made his life as a student more convenient and less tangled; adding that not only do they take away a burden while walking to class, but the sound quality is better too.

"I like that they're cordless, obviously," Klessig said, "but I especially like them when I go to the gym because the wires used to constantly get in the way of my hands and be a real nuisance. Now they don't."

The new headphones allow 50 percent more talk time, hands-free "Hey Siri," an optional wireless charging case and a specially crafted H1 chip.

Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, called AirPods headphones the world's most popular headphones and most beloved product Apple has ever made in a March 20 press release.

Counterpoint Research analyzed the headphone market and reported that AirPods headphones hold 60 percent of it, equaling 75 million people using the iconic white wireless headphones.

The H1 chip, which has been designed specifically for this headphone and is at the center of another Apple dilemma, enables performance efficiencies like faster connection times and hands-free "Hey Siri," which helps users switch songs, cue directions, ask about the weather and more.

A reported downfall to the AirPods headphones is their battery life. William Gallagher, a writer for Apple Insider,



ART BY SUSAN LOR

Airpod headphoes hold 60 percent of the headphone market, equaling 75 million pairs in use.

studied that the original AirPods released in 2016 have lost over 50 percent of their battery life to date and picked up on stemming issues because of it.

Gallagher said that because Apple products are glued together and have small lithium batteries located within their products, many users cannot repair their gadgets themselves and turn to specialized stores like UbreakiFix at an increased rate or simply throw their gadgets away and buy the latest product offered instead.

Klessig agreed that the battery life is a minor burden. "Once the battery starts to die you have to charge the case and then you charge the headphones. It takes like 45 minutes."

The Atlantic reported that the disposal

process of tech products like AirPods has led to a mass build up of non-biodegradable plastic garbage that countries like China are no longer willing to buy. Users are hoping for a more efficient product this time around and in turn are hoping to cut back on garbage build up.

A stigma surrounding the AirPods headphones is that they're a luxury product. Priced at \$170, they are attainable for many consumers but considered frivolous by others.

Popular memes saying "it smells like broke in here" have been released featuring people with AirPods headphones making fun of people who do not have AirPods headphones. AirPods also have a special section reserved on Snapchat under the "AirPods users be like" filter

where people will record or post pictures of AirPods users in a mocking or humorous way.

Apple's in-house brand Beats comes out with their own concept of completely wireless Sport headphones in April. Users are expecting many of the same features with the Beats as the AirPods headphones. However, Beats don't come under as much ridicule over their battery life as the AirPods do, but draw comments on social media like "I didn't know my parents were broke until they got me Beats."

At the end of the day, wireless headphones like AirPods are the latest growing trend that, given they don't fall off, will make wired headphones obsolete.

Introducing Midwest Jake, a moody rapper

by Jack Tierney

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Two weeks ago before spring break, UW O senior Jake Laforest (Midwest Jake) was studying at a desktop computer in Polk Library dressed in black jeans and a buttoned shirt, listening to music and staring continuously with long blond hair falling out of the back of his hat.

Two weeks later, and after spring break, he has a shaved head, a new music video on YouTube titled "Sex With My Ex" and a project named #HappyToBeSad set to be released this month.

It's part of his new mentality, Laforest said. He's more optimistic. His entire perspective on life has changed. "I just needed a fresh start, and I'm really trying now to be more positive. I deal with depression and anxiety a lot, and it was just time to do something new. I was just telling my friend this on the phone — I feel a world of a difference."

"Sex With My Ex" is the first music video Laforest has made, and in just two weeks it's caught the attention of 611 viewers on YouTube and drawn comments by two listeners dubbing the song "fire."

In early 2017 Laforest wrote a song titled "Mama's Boy." He said on Facebook, "This song is very special to me," and, "For the most important woman in my life, I love you mom."

He gave a shout-out to his dad on a song too by saying, "He gettin mad that's yo man's fault, me havin' game is my dad's fault."

"They're super awesome," Laforest said, smiling from ear to ear. "I have friends who record, and their parents will be telling them to turn it down or this and that, but mine don't. I realize I'm chasing something that isn't very probable and kind of abstract, and as a parent you would want your kids to chase something secure, and



COURTESY OF JAKE LAFOREST

Midwest Jake (Jake Laforest) has an eight song project #HappyToBeSad releasing this month along with his first ever music video "Sex With My Ex."

they just continue to show me love. When it comes to my dad, he just wants me to put the pedal to the metal and go."

During a lowdown time in Laforest's life, he wrote a song about heartbreak titled "Desire" dedicated to "anyone who has been left with nothing but a read receipt" and about how "girls like you don't respond to guys like me."

"I had just broken up with my girlfriend," Laforest said. "There are always rappers and musicians who are smooth with the ladies, and that's not me. In general I'm

not the guy to go up to a girl and start a conversation, and I've been there too many times where I approach a girl and get turned down. I just wanted that to be the anthem because I know other guys are going through it too."

Laforest said his latest song "Sex With My Ex" is about the same girl he wrote about in "Desire." He said this song is his most special project, and he has put more work in on this song than any other song he has made.

Taking his talents a step further and expanding his horizon, Laforest learned how to produce for this song,

which made it even more of a triumph for him.

"This song specifically I've put in over 200 hours," Laforest said. "I don't do that with every song. It's kind of my baby. I've been working on it since the middle of summer, and just the fact of being able to film a video for it has been really fun."

By the numbers, Laforest has 583 followers, 21 tracks and 729 likes on SoundCloud with the song "Amigos" pulling in 1,087 plays and 53 likes. On Spotify, Jake sports 76 listeners monthly. The numbers don't lie: Laforest is getting attention.

Minor steps need to be taken to finish #HappyToBeSad, Laforest said, but he promised it will be out this month. People interested can follow him on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at Midwest Jake to be in tune with his updates.

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