

The Advance-Titan

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Hearing set in IT theft case

Former IT specialist charged

By Joseph Schulz
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A preliminary hearing date of March 5 has been set for former UW Oshkosh IT Specialist Michael Van Vonderen, who has been charged with theft of movable property for allegedly stealing university equipment and selling it to local pawn shops.

The hearing was set in a court proceeding Feb. 6 at the Winnebago County Courthouse. If Van Vonderen is convicted of theft of movable property charges, a class G Felony, he could be fined up to \$25,000 or sent to prison for a maximum of 10 years, or both.

According to documents filed in Winnebago County Circuit Court in November 2019:

Van Vonderen admitted to stealing a classroom projector, two iPads from Headstart, a couple Dell laptops, two MacBooks and two computer monitors.

He confessed to stealing the items when he handed in a resignation letter to IT Information Service Director Victor Alatorre in early September 2019.

He told Alatorre that he was resigning due to financial trouble and that he pawned the stolen equipment off at EZ Pawn and

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Van Vonderen



The Cabinet's Student Director Joy Evans prepares to cut a ribbon at the food pantry's opening ceremony. Chancellor Leavitt and Karen Walsh, a member of the UW System Board of Regents, both spoke at the event.

Food pantry opens in Reeve

By Carter Uslabar
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The Cabinet, UW Oshkosh's new campus food pantry, opened Tuesday afternoon in Reeve Memorial Union's Titan Underground and will be open to all Oshkosh campus students.

The Cabinet was created in response to research done by its director and McNair Scholar, Joy Evans.

Campus meal plans, which are required for students living on campus, can be very costly.

The most expensive meal plan is billed at \$1,850, and includes 200 meals and 300 Titan Dollars.

The most affordable meal plan sits priced just over \$1,000, including 100 meals and 100 Titan Dollars, scarcely enough to eat one meal a day in a dining facility.

"Food insecurity is, in my opinion, such an underestimated issue, and it's really a big deal," Evans said. "It's a big deal for this campus in particular."

Juliana Kahrs, UWO assistant director of health promotion, told The Advance-Titan in October that food insecurity can have negative effects on many aspects of a person's life.

In some cases, students who suffer from food insecurity may experience side effects that are massively detrimental to students' academic performance and physical well-being, such as anxiety, depression, low amounts of physical activity and unhealthy weight.

"I've always had a passion for making change, and I'm really glad that my research can be a part of something like this," Evans said.

UW Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt spoke briefly about the importance of The Cabinet.

"The fact that over the last few years we could accomplish something like this is nothing short of amazing," Leavitt said. "It's very, very important that this facility exists. It's upon all of us to support this food pantry"

Karen Walsh, a member of the UW System Board of Regents, also spoke at the event.

"Your generation is teaching our generation every day about the problems of the world," she said. "That you have the courage to talk about them, but to do more than to talk; to put the talk into action."

The Cabinet will fill a hole in the needs of on-campus students that has likely existed for

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Bleed kits donated to UWO

By Amber Brockman
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Aurora Medical Center donated 30 "Stop the Bleed" kits to UW Oshkosh in an effort to increase safety on campus during emergency situations.

"These kits are designed to save lives when someone suffers a traumatic injury with major blood loss," University Police Lt. Trent Martin said. "This could be from a gunshot wound, a major laceration or amputation of an extremity or anything that causes severe bleeding that would put someone's life at risk."

The kits include a tourniquet, a pair of scissors, gauze, quick clot, compression gauze, rubber gloves and bandaging, along with directions on how to use the materials within the kit.

Martin said in an active threat situation specifically, police are responding to stop the threat first to prevent further danger before aiding those in need, which sometimes can take several minutes.

"With these tools out around campus and available, our community has the ability to use them in the time of need without relying on law enforcement or other first responders," Martin said. "As mentioned, sometimes those first responders don't have the ability to get to those who need aid quick enough."

Martin said those who suffer major blood loss may perish in less than a few minutes.

"If our community has these

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Graduate student tuition set to increase

By Joseph Schulz
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Tuition for graduate students at UW Oshkosh will increase by 2% in the 2020-21 academic year after the UW System Board of Regents unanimously approved tuition increases at six universities on Feb. 7.

UW-Milwaukee, UW-Platteville and UW-Whitewater will see undergraduate tuition increases; those schools along with UWO, UW-River Falls and UW-Stevens Point will see tuition increases for graduate programs and other degree-specific

programs, according to a UW System Business and Finance Committee document.

The undergraduate increases will only impact students from out-of-state because of the UW System's tuition freeze, while the graduate and degree-specific increases will impact both in-state and out-of-state students.

The tuition proposals came from the six universities after they "considered the impacts of the proposed tuition increases on student demand and enrollment," the document said.

Regent Jan Mueller told Wisconsin Public Radio the increas-

es aim to bring tuition more in line with program costs.

Tuition at UWO will increase by 2% for resident and nonresident graduate and Business Master's Program students in the 2020-21 academic year, according to the document.

The 2% increase is less than the average increase in the cost of instruction, the document added.

UWO's estimated revenue from the tuition increases is \$109,747, which the document said will be used to cover the costs of instruction in an "increasingly competitive market."

For graduate students from Wisconsin, tuition will increase by \$155, which will raise the total to \$7,949, while out-of-state graduate students' tuition will increase by \$342 for a total of \$17,448, according to the document.

