

LYDIA SANCHEZ / ADVANCE-TITAN

Seniors Ben Boots, Brett Wittchow, Alex Van Dyke and sophomore Tommy Borta lift the sectional championship trophy following the victory over Guilford College at Kolf Sports Center.

Read more on page 5

Hoops, they did it again

UWO men's basketball escapes an upset against Guilford College in the Elite Eight round of the NCAA Division III tournament. Next stop: Fort Wayne, Indiana.



82-79



UWO campus responds to racial remarks during OSA elections

by Calvin Skalet

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A now-former member of Oshkosh College Republicans used derogatory language on Snapchat toward two OSA candidates, causing OSA and other university organizations to denounce the actions and encourage inclusion.

The Snap, which was taken on Tuesday afternoon, shows an image of what appears to be two white male candidates for the current 2019 OSA election race with a caption that says, "UWO Vote for these guys today unless you want a lesbian or a hmong to win."

That same night, Oshkosh College

Republicans responded to the situation with a Facebook post that said, "As conservatives, we strongly stand against racism, sexism, homophobia, and all other forms of discrimination."

The group confirmed that the member was removed from the organization permanently and said they support any consequence given to this student.

"Oshkosh College Republicans have zero tolerance for racism, bigotry and other forms of discrimination, we have removed the individual from our club and are in full support of him facing the greatest consequence."

Dr. Sylvia Carey-Butler responded with an email late Tuesday night ex-

pressing her disappointment with the situation.

"On Tuesday night, we were reminded that despite efforts to create an inclusive environment, racism and homophobia exists on our campus," Carey-Butler said. "The comments made on Facebook regarding our upcoming OSA elections underscores why each one of us has a responsibility to call out such divisive language when we hear and see it. UW Oshkosh's core values do not align with hateful acts or speech."

In an email sent to students on Tuesday, Executive Director for Campus Life Jean Kwaterski said such actions

will not be tolerated by OSA and its candidates for office.

"Today, we want to acknowledge the homophobic and racist statement that was made referring to the current OSA campaign," Kwaterski said. "All slates - Alina and Pa Houa, Alicia and Hannah, and Jacob and Ian will not enable this behavior. We all stand together in being an inclusive, accepting and welcoming University."

In the same email, the candidates joined together in a statement regarding the incident. The candidates said OSA does not condone any type of discrimination.

"We (as all slates) believe the best

way to fight bigotry is through education as we all continue to grow together and embrace each of our differences positively. No campaign condones racism, homophobia, xenophobia, transphobia, or any other forms of discrimination. We are attending a University to learn, not to exclude. We all commit to standing together today to acknowledge that our campus has racism and homophobia among many other issues. Together, we will all equally commit to furthering every students' knowledge about those who differ from them and be excited about embracing this change."

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Campus Connections

Jacob Fulton
Q & A

Local dragstar Jacob Fulton talks about his life and career as a performer and his future goals.

Read more on page 8



Opinion

Sexual assaults

Editorial: The Advance-Titan staff discusses sexual assaults on campus and what the University can do to help prevent them.

Read more on page 4

News

Miss Oshkosh

UWO junior Katrina Mazier won the Miss Oshkosh pageant on March 2. She will be going on to compete for the title of Miss Wisconsin in June.

Read the full story online.

UWO students offer cleaning services throughout campus

by Zack Dion
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UW Oshkosh economics major Colin Milligan founded College Cleaners LLC in December 2018 after offering handiwork to those in need the previous spring for extra cash.

College Cleaners LLC offers inside, outside, weekly and miscellaneous services including lawn care, snow removal, dog walking and technology help. For students, the company offers paid tasks allowing them to earn extra money outside of class.

Milligan hires students as independent contractors and pays them in cash or via Venmo. Until they work 600 hours, the work contractors perform does not need to be reported. Currently, the company has two employees.

According to Milligan, since January 2019, the company has expanded from four different clients to about 35 clients between Oshkosh to Neenah, mostly returning customers.

UWO senior and College Cleaners LLC manager Eli Miller said the company's mission is to build relationships with everyone involved with College Cleaners — from community members to coworkers to students.

"Our motto is 'help us help you,' so when they help us through conversation for a job, we help them by teaching them something that maybe they didn't know," Miller said.

Miller said the company's biggest form of advertising is word-of-mouth.

"Every client that we have,

we tell them to use the word-of-mouth as much as possible, and that's pretty much how we've grown as exponentially as we have," Miller said. "We have the media content, we have the internet, we promote, we do networking and branding, but the word-of-mouth is so much better because we get involved in with so many people that they say great things about us."

The company offers services for less money than professionals by basing its fees on the income and financial situation of clients in need.

Milligan said the company's consumer audience is the handicapped and disabled, people who are busy with their day-to-day life and senior citizens.

"I come there and they just open up about everything in their life," Milligan said. "It's kind of cool because I learn from them and they learn from me."

UWO 2015 graduate Anna Hirsch is a returning College Cleaners LLC customer who ordered snow removal services after poor experiences with professionals offering the service.

"My mom found them for me so that I had someone more reliable who wasn't going to take advantage of me because I have chronic illnesses," Hirsch said. "They have really great communication. They make sure to reach out to see if you need snow plowing and, overall, they're like a million times better than the last guy I had."

Milligan said he hopes to expand College Cleaners LLC to other colleges in the UW system.

"I'm going to have to rebrand



UWO students Colin Milligan and Eli Miller remove snow from locations on campus through College Cleaners, LLC, a service founded by Milligan in December 2018. Miller currently manages the company.



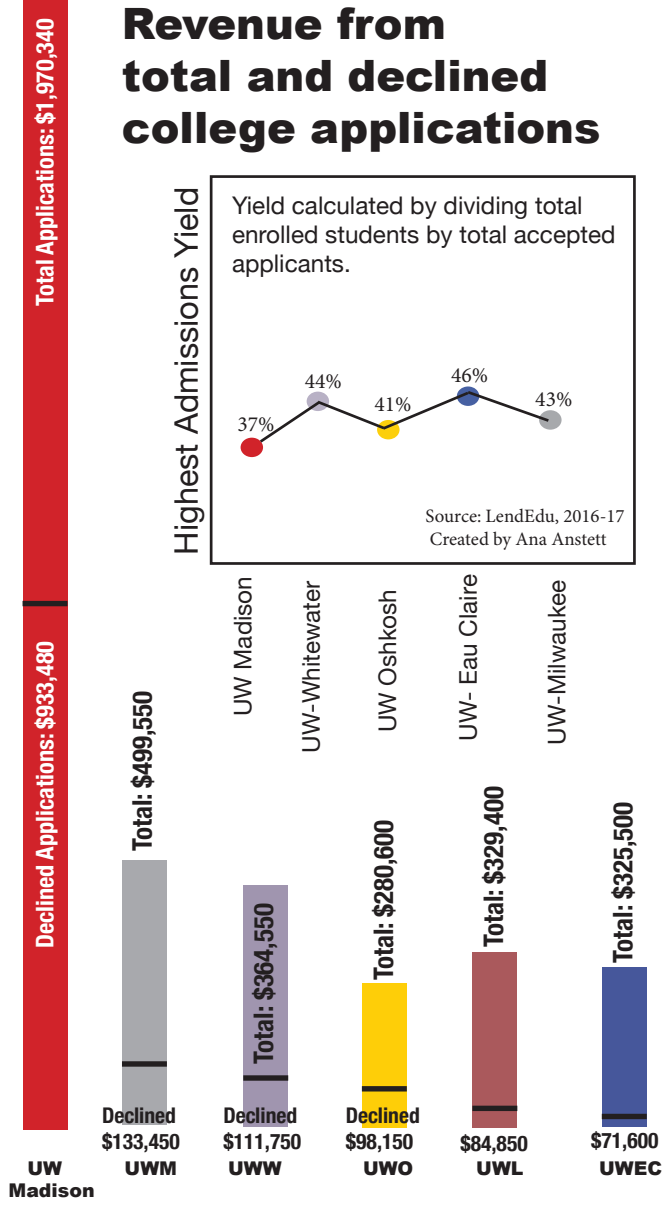
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELI MILLER

because a lot of people just think it's cleaning, but I think I'm going to get a platform figured out, like an app, so it's easier to connect the college kids out to the community," Milligan said. "First I'm getting

everything set in Oshkosh, and then when I graduate I'm going to bum around to other colleges and show them what I did and tell them they can do it because it's simple things that college kids can do."