Tuition will increase for residential business master's program students by \$167, taking the total to \$8,525, while tuition for nonresident students will increase by \$353, to reach \$18,052, the document stated.

However, UWO Director of Graduate Services Greg Wypiszynski said the numbers in the

document appear inflated because it's based on a 15 credit class load and most graduate students take classes part-time, with most taking six or fewer credits per semester.

For example, he said one resident graduate credit for spring 2020 is \$501, so the increase per credit is \$10. For out-of-state



Wypiszynski

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



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Stop the Bleed kits are attached to automated external defibrillators around the UWO campus.

Bleed Kits: UP accepts donation

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kits out there and available to them, the probability of lives being saved increases substantially,” Martin said.

The kits are attached to automated external defibrillators located within buildings that have the heaviest foot traffic as well as venues that host large events such as Reeve Memorial Union, Kolf Sports Center and the Culver Family Welcome Center.

Stop the Bleed originated after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT in mid-December 2012.

Surgeon and Regent of the American College of Surgeons Lenworth M. Jacobs, Jr. request-

ed to review the victims’ autopsy records, according to the Stop the Bleed website.

“Results showed that the victims died from severe bleeding,” The website said. “Severe bleeding, that if controlled, could have probably kept them from going into shock until emergency help arrived on scene.”

This led trauma surgeons from ACS to form a group with other experts in the fields of emergency medical care, government and law enforcement to develop recommendations on how to improve the rate of survival for people with severe bleeding.

“The nice part about Stop the Bleed is that it can be used for any type of life threatening

bleeding,” Tracy Miller, Aurora Medical Center emergency preparedness coordinator, told UWO Today. “It doesn’t just have to be used in active threat situations.”

“These kits are just one facet of our entire safety plan,” Martin said. “We want to offer as many resources as possible to prepare our community for any major traumatic incident. These kits put tools out there that will save lives if they ever needed to be used.”

The UP will host an open forum Feb. 24 in Reeve 220 for any students, faculty or staff that want to learn more about the kits and how they are used.

UWO offers free applications

By Hannah Scott
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From Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, UW Oshkosh conducted its first ever free application week, which applied to undergraduate and graduate students alike across all three of UW Oshkosh’s campuses — Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Fox Cities — for the 2020-21 school year.

Typically, the cost of the application for undergraduates is \$50 and \$56 for graduate applicants. While the fee may not seem to be a substantial amount, it adds up quickly when students are applying to multiple different universities and programs.

Aggie Hanni, UW Oshkosh assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management, explained the reasoning behind the university’s incentive.

“Having to pay the fee discourages prospective students from applying in the first place, and it is often the final unfinished step in the application process for many who chose to apply — it is

simply a barrier,” Hanni said.

UWO does not want to hold students back from applying if they cannot afford to, so the university consistently offers to waive the application fees of students who check off certain financial requirements, Hanni said.

This specific attempt, however, is aimed at a broader category of students because everyone is eligible. Former UWO student Jack Tierney proved some of Hanni’s thoughts to be true, saying he applied to graduate school simply because it was free.

“I never really had intentions of going to graduate school but because it was free I thought I could at least submit an application and see what happens,” Tierney said. “I think it was a great idea by UWO and I hope other people took advantage of the opportunity.”

Many students may appreciate this opportunity due to financial reasons, but it may serve another purpose as well.

Some students find themselves

completely lost when it comes to searching for the right university, but when one stands out with a free application, it may jump to the top of the list.

Just as it is difficult for a student to choose a college because there are so many options, it is also difficult for a college to stand out amongst students and show all of what it has to offer.

While the “free week” was a big help to students, it will also benefit UWO. According to WHBY Radio, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said that enrollment rates are expected to continue steadily dropping through the year 2026, and then there will be a very sharp drop following. WHBY also said that the university’s enrollment rate already dropped 3.4% for the 2019-20 school year.

With enrollment dropping, UW Oshkosh campuses are very likely to proceed with this free application week again in the future.

Former admins plead guilty

By Joseph Schulz
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After a legal battle that lasted for almost two years, two former UW Oshkosh administrators pleaded guilty last month to felony misconduct charges.

In a plea deal on Jan. 15, Former Chancellor Richard Wells and former Vice Chancellor Thomas Sonleitner each pleaded guilty to one of five possible felony counts, according to the Associated Press.

Both men were accused of violating the state constitution by making loan guarantees on behalf of UWO to the UWO Foundation for real estate projects, according to court documents.

The projects include: the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, the Culver Family Welcome Center, two biodigesters and the Oshkosh Sports Complex, court papers said.

The count Wells and Sonleitner pleaded guilty to involved the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel.

Court documents say the administrators signed a memorandum of understanding to the foundation, “agreeing that the university would cover additional investment loans and expenses incurred by the foundation in the hotel project.”

As part of the plea deal, Wells and Sonleitner will each pay a \$5,000 fine and \$70,000 in restitution, court papers stated.

UW System Board of Regents president Andrew Petersen released a statement on Jan. 15 after the hearing that said, “Today’s guilty pleas are the result of a three-year process to bring about public accountability, while affording UW Oshkosh the ability to renew its focus on its students and mission. We are gratified that [the] DOJ and UW System’s efforts resulted in restitution and acknowledgment of misconduct in office by former UW Oshkosh officials.”

UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt also released a statement after the hearing that said: “Today marks the end of a long, difficult chapter for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.”

The statement went on to thank the university’s leaders, students, faculty and staff for their continued support.

“The foundations of this three-campus university join us in engaging donors and partners with renewed purpose and hope. We will grow life-changing student scholarships, develop innovative academic programs, enhance students’ experiences and advance with confidence into the institution’s next 150 years,” Leavitt’s statement said.



Courtesy of UWO Alternative Break Blogspot

Students volunteered during a service-based trip to Puerto Rico over winter break. They left on Jan. 25 and returned Jan. 31.

Alternative break offers adventure

By Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
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This past winter break, nine students and an adviser packed their bags for a seven-hour flight to Puerto Rico on Jan. 25 and came home Jan. 31.

These students got some free time to enjoy the beautiful beaches and relax; it was a service-based trip as well as an educational one.

Nicole BellCorelli, the program adviser and the group adviser for the trip, said that they “really tried to focus on service work and opportunities to learn more about Puerto Rico both before and after Hurricane Maria.”

The students helped to rebuild homes that were destroyed during the hurricane with the St.

Bernard Project that helps areas impacted by hurricanes. The group split into two and drove to where the hurricane touched down.

They helped Angel Mora and Martin Velez Rio to restore and rebuild their homes. The group also participated in ecological restoration projects like sea turtle monitoring, sea turtle nesting area restoration and dune restoration.

On Jan. 30, the group traveled to Camuy to move trees, prepare tools and signs, plant and prune plants and finished with a beach clean up.

This was all to help restore the natural hurricane and storm barrier to the shoreline. The coordinator said that the group got more done than a larger group

there before who worked double the time they did; they did a week’s worth of work in one day.

On the final day of the trip, students got to help endangered manatees by working in the rehab center, cleaning the pools and cages, preparing the manatees’ food and filling up the fridge with it. After helping the manatees, the students went to a neighborhood to hear about the efforts to improve residents’ homes after the hurricane.

A blog posted during the trip said “It was good to know that we have not just been exposed to the tourist version of the island.”

This was similar to the students’ thoughts after each activity when they had discussion and reflection. BellCorelli said that during these, the groups

“look[ed] back at the service work we did that day or what we learned about Puerto Rico. We talked a lot about how, as a group of 10, we were able to accomplish a lot of work that would have taken longer had we not been there.”

This trip to Puerto Rico was only the first of four service trips that Alternative Break has planned. There will be a service and leadership trip to Black Mountain, North Carolina, a diversity and inclusion trip to Atlanta Georgia and an education and privilege trip to Honduras all over spring break. If Alternative Break interests you, check out <https://uwosh.edu/altbreak/> for more information.

Tuition: Six UW schools to see increases

From page 1

graduate students, he added one Spring 2020 credit is \$1,018, so the increase per credit is \$20.

“A small 2% increase still allows UW Oshkosh a lot of flexibility to be a very affordable option when it comes to graduate studies,” Wypiszynski said.

The increase was necessary, Wypiszynski added, because UWO was about 2-10% below other UW System institutions in general graduate tuition and about 2-4% below peer business graduate tuition rates in the 2018-19 academic year.

“Graduate tuition at UW Oshkosh has remained frozen along with undergraduate tuition, even though the legislative freeze of undergraduate tuition never included graduate tuition,” he said.

“Not seeking to raise graduate tuition all this time was an effort to hold the line on any increases for as long as possible.”

Despite the increase, Wypiszynski said he doesn’t expect enrollment to be impacted because graduate tuition at UWO is competitively priced compared to other UW graduate schools and private graduate schools.

“I don’t expect there’ll be any appreciable effect on enrollment regardless of the program,” he said. “It’s unlikely a 2% increase will cause an immediate or significant drop in enrollment.”

Math Department hosts Google data analyst at colloquium

By Megan Behnke
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On Monday, Feb. 10, the UWO Mathematics Department held their first colloquium of the semester, bringing in UWO alumni to discuss data analysis.

VP of Finance at Crucible Metal Solutions, Inc. Nick Charles to talk about data analysis, along with Manoj Ashwin, a data analyst at Google, via video chat were among the guests.

Charles said the first part is defining data, then taking that data and getting some type of information out of it.

“We have a whole bunch of facts right here,” Charles said. “And we have to somehow irrigate those facts into some meaningful information for the people in charge. At my company, it’s the owner of their company, that we’re trying to take all this data and figure out one way.”

Charles said right now, they are in the phase of descriptive analytics.

“Descriptive analytics is really taking all this historical data, and trying to get some meaningful information from it,” Charles said. “But we’re really not doing any type of prediction stuff with

it just yet. You’re really not fitting a model for the data or predict anything at this point. We’re trying to get there, but we have limited resources.”

Charles said when it comes to getting a master’s degree for data analytics, one thing that still confuses him is the difference between data science and data analytics.

“There are data science programs out there and data analytics programs out there,” Charles said. “We went to a data analytics program, but yet it was voted No. 1 data science program in the country. I think it’s a little blurry at this point of what is data science and what is data analytics.”

Ashwin gave his own perspective of the difference between data science and data analysis.

“It’s dependent on the company and the role,” Ashwin said. “The reason why it is so sexy is because it’s a combination of three key things. One is technology, lots of coding and so on. Second thing is lots of statistics. The third thing is about business knowledge. All these three things together make a data analyst.”

Charles said a resource on the

internet that he would like to keep learning more about with data science and data analytics is Data Camp.

“If you are interested in learning more about the data world, I think \$30 is a good deal,” Charles said about Data Camp.