Students looking to earn extra money and community members in need of household services from College Cleaners LLC can find more information at www.collegecleanershelp.com

Revenue from total and declined college applications



by Amber Brockman
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UW Oshkosh is ranked No. 386 in a list of 500 colleges that make the most revenue off total applications, based on the most recent study done by LendEDU, an online marketplace for financial products.

The college admissions data was taken from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System for the 2016-2017 school year.

The data is used to determine "which institutions are turning the application process into a multimillion-dollar revenue stream," according to a LendEDU article written by Research Analyst Mike Brown, who noted the burden of college applications also comes with a price.

"Most of the time, a college or university charges an application fee of around \$50," Brown said. "However, the fee can range from as low as \$10 to as high as \$150."

UWO along with all other UW system schools except UW-Madison charges \$50. Madison charges a \$60 fee and brought in \$1.97 million from total applications in 2016-17.

According to the LendEDU data, UWO brings in an estimated \$280,600 of revenue from college applications, which was calculated by multiplying the total number of applications by the application fee.

UWO Associate Director of Admis-

sions Laurie Stevens said the UW System determines the application fee for all UW schools.

"Currently, a \$50 nonrefundable application fee is required with each admission application for all UW System schools except UW-Madison," Stevens said. "The fee increased from \$44 to \$50 for fall 2017, so this current fee has only been in place a couple of years."

UWO also made \$98,150 in revenue from declined applications and was placed No. 371 on the list of 500 colleges that make the most revenue off declined applications, according to the LendEDU study. In comparison, UW-Madison made \$933,480 from declined applications, No. 66 on that same list.

Another list from the LendEDU study revealed that UWO is ranked No. 106 of 500 colleges with the highest admissions yield. Of the 5,612 applicants, 3,649 were admitted and 1,501 were enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year, or a 41 percent enrolled-to-admitted ratio. The highest enrolled-to-admitted ratio, at 70 percent, came from the UW Colleges, while UW-Madison had the lowest rate in the system at 37 percent.

Brown said it's surprising to see how much some of the top schools make off applications alone.

"The top five schools with the highest revenue are all music colleges, and they bring in \$5 million from college applications," Brown said. "One application can

cost up to \$125 depending on where you apply."

UWO student Destiny Fay said she applied to four colleges: Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Whitewater and Lawrence University.

Fay said she would have spent more personally if the application fees weren't waived for special circumstances.

"I know it was supposed to cost more, but it was lower due to financial aid or some other opportunity through the school because I'm poor," Fay said. "I paid it, but then got reimbursed somehow."

After hearing about costs of college applications, Fay said it would have been miserable to pay for it.

"I would have cried if I didn't get that help paying for applications," Fay said. "Just those few applications would've been almost \$200, which is crazy since I didn't even get accepted to all of them."

Brown said it is important for students to be aware of college application costs when looking for colleges to attend.

"Students should try to limit the colleges they apply to in order to save money," Brown said. "Even just applying to four colleges with \$70 application fees, you're already up to \$280, so you should really only apply to places you actually plan on going to or feel like you have a chance of getting into."

Katrina Mazier takes the crown

by Nikki Brahm
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UW Oshkosh junior Katrina Mazier took home the crown on March 2 at the annual Miss Oshkosh and Miss Oshkosh's Outstanding Teen Scholarship Pageant, which is within the Miss America competition.

Originally from Appleton, Mazier went to UW-La Crosse her first year and transferred to UWO her second year. Mazier also holds titles as Miss Fond du Lac 2016 and Miss Green Bay Area 2018.

Mazier said she has never seen a local pageant work so hard to promote the winner and it's a complete honor to win.

"You are completely just involved in the community at all

times, and they take you under their wing and love you and support you, and it's a really great community that you have backing you," Mazier said.

Mazier said there are three different competitions in the Miss America competition, which are local, state and national. In Wisconsin, there are 25 local competitions.

"Now that I've won the title of Miss Oshkosh, I'll go on to compete for the title of Miss Wisconsin in June," Mazier said. "If I were to win the title as Miss Wisconsin, I would go on to compete as Miss America."

Co-director of the Miss Oshkosh Scholarship Program Michelle Hammett said all nine contestants did a fabulous job.

"We are thrilled [Mazier is] our winner and that we get to work with her during her year of service," Hammett said.

Hammett said scholarship opportunities provide a way for students to pay for tuition costs. Mazier received a \$3,500 scholarship, and she wasn't the only one. Hammett said of the top five finalists, three of them were UWO students.

"The Miss Oshkosh scholarship program is one of the top scholarship providers in all of the local pageants in the Miss Wisconsin, Miss America system," Hammett said. "This year we awarded over \$11,550 [in] scholarships to the contestants, so every contestant who competes receives some type of a scholarship. I think each

contestant received a minimum of \$500."

Mazier said the crown competitors wear has four points, each symbolic of an important pageant concept.

"The points are style, service, scholarship and success," Mazier said.

Mazier said service is now referred to as a social impact initiative since Miss America was changed to Miss America 2.0 last year.

Mazier's social impact initiative is Teens of Tomorrow- Teen Suicide Prevention Awareness, for which she's raised funds to provide help for those who need help or are uninsured.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MISS OSHKOSH FACEBOOK

Junior Katrina Mazier thanks the crowd moments after winning the Miss Oshkosh competition.

UWO participates in clothes recycling program

by Kaitlyn Scoville

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The UW Oshkosh campus participated in their first ever Clothes the Loop program with the North Face on March 8, which allowed students to recycle their unwanted clothing, new or used.

According to the North Face website, an average of 10 million tons of textile waste goes into landfills each year in the United States.

“That’s nearly 70 pounds of textiles per person,” the website states. “Ninety-five percent of these items could have been reused or recycled.”

UWO student and sustainability intern Elly Durand said the event is a great way to build awareness of more ways to recycle things other than just paper, plastic and glass.

“Recycling clothes is not something people typically think about when they think about recycling and reducing waste,” Durand said. “So this is just one way that our sustainability office is trying to introduce students and the campus community to more ways they can be more sustainable.”

According to the North Face website, Clothes the Loop is aimed to repurpose clothing of any kind, whether it be giving them a new home or recycling it for other uses.

“Clothes the Loop stems



RYAN PATRICK TAYLOR / ADVANCE-TITAN

Mary-Rachel Novak, a Clothes the Loop volunteer, organizes donations for a recycling program.

from our commitment to reduce the environmental impact of our products at all stages of their life cycle, including extending the life of apparel and footwear to keep it out of landfills,” the website said.

Durand said raising aware-

ness of more ways students can recycle helps the campus maintain their sustainability.

“There is a large amount of textile waste that goes into our landfills every year, and the more people that know about an opportunity like this, the

more we can start to reduce that, not only as a campus but really as a larger global community,” Durand said.

UWO student Sarah Vivian said she donated to Clothes the Loop in hopes that this event will allow other students

to step back and rethink how they repurpose things.

“I think donating clothes is critical to maintaining a sustainable world because it helps get another life out of the clothing,” Vivian said. “I also think buying clothing

secondhand is critical because it eliminates the waste that it takes to make a new article of clothing.”

The North Face is co-sponsored with a nonprofit organization named Soles4Souls, whose mission is to give jobs while simultaneously repurposing the clothes that have been donated.

“The items put into our bins are used for disaster relief or programs that aim to provide small entrepreneurs with business opportunities,” the North Face website said about Soles4Souls.

The sustainability office at UWO offers other recycling opportunities such as e-waste and plastic bag collection.

“We want people to know they can do this too,” Durand said. “You don’t have to throw away if you can’t donate to Goodwill. There are other options as well.”

Because it is the sustainability office’s first trial of Clothes the Loop on campus, Durand hopes there will be more collections later this semester.

“We just really want people to know this is an option,” Durand said. “This is to test out the water. We’re already such a sustainability-minded campus. We do a lot of really great things already, but it’s always important to improve and expand on what you can.”

110 Titan LeadHERS honored

by Megan Behnke

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In celebration of International Women’s Day, the UW Oshkosh Women’s Center put on multiple events.

Coffee and Connection, held on March 8, brought students together to celebrate International Women’s Day at the Women’s Center with hot chocolate, coffee, tea and virtual reality on the PS4 and coloring sheets.

The Titan LeadHERship Conference, held on March 9 in the Reeve Union Ballroom, worked toward closing the gender leadership gap by inspiring and preparing women students to actively pursue leadership positions.

Women’s Center Director Dr. Alicia Johnson said the Center is celebrating Women’s HERstory Month instead of Women’s History Month.

“We made the switch just to provide enough of a disruption that gets people to pause and think about the ways in which women have been written out of history and whose stories they haven’t been hearing,” Johnson said.

In honor of International Women’s Day and HERstory Month, students and staff can view the Titan LeadHER photo gallery in Reeve, which is available for viewing all month long.

Women’s Center Titan Femtorship and LeadHERship Coordinator Gina Delelio said the exhibit depicts 110 images of female-identified leadHERs on campus and their inspirational narratives.

“It is intended to promote leadHERship and empowerHERment on campus throughout Women’s

HERstory Month,” Delelio said. “The goal of this exhibit is to recognize current and inspire future women-identified leadHERs on campus.”

UWO Inter-Tribal Student Organization President and Titan LeadHERship nominee Tatum DePerry said she thinks that everyone can learn from the gallery.

“Simply because it highlights all of our amazing leaders who are women,” DePerry said. “A lot of these are behind the scenes and may not be seen every day, and it is important for these women to get the credit they deserve.”

UWO National Society of Leadership and Success Chapter President and Titan LeadHERship nominee Braini McKenzie said representation matters when having leadHERship.

“I think woman-identified leadHERs bring a fresh and much needed perspective to the table,” McKenzie said. “Every voice matters and being able to represent others who may not have a seat at the table ensures that we have an inclusive community.”

Johnson said she hopes that people celebrate the accomplishments of women every day and challenge the sexism that women continue to experience on a daily basis.

“I think it’s important to spend at least one day a year where we celebrate and really focus on lifting up the experiences, accomplishments and contributions that women have made to make the world a better place,” Johnson said.

DePerry said being a woman and a leader is a big part of her identity.

“Being a strong leader is important, but being



CHRISTINA BASKEN / ADVANCE-TITAN

Plaques of leadHERs are displayed on the second floor hallway in Reeve Memorial Union in honor of Women’s HERstory Month celebrated on campus.

able to be a strong female leader is what I am most proud of,” DePerry said. “Simply because I know that historically women were not allowed or ‘fit’ to be leaders.”

McKenzie said she would define a Titan LeadHER as a person who identifies as a woman and is passionate about leadership and inspiring those around her.

“They are also actively involved on campus and constantly seeking ways to add to the campus community,” McKenzie said.

Johnson said she thinks in every accomplishment, invention and success, you can find the women who contributed.

“HERstory Month is to uncover that history that is so often hidden,” Johnson said. “So really working to find ways to uplift those voices and dust off that history.”

DePerry said that being a leader is a great responsibility, and they have to be willing to work day in and day out if they want to see change.

“To my future leaders, just know you are capable of doing anything if you put your heart into it,” DePerry said. “If someone is interested in being a leader, I think the first thing that needs to be done is to get involved in something you are passionate about.”

UWO to offer UW-Platteville engineering courses

by Joseph Schulz

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UW Oshkosh will begin offering UW-Platteville engineering classes on top of its existing engineering technology program in 2019.

The partnership was finalized at a signing and press conference held on March 9. The goal of the partnership is to increase the number of engineers in the Fox Cities in order to meet the demand of local manufacturing companies.

According to Assistant Chancellor for Access Campuses Martin Rudd, UW-Fox Valley has been partnered with Platteville for almost 20 years.

Rudd said the partnership started as a response to demand from businesses in the Fox Valley looking for qualified engineers.

“I was actually on campus in 2005 when the original engineering classroom and lab opened in this Platteville partnership,” Rudd said “We quickly grew out of that facility as the number of students interested in pursuing an engineering degree, while staying in the Fox Cities, increased into the triple digits.”

Rudd said UWO will be offering courses in Platteville’s engineering program, meaning UWO isn’t developing a new program.

“What we’re doing is bringing together the three campuses of UWO with the engineering programs of UW-Platteville to enhance the accessibility of those bachelor engineering programs in north-eastern Wisconsin,” Rudd said. “Effectively what it means is that students can

enter and exit from the three campuses of UWO with an engineering technology degree or a mechanical or an electrical engineering degree.”

UWO Engineering Technology Department Chairman Gregory Kleinheinz said students that graduate from UWO that are part of the UW-Platteville engineering program will receive a UW-Platteville degree.

“Platteville courses could be taught here, they could be taught at UWFV; we don’t know exactly where they’re all going to be yet,” Kleinheinz said. “We expect them to be as accessible as any other class on campus.”

Kleinheinz said the program is designed to be accessible to both traditional and nontraditional students.

“There is a group that’s going to work with nontraditional students; those classes we’re going to try to have in the evening. Those might be up at Fox Valley, some may be [at UWO],” Kleinheinz said. “But if a student wants to take a class, but the only class is offered at a certain time [at UWFV], they could take it, and it would be interchangeable.”

Department of Engineering Technology Coordinator Dennis Rioux said the main difference between the engineering program from Platteville and the engineering technology program is that engineering technology is more about taking a product from concept to an actual working product, whereas engineering is more design- and theory-based.

“A typical scenario is one where, say, you’re working for the widget-maker corporation,” Rioux said. “The design office, where the engineers are, is going

to design the widget-maker 3000. The engineering technology person is somebody who might contribute to that design a little bit but is primarily responsible for making that widget-maker 3000 appear on the shop floor.”

Kleinheinz said offering both engineering and engineering technologies gives students more options.

“Some students, as they go through the program, they may decide they really want engineering, and they may get three years in, and they may decide they like engineering technology because of the application,” Kleinheinz said. “Conversely, some students may be in engineering technology, but they’d rather do engineering, maybe they like the theory or design work.”


Kleinheinz said the new program responds to a universal demand for engineers across Northeast Wisconsin.

“There’s huge demand,” Kleinheinz said. “We’re not graduating enough engineers in any discipline nationwide and Wisconsin isn’t immune to that. We have multitudes of positions unfilled. We just hear loud and clear that there’s a need for it.”

Kleinheinz said working with the staff from UWFV and UW-Platteville has been a positive experience because they share a common goal.

“At the end of the day this is about students and bringing students into engineering,” Kleinheinz said. “If an Oshkosh student graduates with a Platteville degree, we’re okay with that. If they succeed, we succeed.”

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Written by Oshkosh resident Mark J. Spanbauer, “To The Younger” includes stories and lessons to help teens and young adults deal with life’s problems.



Available at Amazon.com and at UWO’s University Books & More

Survivors: Stop suffering in silence

With only about 5 percent of UWO students reporting sexual assaults, administrators must take action to encourage survivors to come forward

by The Advance-Titan Staff
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The violent and degrading act of sexual assault leaves a victim feeling ashamed, traumatized, and often, too scared to report the assault.

Those who do report are left with the possibility that their rapist may receive no repercussions for their actions.

“They feel like no one hears them. No one supports them. No one believes them,” Campus Victim Advocate Ciara Hill said. “The possibility of nothing happening is definitely real and what a lot of victims feel.”

Sadly, the lack of reporting sexual assaults is all too common on college campuses across the United States. At UW Oshkosh, administrators need to be proactive in protecting victims and empowering the survivors of sexual violence to come forward.

95% of sexual assaults go unreported

According to the UWO website, there were 57 cases of sexual assault reported to the Campus Victim Advocate in 2016.

However, the 2016 Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report listed only six sexual assaults on the UWO campus, showing a discrepancy in the number of assaults that are occurring and the number of assaults that are being reported to the UWO police.

Hill said she is unsure how accurate the website number is as it may include sexual assaults that were reported by phone or by a secondary source.

She estimates that from March 2018 there were approximately 30 sexual assaults reported to the Campus Victim Advocate on the UWO campus, not including phone reports or reports from secondary sources. The 2019 Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety report, which will contain 2018 data on sexual assaults reported to UWO police, has not been released yet.

Assistant Director of Health Promotion, Juliana Kahrs, said that 95 percent of campus sexual assaults go unreported each year.

With only about one out of every 20 sexual assault victims on campus reporting, UWO officials needs to stop talking about how they’re addressing sexual assaults on campus and actively take action to not only decrease the amount of sexual assaults that are occurring, but also to encourage those who have been assaulted to report.

Why don’t victims report?