Ashwin said a good resource he’s found about data analytics is Kaggle, a Google subsidiary.

“What they have is they have so many datasets for you to play out,” Ashwin said. “It’s a nice program which has data sets and not only coding but they’ve done all these analytics and send data out in forums. And it’s free.”

Charles said in his opinion, had he gone through those Data Camp modules, his content knowledge would probably be just as extensive as the master’s degree program.

“I think, content-wise, you can learn everything you want from these resources that are out there,” Charles said. “But then after that you kind of have to somehow get a connection with somebody at the employer to put your foot forward for an interview.”

VOTE

Candidates:

Daniel Kelly
Appointed by Gov. Scott Walker in 2016

Jill J. Karofsky
Director of the Wisconsin Office of Crime Victim Services

Ed Fallon
25-year teaching career at Marquette University Law School

How to find out if you're registered:
Go to <http://myvote.wi.gov>

Students living in UW Oshkosh residence halls will vote in Reeve Memorial Union. Students living off campus should check at: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace> to confirm their polling place.

In Wisconsin, you can register on Election Day at your polling place with a photo ID and proof that you have lived at your present location for 10 days preceding the election. Students can print the Voter ID verification form by doing the following:

- Log in to TitanWeb
- On the Student Center page, scroll down to the Personal Information Center.
- Verify that your local address is correct. If not, correct it.
- If your address is correct, click on “Voter ID Enrollment Verification.”
- Scroll down and click on “Create Voter ID Verification.”
- A new form should open with the form. Unblock pop-ups, if needed.
- Right click and print, then bring form with you to the polls.
- Your TitanCard can't be used for photo ID.

Hearing: Audit finds 24 unrecovered items

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Pawn America for approximately \$3,000.

Alatorre also discovered that Van Vonderen had rented seven pieces of equipment from Polk Library in August 2019, which were not recovered as of Van Vonderen’s resignation.

University Police Department Detective Mike Bartlein investigated the thefts and found that Van Vonderen had also pawned items at Fast and Easy Pawn and Mister Money.

Bartlein contacted each of the pawnshops and was able to recover some of the stolen equipment, but some items had been sold before they could be recovered. Specifically, Fast and Easy Pawn had sold an iPad Air, an Apple DVR and a MacBook Pro.

On Sept. 16, Bartlein conducted a more thorough search to determine how many pawn transactions Van Vonderen had conducted, finding that he completed 93 transactions of 115 items at seven stores for over \$12,000.

An audit team documented missing items and determined that over \$28,000 of university property linked to Van Vonderen was not recovered.

The audit found that 24 unrecovered items were pawned by Van Vonderen, eight items were recovered and seven items have not been returned to Polk Library.

According to court records, several items went missing in January 2019 such as a 4k camera valued at \$559, and an accessory for the camera valued at \$129.



Former UW Oshkosh IT Specialist Michael Van Vonderen and his lawyer, Daniel Muza, appeared before Court Commissioner Bryan Keberlein on Feb. 6.

University Marketing and Communications Media Specialist Patrick Flood first noticed the items were missing and asked Van Vonderen about them. Van Vonderen told Flood that he had lent the camera to a friend in Chicago and that he would have to go there to get it back.

In February 2019, Van Vonderen returned a camera; however, in later auditing, UWO determined the camera that was returned had a different serial

number than the one that had been missing.

Later that same month, Jason Page began working for UMC as a media specialist and was familiarizing himself with the equipment, when he noticed that an audio recorder was missing.

Page asked Van Vonderen if he had borrowed the recorder, and Van Vonderen replied that he had run it over with his car. The serial number of the missing device was later matched to one that had

been pawned.

Van Vonderen signed a bond in December that prohibits him from contacting anyone mentioned in the initial criminal complaint, including Alatorre, Bartlein, Flood and Page.

The bond also barred him from having contact with UWO, besides traveling through the campus, but that was amended on Feb. 6 to allow him to have access to university property for employment purposes.

According to Van Vonderen’s lawyer, Daniel Muza, Van Vonderen has been employed as a delivery driver for DoorDash and has to stop on the UWO campus to deliver food.

He will appear again in court at 10:30 a.m. March 5.

Joseph Schulz / Advance-Titan

Budget cuts constrain Polk Library resources

By Adam Fishnick
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Cuts to Polk Library’s budget continue as the spring semester gets underway, causing the library to lose resources.

Polk Library Director Sarah Neises said the price for online databases increases 3-5% each year, while budgets on campus rarely increase.

“This means we are continually needing to cut resources so that we stay within our budget,” she said.

Neises said increased subscription costs negatively impact the library because they can no longer afford the resources they had last year.

As a result, the library has “seen a shrinking electronic and print collection that is far below peer institutions,” Neises said. “Polk Library staff carefully curate collections to serve our users, and it is difficult to see them cut.”

Neises said Polk tries to cut low use, high cost materials first.

She said canceling subscriptions impacts students because they may no longer have access to the full text articles and streaming videos needed to complete assignments.

“When we lose access to subscriptions, we are forced to look



Polk Library budget cuts continue into the Spring semester, resulting in loss of resources.

for alternative articles or videos,” she said. “We can also try to use services like interlibrary loan and resource sharing to fulfill requests, but this forces students to plan ahead as these services may take several days.”

Neises said that having access to subscriptions and streaming video would be more difficult because the budget cuts could take away funding for those platforms. It also hurts the people requesting these platforms.

She added that American Chemical Society journals were funded for an additional five years and that the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers database used to be funded by the UW System, until recent-

ly. “A decision was made at the UW System levels to stop paying for IEEE and shift the cost back to UW campuses,” she said. “We were unable to pick up the cost of this collection at this time due to budget cuts.”

Neises said that employees are impacted by the budget cuts because the staff value their collections.

“It is disappointing to staff when we lose access to full text journals and other key resources,” she said. “We continue to try to support student success by providing high quality service and making the most of the collections that we have.”

Neises said that the budget cut is impacting the library and UWO campus as a whole. By losing valued platforms, the library is losing business and funding.

“Polk Library budget cuts over the last decade and to begin the 2020 spring semester is a problem for us all. If we understand why budgets are being cut, we would understand that school budgets are from the federal and state governments and action may be needed to avoid this situation in the future.”

April Lee / Advance-Titan

Coronavirus infects 37,000 people

By Cody Barnes
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Over 37,000 people around the globe are infected with 2019-nCoV, or more commonly referred to as the coronavirus, surpassing the deaths caused by SARS with over 800 dead, according to The Guardian.

There are two confirmed cases in the area, one in Illinois and one in Wisconsin. One of these patients is being treated at UW Madison’s hospital along with 13 other cases from around the country.

At this time, the Department of Health and Human Services said the virus is low risk for people living in Wisconsin.

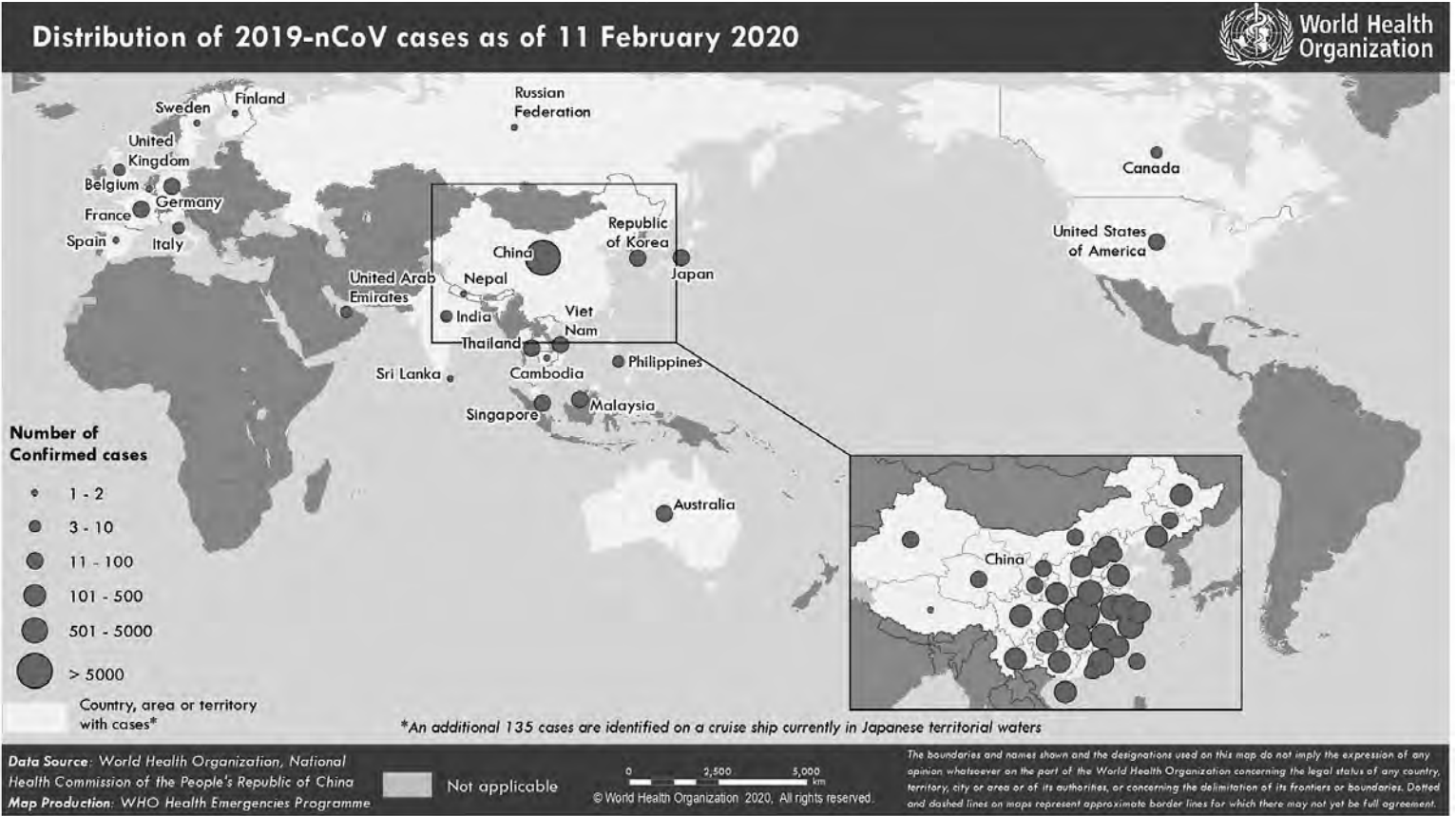
But what exactly is the coronavirus? The symptoms start with a fever, cough and shortness of breath, but can deteriorate into pneumonia-like-symptoms and death.