The stigma attached to sexual assault often makes victims feel too embarrassed and

ashamed to come forward. Hill said survivors live with the fear that no one will believe them, and those that do will think the assault was their fault. She said they are worried about getting pregnant or STDs or if they were drugged.

“They have guilt. They blame themselves,” she said. “They feel all of these emotions: sad, mad, angry.”

Hill said some victims don’t recall the assault.

“They don’t even know what emotions to feel because they were incapacitated at the time so they’re trying to understand,” she said. “And then there is the fear of the unknown. What do I do now? What happens next? Who do I contact? Which of my family or friends can I trust enough to tell this to?”

Some survivors also self-blame and worry that people will look at them differently.

“They are scared that their voices aren’t going to be heard,” Hill said. “They are worried that they won’t be taken seriously and they will be labeled by these horrible things that people say.”

These thoughts are exacerbated by the inappropriate questions that victims are often asked, typically leaving the survivor to feel that their own actions caused the assault.

“What were you wearing?” they ask.

“Were you flirting?” “How much did you have to drink?”

But sexual assault is never the victim’s fault.

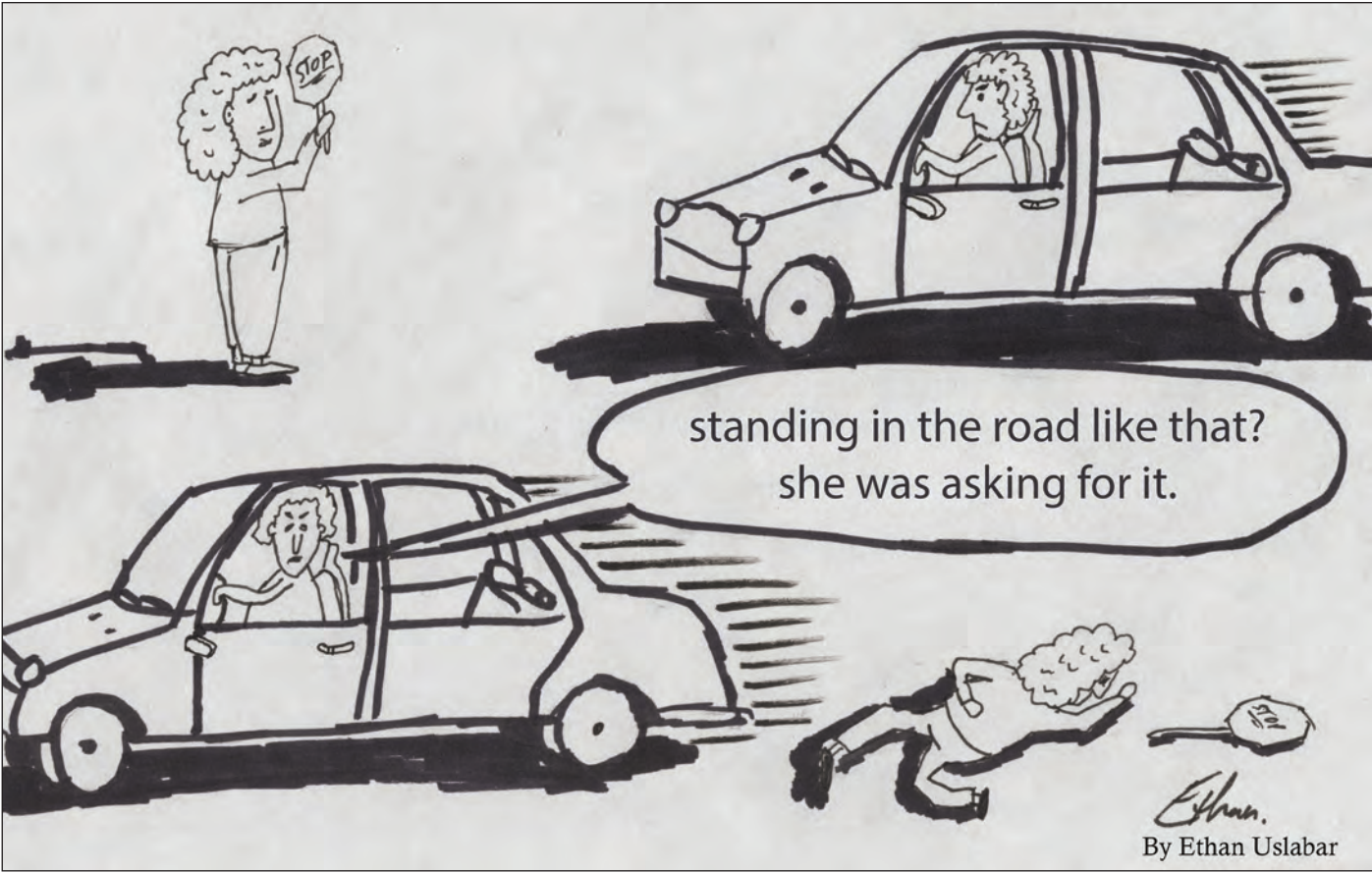
Kahrs, who is currently overseeing sexual and interpersonal violence prevention efforts at UWO, said some victims have been groomed or coerced and they don’t realize what happened to them constitutes sexual assault.

“Sometimes it’s fear of retaliation, whether from the person they’re accusing, or from their friends,” Kahrs said. “Another fear, when people don’t report, is that they don’t think people will believe them.”

Hill said there is a huge misconception about who rapists are.

“The majority of the students I see, it wasn’t just some random person that they didn’t know on the street or at the bar,” she said. “It was someone that was in their classes, someone that was in their residence hall. It was a friend, someone they grew up with, someone that they came to school here with that took advantage of them. It’s people that you know.”

All of the self-doubt and fear that survivors feel is overshadowed by another concern: What if you’re brave enough to report your sexual assault, but the perpetrator of the sexual violence is never brought



to justice?

Accused rapist gets a clean record

In a 2011 case, a UWO student reported to officials that she had been raped while intoxicated, court documents indicate.

University officials found the victim to be credible and brought off-campus non-academic misconduct charges against the student-athlete who was being accused, according to documents.

These charges would have resulted in a one-year suspension and would have permanently prevented the student-athlete from ever obtaining a teaching license from the state of Wisconsin.

UWO officials held misconduct proceedings and ultimately found that it was proven by a “preponderance of evidence” that the student-athlete had engaged in sexual assault, court records say.

However, the student-athlete argued in district court that several procedural violations in UWO’s misconduct proceedings led to violations of his due process.

The case between the student-athlete and UWO was ultimately settled, and the student-athlete was relieved of any consequences for the sexual assault that had occurred, documents indicate.

The accused rapist later went on to become a high school athletic coach.

It’s cases like this that frustrate victims and discourage them from reporting.

Amnesty for victims

In 2016 Wisconsin passed a Medical Amnesty law. This law ensures that anyone who

has been sexually assaulted or anyone who reports a sexual assault cannot be charged for underage drinking. The bill was passed to encourage sexual assault survivors to report.

In relation to this law, UWO has a policy to only impose educational sanctions, rather than disciplinary sanctions, on students violating the UWO alcohol policy when reporting a sexual assault as a victim or witness.

However, giving assault victims a “get out of jail free” card is hardly an incentive to report such a devastating incident. Plus, a sexual assault victim is traumatized and isn’t necessarily thinking clearly about making decisions based on the law.

And, if drugs were involved, the victim has even more repercussions to fear, as UWO’s medical amnesty law only covers alcohol.

“You’ll never be completely over it. It’s something you will always remember, no matter how many years go by.”

— Ciara Hill
Campus Victim Advocate

Kahrs said there are many resources on campus to address and report sexual assault, and she is working to simplify the reporting process on UWO’s website so that it’s even easier for victims to report.

Kahrs said UWO provides counseling services, legal services, health services, support groups and resources on the campus violence prevention webpage.

As the UWO Campus Vic-

tim Advocate, Hill said she provides medical advocacy, legal services, university services and personal services. She goes with victims to medical appointments and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner appointments where evidence can be collected. She attends court cases, helps survivors plan for trials and provides ongoing personal advocacy.

“You’ll never be completely over it,” she said. “It’s something you will always remember. No matter how many years go by.”

Kahrs said UWO has joined with 40 other schools in an initiative called “Culture of Respect” to develop, assess and implement improvement plans on campus to combat sexual violence.