Director of the Student Health Center Karen Sanchez said in an email that in order to prevent getting sick, people should wash their hands with soap and water and avoid contact with sick people and dead animals.

“Anyone who is not feeling well and may have been exposed to coronavirus, should contact their healthcare provider by phone and then visit their provider,” Sanchez said. “Students should call ahead and then visit Student Health Services, first floor, Radford Hall on the Oshkosh campus ... or contact your healthcare provider or nearest urgent care outside of business hours.”

The coronavirus is an airborne infection that, within 10 minutes of contact and within 6 feet of an infected person, can almost guarantee transmission, according to the Washington State Department of Health.

“There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus,” the Washington State Department of Health said.



Courtesy of the World Health Organization

The coronavirus has infected over 37,000 people around the world, including one confirmed case in Wisconsin.

partment of Health said. “Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.”

On Jan. 30, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a global health emergency. Twenty-eight countries were infected as of Feb. 9.

“Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications”

- Washington State Department of Health

Much is still unknown about the exact origin of the virus and its genetic makeup, but the CDC website said, “At this time, diag-

nostic testing for 2019-nCoV may be conducted only at CDC.”

If the infections become worse, the best defense, other than using a 60%+ alcohol hand sanitizer, is using an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, according to the CDC. At this time the CDC is not recommending mass usage of respirators. Only those infected or who are at risk should wear a respirator and contact a medical professional.

A large concern has been raised in the American public about using items imported from China, but the CDC said that there is no

need for alarm.

“The CDC does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animal products imported from China pose a risk for spreading 2019-nCoV in the United States,” the CDC website said. “This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.”

With all the concern caused by the coronavirus, many health officials still say we need to be looking at the flu, with 15 million cases in the U.S. and 1,400 deaths according to a new report out of the Milwaukee CDC.

The influenza B strain is one of the more fatal strains circulating and of this season’s flu infections, 50% are concentrated on people under 25 with 54 pediatric deaths.

According to the CDC, symptoms of the flu include fever or

feeling feverish/chills (though not everyone with flu will have a fever), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue and some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, although this is more common in children than adults.

To avoid the flu, the CDC recommends taking the time to get your flu shot, avoid contact with sick people, limit contact with others while sick, use alcohol-based sanitizers and wash hands frequently, disinfect surfaces like doorknobs and counters and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

For more information about the coronavirus visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.html>.

Former UWW professor sues UW System

By Joseph Schulz
schulj78@uwosh.edu

A former UW-Whitewater professor is suing the UW System Board of Regents for allegedly violating his right to free speech and due process when firing him.

The lawsuit, filed in the Eastern District Court of Wisconsin on Jan. 3, claims former professor Christopher Henige’s rights were violated when he was terminated from UWW in 2018.

However, according to a 2018 article in the UWW newspaper the Royal Purple, Henige was dismissed due to his “harassing and bullying behaviors.”

Henige was employed by UWW from August 2001 to February 2018 in the Department of Art and Design.

Between August 2011 and February 2018, he told UWW administrators about concerns that students’ graduations were being delayed because of a lack of required courses, court papers say. He also conveyed concerns that the art history major didn’t



meet the standards to be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design due to staffing shortages, documents noted.

In the decision and order formalizing Henige’s termination, court papers say that Henige asking the department, “Is there an honest belief that we can meet accreditation standards?” was determined to be “just cause” for his firing.

Henige also expressed concerns about fellow faculty members’ performance to supervisors within the Department of Art and Design, the lawsuit said. Court papers added that his

comments about the faculty members were also found to be “just cause” by administration in its decision and order formalizing Henige’s termination because those comments were deemed harassment.

He also wrote opinion pieces for the Royal Purple, claiming that administrators were violating the Faculty Personnel rules, documents said. The lawsuit added that he also voiced those concerns to administrators directly.

“No claims were ever made that anything [Henige] said in any of his communications was false, and no one ever demonstrated at any disciplinary hearing that anything [Henige] said in any of his communications was false,” court papers said. “None of [Henige’s] communications contained any insults, epithets, expletives or any language of personal nature.”

A hearing panel in Henige’s dismissal case justified the recommendation that he be terminated based on his speech saying,

“Definitions for protected speech are not in affect at UW-Whitewater,” court records stated.

The lawsuit claims that Henige’s firing on Feb. 12, 2018 was “retaliation” for his “repeated exercise of 1st Amendment protected speech.”

Court papers also allege that Henige was subjected to numerous due process violations over the course of his employment at UWW during disciplinary proceedings.

In 2013, former UWW Chancellor Richard Telfer issued Henige a “letter of counseling” in response to a complaint filed by two of his colleagues, according to court documents.

Henige alleges that he was never notified by Telfer of the “existence of the formal complaint,” as required by state statute, prior to receiving the “letter of counseling.”

Court papers allege that between May 12, 2014 and Dec. 30, 2018 Telfer violated Faculty Personnel Rules by accepting a complaint that didn’t meet the

requirements in the Faculty Personnel Rules and by issuing a charge that didn’t meet the requirements either.

In the decision and order dismissing Henige, it was determined that “for each discipline Henige received due process provided for in the applicable rules,” court papers said.

“Throughout all of the proceedings against [Henige], the defendants provided no specificity regarding the exact conduct that was determined to be subject to discipline, using terms like ‘conduct’ and ‘behavior’ rather than specifying exactly which ‘conduct’ or which ‘behavior,’ offering only vague, non-specific and shifting allegations,” the lawsuit said.