UWO has created a new sexual and interpersonal violence prevention coordinator position on campus, with the new coordinator starting on March 18.

The campus is also gearing up for a wide range of activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

Kahrs said if someone you know has been sexually assaulted you should listen to them.

“Tell them you believe them, it’s not their fault and you are there for them,” she said.

Hill said she wants victims to know they are not alone.

“There is someone here that is going to be there for you, who will listen to you and respect you and believe you,” she said. “We’ll make sure that you have what you need to move on. We just want you to feel safe and protected on campus and in the community.”

What else can UWO do?

If UWO officials truly want to encourage survivors to come forward, then they need to be more proactive, not only in preventing sexual violence on campus, but also in addressing how sexual crimes are prosecuted on campus as well as combating the stigmas attached to sexual violence.

Victims do not want to report a crime if they believe the perpetrator is going to get an academic “slap on the wrist” as punishment. Or worse yet, the perpetrator may not receive any punishments at all while the victim has to live with the shame and stigma.

Campus officials need to examine whether non-academic misconduct proceedings on campus are being used to protect crime victims or if they are being used to protect UWO’s image and reputation.

Simply saying that we’re addressing sexual violence on the UWO campus isn’t enough.

Hiring a new sexual and interpersonal violence prevention coordinator is a great way to bring new ideas to UWO to combat sexual violence, but it isn’t enough.

Providing support and resources to survivors of sexual violence is an important and necessary step to addressing campus sexual assaults, but it’s also not enough.

Even dedicating the entire month of April to sexual assault awareness isn’t enough.

Campus officials: if your best efforts to address sexual assault on campus are still leaving 95% of survivors to suffer in silence, then your best efforts just aren’t good enough.

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UWO punches ticket to Final Four

by Neal Hogden
hogden39@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team is headed back to the NCAA Division III Final Four after taking down a pair of opponents at Kolf Sports Center over the weekend.

In the Elite Eight round, UWO defeated a feisty Guilford College team in thrilling fashion by a score of 82-79 Saturday night.

Last-second shot attempts by Guilford’s Kyler Gregory and Jaylen Gore were off-the-mark as UWO held on to defeat the Quakers in the final seconds of regulation.

UWO was led by junior forward Adam Fravert with 26 points on only 11 shots. Fravert hit six of his seven attempts from beyond-the-arc and added nine rebounds and three assists.

Fravert said he is just one of many guys who can shoulder the scoring load on any given night for this team.

“I guess I just had the hot hand tonight,” Fravert said. “Last night, it was [Connor] Duax. He went off. Someone else has had a really good game every game in this tournament. We just keep finding the person who has the hot hand and just keep going to them.”

Senior Ben Boots said a tough night shooting the ball but was able to help the team out in different ways. Boots had seven assists and six rebounds in 38 minutes for the Titans.

Head coach Matt Lewis said his senior leader is able to impact the game regardless of if his shot is falling or not.

“Ben is a winner,” Lewis said. “I don’t know if there’s a better way to describe him. He wins and he competes at an extremely high level. His ability to just continue to add value, even on a night like that — he just makes winning plays for us.”

Junior center Jack Flynn was the only player to record a double-double on the night as he scored 14 points and added 10 rebounds for UWO.

Flynn had the tough task of guarding Gregory who took 26 shots as Guilford made a concerted effort to get the ball down low. Gregory scored 31 points but was held to only 46 percent shooting from the field.

Flynn said Gregory was a good player, but he knew to win the game, he would have to make things tough on the Guilford junior.

“He was a fantastic player,” Flynn said. “He’s a hard guy to defend. He finishes well around the rim and has that mid-range game so it’s just really hard to defend. You’ve got to respect

the guy for how good he is.”

Freshman Eric Peterson scored 10 points off the bench, senior Brett Witchow added 10 points and sophomore Connor Duax had 11 for the Titans.

The win was extra sweet for the Titans as many friends and family were able to go onto the floor after the game and celebrate with the team. Flynn said hosting the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight rounds of the tournament was incredible.

“For me personally, it’s a really special experience,” Flynn said. “Last year, it was at Augustana but being at home where we have so many great fans that were there to support us and having all of our family and friends was just a really special thing for us.”

Fravert said it was exciting to play in front of so many of the team’s friends and family.

“It was awesome to have that many people there,” Fravert said. “We’ve had some good crowds this season, but it was nothing like that. It was pretty cool because most of us knew people there, and we had a lot of family there, so it was really special to be able to celebrate with them.”

Lewis said he loves this team and has faith in his guys to play to the best of their ability night in and night out.

“We figured some things out late in the season and now we’ve made another really good push here to get ourselves to Fort Wayne,” Lewis said. “I have confidence in our guys. We’re a really good basketball team. I love the way these guys play with each other and share the ball.”

To make it to the Elite Eight the Titans defeated Loras College (Iowa) by a final score of 86-75 on Friday night. With the win, UWO set a school record for wins in a season; they now own a 27-3 record for the year.

Duax wasn’t a starter on the opening day of the season, but he came through against the Duhawks with one of the biggest games of his career. The forward poured in 26 points, six rebounds, two assists, one block and a steal.

The Duhawks closed to within four points after halftime when Duax took matters into his own hands. Duax rattled off 12 straight UWO points and extended the Titan lead back to 12 with 16:32 remaining in the game.

Duax said even though he had a big game, he made sure to not overthink the look the defense gave him.

“I wasn’t really thinking about much after I scored,” Duax said. “I was just doing what the defense gave me, basically. I was trying to get my teammates

the ball whenever I could, but if they gave me the open drive or shot, then I would go [in] with confidence.”

Kolf Sports Center was home to the biggest crowd since the 2004-05 season on Friday night as 1,913 spectators made for a ruckus atmosphere.

Duax said playing a home game in the tournament puts the team inside their comfort zone.

“We definitely feel confident on our home court,” Duax said. “One of our sayings is ‘we always want to protect our house,’ so going into the game that’s what we focused on.”

Boots said this was one of the largest crowds he can remember but wants it to be even larger for tomorrow night’s game.

“It was a really great thing for us,” Boots said. “Towards the end of the game, we were just able to look around and really appreciate it. I see 1,913 on the attendance here and that’s like 700 more than we’ve ever had in this gym since I’ve been here. Let’s get to 2,500 tomorrow.”

In the first half, UWO committed 12 fouls and five Titans picked up two fouls before halftime.

Lewis said the team wasn’t playing disciplined and he knows they have to change that in order to go even farther in the tournament.

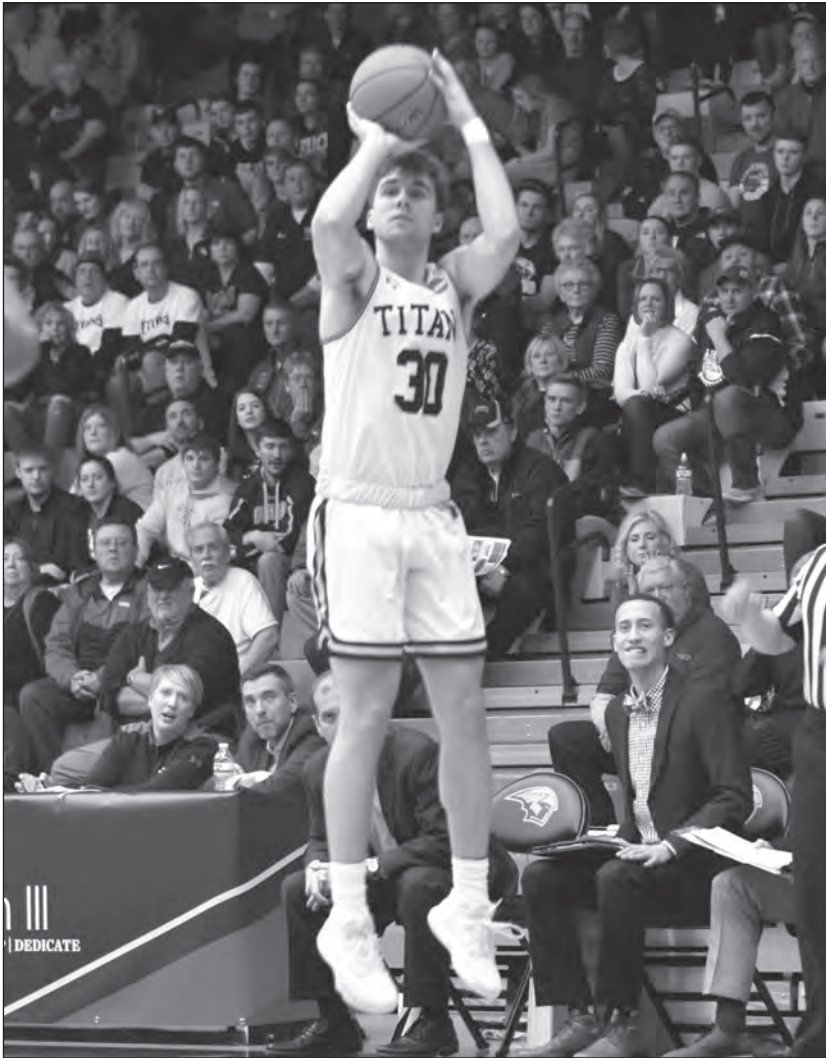
“We pride ourselves on being really disciplined,” Lewis said. “We did some things that were uncharacteristic for us. Last weekend, we had single-digit fouls both games and then this game we obviously got in some foul trouble. We’ve gotta be more disciplined, especially in the lane when guys are trying to finish.”