The Board of Regents had not filed a response to Henige’s allegations in the Eastern District of Wisconsin prior to publication.

The Cabinet: Taking on food insecurity

From page 1

years, but simply has never been addressed.

“There were a lot of years in this country that we didn’t talk about hunger on campuses,” Walsh said. “It’s not as though it wasn’t there; it was there, just like mental health issues have always been there. It’s the people your age that are encouraging us to talk about it and do something about it.”

The Cabinet represents the years of hard work by students like Evans to meet the needs of the campus community.

“I’m so just in awe of everything that’s going on here at this university,” Joy Evans, student director of The Cabinet, said. “I never would have thought that when I started here I’d be a part of something so grand and so impactful to this campus.”



Allison Russotto / Advance-Titan
The Cabinet food pantry opened Tuesday afternoon with the goal of eliminating food insecurity on campus.



Courtesy of University Marketing and Communications
UWO Go has provided over 2,000 rides since it launched.

UWO Go provides safe rides

By Joseph Schulz
schulj78@uwosh.edu

UWO Go, a transportation service for students, has exploded in popularity, providing over 2,000 rides since its launch.

The service is app-based and works similar to Uber or Lyft, and replaced a program called Saferide. “Technology-wise, it’s where people want to be,” said University Police Capt. Chris Tarmann. “Looking back at the years when we’ve done Saferide, I don’t think we’ve ever done more than 1,000 [rides] a year.”

UWO Go launched Nov. 1 and is free to any UW Oshkosh student with a campus ID. To get a ride, students must download the UWO Mobile app, select the Oshkosh campus and select UWO Go to schedule a ride. Once a ride is scheduled, community service officers pick students up and take them to their destination.

The program runs seven days a week during the school year, starting at 4 p.m. It runs until midnight on Sundays and Mondays and until 2:30 a.m. the rest of the week.

The program isn’t a bar hopping service. Tarmann said it’s designed to ensure that students are getting wherever they need to go safely. Students using UWO Go cannot get a ride from one bar to another; one of the destinations must be somewhere that is not a bar.

While UWO Go isn’t a bar hopping service, the Oshkosh Jewelers Nightlife Bus is. The bus began giving rides in 2017 and recently changed its route to include a stop near the UW Oshkosh campus at Toppers Pizza. “After two years, we realized we needed to make some changes,” LaVaque said.

He doesn’t view UWO Go as

competition because it’s not a bar hopping service. “We’ve never had campus on board before, so we’ve never had any ridership from college kids,” LaVaque said.

Tom Taggart, who owns Molly McGuire’s and French Quarter, isn’t concerned that the bus stopping near his establishments will impact business. “Kids are going to go where they want to go,” he said. “A bus stopping isn’t necessarily going to change their mind.”

While UWO Go is relatively new in terms of Saferide programs, the Oshkosh Tavern League has made getting patrons home safe a priority for years with its Saferide program.

If someone in a Tavern League bar has too much to drink, they can ask the bartender for a safe ride, and they’ll be given a free taxi ride home, Oshkosh Tavern League President Pat Purtell said. Individual bars cover 10% of the cab fare, while the Tavern League covers the remaining 90%, Purtell said. “I don’t understand why a tavern owner wouldn’t want to offer that,” Purtell said.

One problem the program faces is that non-Tavern League bars are sending their customers to Tavern League establishments at bar close for free rides home, he added. Unless more bars begin joining the Tavern League, individual Tavern League establishments will have to pay a higher percentage per cab ride, he noted.

“We’ll have to raise rates,” Purtell said. “We just don’t make enough [money] to run the program.”

In terms of competing with UWO Go, Purtell doesn’t see the other program as a competitor. “I’m just interested in people getting home safe,” he said. “You could have five more programs in my mind.”



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Sports

Track and Field shows out at Big Dawg Invitational

By Josh Woolwine
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The UW Oshkosh men’s track team took home the title at the UW-Stevens Point Big Dawg Invitational on Saturday, with the women finishing in second at the same meet.

The Titan men showed why they’re ranked second in the NCAA Division-III rankings by winning their fifth straight meet to start the season.

The Titans finished the meet with 209 points, dwarfing UW-Stevens Point’s second-place finish of 95 points.

The Titan men won seven out of the 16 events, while also taking home honors in the 60-meter dash,



UW Oshkosh Men’s Track and Field has won all four invitationals that they’ve competed in, while the Women’s Track and Field team has won two out of their four.

200-meter dash and the 400-meter run.

The Titans were led by sophomore Amitai Wheat, who won the 400-meter run and also helped

teammates Todd Beadle, Ethan Burch and Adrian Girone take home first place in the 1,600-meter relay with a time of 3:19.02, the third fastest in D-III so far this

season.

Meanwhile, freshman Jaylen Grant won the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.93 seconds, while junior Benjamin Jung won the 200-meter



Courtesy of UW Oshkosh Photoshelter

dash with a time of 22.37 seconds.

On the women’s side, the Titans finished second by 1.5 points behind D-II Northern Michigan University, 140-138.5. The Titans were led by sophomore Hannah Lohrenz in the mile run with a time of 5:06.42, while freshman Mikayla Jackson won the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.39 seconds.

Other Titan women who took home first-place honors in the meet were junior Sadie Huth in the 60-meter dash and freshman Libby Geisness in the 800-meter run with times of 9.28 seconds and 2:18.28, respectively.

The UW Oshkosh track teams will next compete this Saturday at the UW-Whitewater Midwest ELITE Invitational.