The foul trouble forced Lewis’ hand into playing bench players who haven’t played a lot this season.

Sophomore Tommy Borta only played in 11 games this year but was forced into the action when Flynn and Fravert picked up their second fouls in the first half. Borta came into the game and scored five points and tracked down some loose balls to save extra possessions for the Titans.

Peterson also had an impact on the game as the guard scored five points and locked down Loras’ leading scorer Ryan DiCanio. Peterson limited DiCanio to 6-16 shooting in 38 minutes played.

Juniors David Vlotho, Jake Zeitler and Brian Wilman as well as senior Alex Van Dyke were among the players who came in and played well for Lewis, who had nothing but praise for his bench.



LYDIA SANCHEZ/ADVANCE-TITAN

Freshman Eric Peterson lines up a three-point attempt against Guilford College. Peterson scored 10 points on 3 of 5 shooting for the Titans.

“Our bench was electric tonight,” Lewis said. “We had a couple guys that hadn’t played in several games and they were ready to go when their number was called and that was great to see.”

Down the stretch, Boots and Fravert took over as the duo recorded 23 points in the second half to lead Oshkosh to victory.

Lewis credited his whole team with the victory and said they were ready for the physicality that Loras brought to the table.

“It was an incredible team effort,” Lewis said. “It was obviously a physical battle. Our guys were ready to go physically and mentally and I loved the passion they played with. I think it was another really good example of who we are. I’m fired up we get to play another game with [these guys].”

The Titans will travel to Fort Wayne,

Indiana to take on Wheaton College in the team’s Final Four matchup of the NCAA D-III tournament.

UWO lost to Wheaton College in the second game of the team’s regular season by a final score of 86-74. The game was played at Wheaton College and Thunder standout Aston Francis dropped 45 points on the Titans.

In Wheaton’s Elite Eight matchup, the Thunder defeated Marietta College by a score of 91-87. Francis scored 62 points in the game, setting a school record for Wheaton College.

After Francis put on a stellar scoring display in Wheaton’s Elite Eight game, Lewis said he wasn’t going to worry about how he plans to defend him until later.

“We’re going to enjoy this one, go to sleep and I’m probably going to go to brunch tomorrow,” Lewis said.

Choinski caps career with third place at Nationals

by Billy Piotrowski
piotrb28@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh Wrestling season concluded last weekend. Senior Mark Choinski polished off his college career with a third-place finish at the NCAA Division III Championship last Friday and Saturday.

Choinski’s third-place finish is the best of his collegiate career, which put him in rare company. Choinski is now the third Titan in history to win at least

three All-American awards.

Choinski said he is humble about all of his accolades, saying that he wrestles to be the best wrestler he can be.

“I didn’t really think much of the [All-American] award because I compete for my own purpose,” Choinski said. “The medals and recognition are nice, but I’m not focused on the awards. I’m more concerned with getting better and reaching at my highest potential.”

Choinski had to push even

harder in the weeks of practice leading up to nationals this year. Head coach Efrain Ayala praised Choinski for his dedication and flexibility after suffering a knee injury at practice.

“The first practice after regionals, Mark suffered a knee injury,” Ayala said. “We had to make adjustments and get creative with our practices outside the wrestling room. He responded very well and the injury didn’t seem to slow him down at nationals.”

Choinski opened nationals on Friday with a pinfall victory with 19 seconds left (6:41) in his first match. Choinski talked about the importance of maintaining that focus throughout the tournament.

“The whole tournament my mindset was clear and focused,” Choinski said. “I knew I had all the skills and technique to compete against anyone, so I stayed patient and just waited to step onto the mat.”

It was an emotional weekend

for Choinski and Ayala, who both knew it was Choinski’s last time on the mat as a competitor. Ayala mentioned the emotional weight of the weekend and trying to take in every moment.

“Knowing this was my last national tournament with Mark, I tried to enjoy every moment,” Ayala said. “Our emotions were high and we really could feel this chapter coming to an end.”

As Choinski’s chapter in UWO wrestling history as a competitor comes to an end, he

will be returning to the mat as an assistant coach next season. Ayala said he is excited about how much Choinski will bring to the team.

“He will continue in the classroom as well and continue his goal of getting a degree,” Ayala said. “He is excited to give back on the mat and having him coach will be a huge asset to the team. We have many wrestlers looking to punch their ticket to nationals next year, and we are really looking forward to it.”

Career Highlights



Mark Choinski

Weight: 165

Year: Senior

Major: Physical Education

Three-time All-American

Career record:


65-15

Career Pins:


18


Fastest pin:


39 seconds
(1/5/2019)


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Titans fall short, Samuels to third team

The UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team season concludes after loss to Wartburg College in the third round of the NCAA tournament

by Ally Gwidt
gwidta05@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team concludes its season after a 70-57 loss to Wartburg College (Iowa) in the Sectional Semifinals of the NCAA Division III Championship on Friday in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Titans, who entered Friday’s contest ranked 13th in the nation by d3hoops.com, were led by sophomore guard Leah Porath with a game-high, 18-point scoring effort off the bench.

Porath went eight-for-12 from the field while gathering four rebounds in 29 minutes of action.

Wartburg College closed out the first quarter with nine unanswered points for a 20-11 lead heading into the second quarter.

The Titans brought the score to 49-44 in the second, but the Knights only extended their lead in the final half by outscoring UWO 33-27 to advance to the Final Four of the NCAA D-III Championship.

Senior forward Melanie Schneider posted UWO’s

only other double-digit scoring effort with 12 points, four rebounds and a block in 27 minutes of play.

Schneider went from averaging 0.3 points per game her freshman year to averaging 8.9 points per game in her final season.

Schneider said her accomplished four years with the Titans is due to the expectation of hard work every day.

“It is hard to see this journey come to an end, but I would not trade my time with this team for anything,” Schneider said. “Our program had been so successful because we are coached to trust the process and to come every day and work hard for one another. This program has emphasized the meaning of diligence in and outside of the gym.”

UWO was without junior guard and starter Olivia Campbell, who is a key component to the Titans’ nationally ranked defense, due to an injury obtained in the second round of the NCAA D-III Championship.

Head coach Brad Fischer said the Titans were not prepared to head into the third

round without Campbell. “Olivia is our motor out on the floor defensively,” Fischer said. “Defense is how we win games and it [was hard to be] without her.”

The Knights, who rank 11th in the country by d3hoops.com, wield an explosive offense that ranks first in the nation in assists per game with 19.1, fourth in field goal percentage with .479 and 15th in scoring with 77.1 points per game.

Wartburg College maintains an overall record of 27-4 after their victory over the Titans; Each of the Knight’s 27 wins this season have been by at least 11 points.

UWO completed its season with an overall record of 26-4 to claim the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season tournament champion title. This past year marked the Titans eighth trip to the Sweet Sixteen and third in the past six seasons en route to their seventh straight season of winning at least 20 games. UWO also produced a school-record 199 made 3-pointers this year.

UW Oshkosh senior center Isabella Samuels was named to the NCAA D-III Women’s Basketball All-Central Region Third Team by d3hoops.com on Monday.

Samuels captained the Titans this season with a team-leading 9.8 points per game while producing an .691 overall field goal percentage, which ranks second in Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference history.

Samuels, who earned her first all-region honor, had 13 double-digit scoring perfor-

mances this season, including a career-high 23 points on 80 percent shooting from the field against UW-White-water on Feb. 4.

In a nine-game stretch during the latter of the season, Samuels averaged 13.9 points per contest and shot 55-for-68 from the field for an .809 overall field goal percentage to help clinch the WIAC regular and postseason championship and the Oshkosh Regional, which hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA D-III Champi-

onship.

Samuels concluded her career with 750 points in 110 games. Her career .635 field goal percentage ranks third among all active D-III women’s players.

UWO totaled an overall record of 96-20 during Samuels’ four season alongside two conference regular season titles, a pair of league tournament championships and three trips to the NCAA D-III postseason.



Isabella Samuels
Postion: Center
Year: Senior

Season Statistics:

PPG:
9.8

FGP:
69.1%

RPG:
3.4

Track and field brings home four All-Americans

by Evan Moris
morise36@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s and women’s track and field teams sent 14 men and three women to the NCAA Indoor National Championships hosted in Boston last weekend.

Titan men Ryan Powers, Robert Ogbuli and Jonathan Wilburn received All-American Honors in Boston.

Powers earned two All-American Honors in the 400-meter run, placing third with a time of 47.80 and breaking his own school record for the third time this season. Powers also ran a 22.09-second 200-meter dash placing sixth while becoming the program’s first All-American in that event.

Head coach Justin Kinseth said a switch-up in training methods over the last two years has propelled Powers success this season.

“I’m based on speed development first,” Kinseth said. “Then we build into the [muscle breakdown stage] of training. Now he has a second year of what’s called minimum effective dosage training, and he’s going out there and killing it.”

Ogbuli placed fifth in the 60-meter dash, sprinting the distance in 6.91 seconds. Ogbuli set a season best in the preliminaries with a time of 6.88 seconds. He entered the event as the 17th seed.

Ogbuli said his success has come from his battle against a nagging injury.

“The biggest improvement from the beginning of the season until now is just staying healthy,” Ogbuli said. “Last season I was injured pretty much the entire year. Coming into the season, I wanted to focus on staying healthy and getting my body stronger, getting in the weight room more, and that’s definitely transitioned into the track. I’ve seen my times drop a lot.”

Wilburn leaped a 48-4 in the triple jump to place fifth in the field event.

Notable performances from the men’s team at nationals included a trio of men in the 800-meter run. Steven Potter took ninth place with a time of 1:53.34 while Nick Freitag placed 18th in 1:55.48 and Justin Skinkis rounded out the race in 20th with a 2:00.63.

Joe Vils took ninth in the pole vault, clearing a height of 15-7. Justin Rivers was able to claim 11th place in the high jump with a height of 6-5 1/2.

The Titans had four men John Auer, Jamyle Brantley, Roman Hill and Benjamin Jung, compete in the long jump. Hill leapt a 10th-place distance of 22-8. Brantley finished 11th in the event with a top leap of 22-7 3/4. Jung was 13th at 22-5 and Auer rounded out the group in 19th at 21-2 3/4.

The UWO 1,600-meter relay team of Freitag, Skinkis, Todd Beadle and Amitai Wheat ran a 3:20.69 to take home 11th place.

Lauren Wrench, Amanda Van Den Plas and Cheyenne Moore represented the UWO women’s team at the Indoor Championships.

Wrench and Moore each received All-American Honors in Boston.

Wrench took third in the long jump with a measurement of 18-11 3/4. Moore ran a 16:50.79 in the 5,000-meter run to capture sixth place and her first All-American Honors.

Wrench took 10th the 400-meter run with a time of 57.54 and 16th place in the 200-meter with a season best 24.94.

Van Den Plas took 18th in the mile run in her National Championship debut with a time of 5:11.81.

The UWO men finished in ninth place out of 67 teams while the women finished 27th out of 76 total teams.

The outdoor track season will begin March 30 at Washington University Invitational in St. Louis, Missouri.



COURTESY OF JUSTIN KINSETH/INSTAGRAM: @HI_EMIL

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Freshman Johnathan Wilburn, senior Ryan Powers and sophomore Robert Ogbuli pose with their All-American recognition medals and event trophies.

Titan of the Week



Colan Trembl

Postion: Pitcher
Year: Senior

Game Summary

Innings:	9
Strikeouts:	8
Hits:	3
Walks:	1
ER:	1

Trembl dominates, team drops to 1-5

by Neal Hogden
hogden39@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh baseball team traveled to Rhodes College in Tennessee last weekend going 1-2 in three games.

Game One

The Titans had a double header on Sunday winning the first game 4-2. Senior pitcher Colan Trembl shined throwing a three-hit complete game while striking out eight batters and walking only one batter.

In the third inning, Rhodes College were the first to get on the board scoring two runs in the inning on a UWO error and fielders choice.

UWO scored one run in both the fourth and fifth inning.

In the fourth inning, senior Jensen Hinton hit a sacrifice fly scoring teammate, and fellow senior, Dylan Ott. In the fifth, Sean Cummings belted a homer to center field evening the score at 2-2.

The Titans pulled ahead in the eighth inning following a pair of RBI singles by sophomore Hunter Staniske and senior Zack Radde to put UWO up 4-2 and put away Rhodes College.

Hinton said traveling to different states every weekend hasn’t affected the team as much as one would think.

“Without the Florida trip this year it’s been a little different,” Hinton said. “Usually we go and play seven days in

a row but with the way our schedules been with practice during the week and have those three games on the weekend it hasn’t been that hard.”

Game Two

In the second game of the weekend, UWO dropped the second game of their double-header against Rhodes College, 9-3.

Seniors Radde and Jonathan Selchow recorded multiple-hit games as Radde drove in two RBIs and Selchow plated one.

Senior pitcher Ryan Wilkening took the loss on the mound as he went four innings and gave up two earned runs on four hits.

Walks hurt UWO as the Titan pitchers combined to surrender eight walks to Rhodes batters while the Rhodes pitchers only allowed three walks to the Titans.

After trailing by four or more runs for most of the game, the Titans were able to climb back to within three runs in the eighth inning. The Lynx scored three more runs in the bottom of the eighth to put the game out of reach.

Ott said the team is at a little bit of a disadvantage because they aren’t able to practice outside with all the snow on the ground.

“It’s how it is,” Ott said. “We live in Wisconsin and know that if we want to play outside that we are going to have to

travel. Getting out on a field and playing outside I will take any day over practicing in a gym.”

Game Three

In the final game of the three-game set, the Titans once again suffered a setback against the Lynx by a final score of 8-3.

Staniske and senior Alex Koch led the team with two hits apiece. Hinton recorded two RBIs for UWO.

The Titans were once again plagued by walks as UWO pitchers walked eight Rhodes batters on the afternoon.

After leading 1-0 through the third inning, the Titans surrendered four runs in the bottom of the third and weren’t able to get back in front.

The Titans will head to Kentucky to face off against Otterbein University (Ohio), John Carroll University (Ohio) and Transylvania University (Ky.) over the weekend.

Ott said it was a disappointing weekend in Tennessee but the team will look to bounce back in Kentucky.

“Any time you play there is always stuff to work on,” Ott said. “We are coming off a disappointing trip to Tennessee, but we are going to get back to work this week correct those little things we may have screwed up, work on our swings, pitching and defense and hopefully come back from Kentucky with three wins.”

National Championship bound

by Evan Moris
morise36@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team was runner-up at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference/National Collegiate Gymnastics Association at UW-Stout last weekend.

The Titans posted a 188.950, only trailing host UW-Stout, who won the meet with a 190.225. The Blue Devils posted the highest score in each of the four events.

UWO posted scores of 46.800 on the vault, 46.875 on the uneven bars, 46.950 on the balance beam and 48.325 on floor exercise. The Titans finished second among the eight teams on the uneven bars, the balance beam, floor exercise and third on the vault.

The Titans had seven gymnasts earn All-WIAC performances. Freshmen Kiara Hammond and Rahdea Jarvis were runner-ups in the balance beam and uneven bars. Hammond posted a score of 9.725 on the balance beam while Jarvis got a 9.550 on the uneven bars.

Junior Jessica Bernardo captured a third place spot on her floor exercise with a 9.750, setting a personal best, and took fifth in the all-around competition.

Bernardo said she was beyond pleased with her performance at the WIAC Championship.

“Coming into the meet I did not expect to get third place on floor,” Bernardo said. “I knew it was a possibility but I always just expect to do the best I can on that day. I was very happy with my final score; it was an all-time high score for me on floor.”

Junior Baylee Tkaczuk took fifth on the balance beam with



COURTESY OF JULIE HARDY

Sophomore Amaiara Ali poses during her floor performance at the WIAC Championship tournament at UW-Stout. UW Oshkosh placed second overall.

a score of 9.625 as freshman Emily Gilot finished sixth on the vault with a 9.425.

The Titans had three other additional top-ten performances. Jarvis took eighth-place on vault with a score of 9.400, freshman Olivia Keller also had an eighth-place finish on

floor exercise of with a 9.725 and Tkaczuk captured a ninth-place score of 9.450 on the uneven bars.

Bernardo said the team came together as one last weekend, and it showed in their performances.

“As a team we felt unified,”

Bernardo said. “If a mistake was made, the rest of the line up had that person’s back and picked the momentum up after. Knowing that we were close to placing first motivates us to work that much harder these next two weeks, but we are all very excited that we qualified

as a team.”

The gymnastics team earned an automatic bid to the NCGA Championship by placing in the top three and will host the NCGA Championships on March 23 at the Kolf Sports Center on the UWO campus.

Titan freshmen Gilot said

there’s only one thing left to accomplish this season.

“The final goal this season is to win a national championship title as a team at home in front of alumni, family, friends and fellow Titans.”

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COURTESY OF JACOB FULTON

UWO junior Jacob Fulton is a Wisconsin Drag award winner, drag performance director, local television personality, minister and elementary education major.

Drag queen talks life and career

UWO junior Jacob Fulton brings a new era to Oshkosh

by Jack Tierney
tiernj03@uwosh.edu

Ordained minister, UW Oshkosh junior and elementary special education major Jacob Fulton is an awarded drag star who tours the Midwest performing at shows, pageants and clubs.

When Fulton first took the stage two years ago as Momma J, his stage persona, he said he was mortified, horrified and nervous to the point of vomit.

Two years later, he has his own show coming to Oshkosh at The Nickel on March 22 at 7 p.m., where Momma J will host a bingo event along with “a few little numbers.”

The Advance-Titan sat down with Fulton to discuss drag, life as a drag performer, dealing with leg hair and what he looks forward to in the performance industry.

So Jacob, what do you do?

As a drag performer, the main job is to blur the lines of gender and express a certain artform and for me, that is an extreme caricature of what society upholds women to be. It’s trying to expose that role in a comedic way.

When did you start?

I’m coming up on two years in two weeks. Two years ago I went out to Minneapolis with one costume and won a contest, and it’s all been uphill from there.

Do you perform private events?

I’ve done a few private events for birthday parties, sorority parties, anyone who wants an en-

tertainer for the evening.

Have you always loved performing?

As a kid I didn’t want to be the center of attention at all, and somehow that switched in high school, and I loved the spotlight, and I’ve been chasing it ever since.

Are Momma J and Jacob the same?

They are the same person, but they behave differently. When I’m Jacob I blend in, I try to blend in, and when I’m Momma J, I try to stand out. I’d say that’s the biggest difference between us.

How do people treat Momma J?

A lot of people objectify entertainers. It’s ‘Can I get a picture? Oh my gosh, I have to tell my friends about you.’ You’re treated more like an object than a person, or a commodity like a hot topic, something taboo. Whereas, as Jacob I just blend in, and you treat people just like people and not an idol or even a celebrity of sorts.

Where are you in your drag career?

Even though I’ve been doing it for two years, I’m just in the beginning. There’s never a chance to stop growing. I can’t wait to see where I am 10 or 20 years down the road.

What do your parents think of Momma J?

My father has never been in my life to experience Momma J, unfortunately. But my mom is very accepting; she’s been to plenty of my

shows. Every Christmas or birthday she will get me a little necklace or earrings just for Momma J, not Jacob.

How much have you spent on costumes?

Costumes individually can range from two, three, four hundred dollars, and then having a closet of 30 or 40 of those, and wigs and everything on top, I don’t even have an estimate of how much that would be. But it’s been a pretty penny. Probably a down payment on a small house.

How do you deal with leg hair?

A lot of layering. For hips and butt, it’s like a couch cushion, and you put on like 13 pairs of tights. So by then you don’t have leg hair, but you don’t have circulation either. You’re cinching’ and putting all sorts of things on to take in the body, let out the body, look bigger or smaller in some areas, and by the end of it, even if I’m not wearing a costume, most of my body is covered with some sort of undergarment fabric.

What’s that like?

Hot. Very hot.

Does your drag persona have anything you wish you had in your life?

Confidence. Just a little bit more confidence. Momma J is very out there and will talk to strangers and socialize with just about anyone. I wish that when the wig came off I had that same amount of confidence.



COURTESY OF JACOB FULTON
ABOVE: Momma J

Celebrate UW-Fond du Lac theater’s 50th anniversary with ‘Silent Sky’

by Joseph Schulz
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The UW-Fond du Lac theater department began celebrating its 50th anniversary with a production of Lauren Gunderson’s “Silent Sky” on March 12 and 13.

“Silent Sky” is about real-life astronomer Henrietta Leavitt’s work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s.

The play also marks director Richard Gustin’s 25th year directing at UWFDL. Gustin said it’s been humbling to be part of the department’s 50th anniversary.

“The theatrical history here in this theater is pretty overwhelming frankly,” Gustin said. “All the students, all the directors, all the faculty members, all the effort, all the blood, sweat and tears that have gone into these shows over the last 50 years.”

Gustin said the most rewarding part of being involved in the theatre program for 25 years has been seeing students grow.



COURTESY OF UWFDL THEATRE DEPARTMENT

“The final product of the shows are important, but those are inconsequential compared to the individual growth of the students,” Gustin said. “That’s why we’re here: for the growth of the individual students.”

Gustin said he chose “Silent Sky” because it celebrates powerful women.

“I grew up in the ‘60s and through the ‘70s, where, supposedly, women’s equality was coming to fruition as something that would actually be attainable in the ‘60s and the ‘70s,” Gustin

said. “We know that didn’t happen, because we’re still fighting for that cause.”

Gustin said Henrietta, the play’s main character, faces vast inequalities between men and women in the play.

“Henrietta Leavitt is an American hero: she persisted in spite of male harassment, low wages, discrimination, not being taken seriously, being patronized,” Gustin said. “She persevered for decades in the scientific world, and we’re celebrating that. We’re celebrating that women

are strong and intelligent and capable and that women lead, and others follow.”

Hannah Holzmans said playing Henrietta has been a lot of fun because of how passionate Henrietta was about her work.

“She’s an intellectual person, but she’s also very outwardly driven. Her passion just comes through her,” Holzmans said. “She’s bold and insistent that she can do her work.”

Holzmans said the play should resonate with modern audiences despite being set in the

1900s because women still face many of the same challenges.

“I think still today math and computer science are still male-dominated fields, and as you go up in those classes it’s increasingly more and more male,” Holzmans said. “You can feel kind of out of place in those classes.”

Marty Ryan plays Henrietta’s love interest and co-worker, Peter Shaw. Ryan said when his character meets Henrietta, it reignites his passion for science.

“Before the play, before Henrietta comes into the picture, he’s kind of just punching the clock,” Ryan said. “When Henrietta comes into the play, and she’s so passionate about her work, it sparks a sort of passion in him and a sort of conflict later on in the play.”

Ryan said the play remains relevant because it’s about a woman finding her voice.

“Henrietta Leavitt, her work wasn’t credited at the time because she was a woman,” Ryan said. “Doctor [Edwin] Hub-

ble actually took credit for her work.”

The Hubble Space Telescope was named after Edwin Hubble.

Korrynn Lefebvre plays female astronomer Williamina. Lefebvre said the play remains relevant because women still face discrimination in the workplace.

“To see that blast from the past, to see how women were screwed over and to compare that to how we’re still being screwed over,” Lefebvre said. “It’s a wake-up call to say this has been going on for a long time, and it needs to stop.”

Gustin said theater, when done right, makes us re-evaluate the way we treat each other.

“Theater as an artform encourages us to behave better,” Gustin said. “To understand what it is to be human while deepening our compassion for others.”

“Silent Sky” will be performed March 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. and March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Prairie Theater on the UWFDL campus.