Men’s basketball splits series, drops to second in WIAC

By Neal Hogden
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The UW Oshkosh men’s basketball team split a pair of competitive games over the past week, dropping them to second in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings.

On Saturday, UWO traveled to La Crosse where they beat the Eagles, 79-74. Nearly all five starters scored in double figures as sophomore Eric Peterson was the only one in single digits with nine.

Senior Adam Fravert led the Titans with 16 points, 12 rebounds and four assists in 36 minutes of action.

Senior Jack Flynn poured in 18 points while freshman Levi Borchert added 17.

The game got off to a rough start for the Titans as UWL opened up an 11-point lead with about nine minutes to go in the first half. The Titans battled, though, and cut the lead to six by halftime.

After keeping it close for most of the second half, UWO finally

began to pull away with six minutes to play as they opened up their largest lead of the game with 5:24 left in the contest.

On Feb. 5, UWO missed a shot in the waning seconds to ultimately fall to UW-Eau Claire by a score of 78-76.

Two-thirds of the Blugolds’ scoring came from senior Cole Rabedaux and sophomore Spencer Page who scored 32 and 20, respectively.

Flynn led the Titans with 25 points with 11 of them coming at the free-throw line. Fravert recorded 18 points and 12 rebounds and Borchert had 14 points.

Head coach Matt Lewis said Flynn and Fravert have stepped up as leaders after dealing with a very young team around them.

“On a daily basis, those guys do a great job,” Lewis said. “Obviously, each one of them is asked to do a lot on the court. But the way they conduct themselves off the floor, in the locker room or at practice has been the biggest thing.”

UWO was out-shot by the Blu-

golds from the 3-point line 52 to 37 percent and out-shot overall 51 to 40 percent.

The Titans’ three losses in conference play have been by an average of 3.3 points with one coming in double overtime.

Lewis said the team needs to do the little things well in order to get over the hump in those close games.

“We talk about trying to limit those things that are going to get you beat,” Lewis said. “In each one of those games, we can go back to the specific possessions and talk about, we didn’t finish that play or we took an undisciplined foul here.”

“In the game at Platteville in double overtime, we had 20 turnovers. It’s difficult to win games if you have that many turnovers.”

On Wednesday, UWO faced off against UW-Stevens Point. The result of that game can be found at www.uwoshkoshtitans.com.

UWO will next face off against UW-Stout on Saturday at Kolf Sports Center.



Allison Russotto / Advance-Titan

Freshman Levi Borchert pulls up and fires a contested shot over two UW-Eau Claire defenders en route to UWO’s 78-76 loss.

Titans wrestling takes tough loss against Pioneers

By Dakota Zanin
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The UW Oshkosh wrestling team traveled to take on No. 23 ranked UW-Platteville on Feb. 7, which culminated in a 28-9 defeat for the Titans.

UWO initially grasped a 9-3 lead over the Pioneers with victories at 184 pounds by senior John DePersia, 197 pounds by senior Colten Cashmore, and 125 pounds by freshman Denis Murphy.

After the Titans won three of the first four matches, the Pioneers would rally back by winning out the remaining six matches to overwhelm the Titans and amass their fourth win of the season.

The Titans opened the evening with two decision victories, as DePersia defeated UWP’s Jacob Sklenar 7-3, followed by Cashmore defeating UWP’s Max Schmitz 8-2. The back-to-back victories created a six-point Titan lead.

Cashmore collected his 27th victory of the season to give him a career record of 90-42. The 27 wins are also the most on the team, with Cashmore being the only wrestler with over 20 victories to this point in the season.

At 285 pounds, junior Jordan Lemcke lost in a 5-2 decision to UWP’s Lucius Rinehart to lessen the lead to three.

Murphy followed with a 6-5 decision victory over UWP’s Isaac Wiegel to give the Titans a 9-3 lead.

The night concluded for the Titans with six straight losses, as sophomore AJ Schoenfuss (135 pounds) was defeated 5-2 by UWP’s Luke Pradel, sophomore Eli Mondrella (141) was pinned in 1:23 by UWP’s Chase Katzenmeyer, and junior Shane Dziadosz (149) lost 2-1 to UWP’s Garrett Ruckdashel.

The losses continued to mount as sophomore Muzi Sitshela (157) lost 5-4 to UWP’s Alexander Struede, sophomore Oscar Ramos (165) was pinned in 3:54 by UWP’s Nathan Wynsma, before the meet ended with junior AJ Stengel (174) being defeated by a 16-4 major decision by UWP’s Nick Dado.

The Titans (4-10, 1-4 WIAC) will next compete in the WIAC championship in La Crosse on Feb. 14, an event UWO finished in fourth place last year with 103.5 points. The Titans last won the WIAC championship in 1982.

Up Next: Saturday, Feb. 15

Women’s Gymnastics



US



UW Oshkosh Titans

Hamline University
(Minn.)

Kolf Sports Center
at 2 p.m.

Inconsistent Titans show flashes of brilliance

By Cory Sparks
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Since the beginning of winter, UW Oshkosh women’s basketball has had a rollercoaster sequence of games. Currently possessing a 12-9 record with a 5-5 record in conference play, the Titans are fifth in the WIAC women’s basketball standings.

They are just behind UW-Stout who is also 5-5 in conference but with a 14-7 overall record.

“We have not been able to finish in games that we either have control of or have late leads in,” Bradley Fischer, head coach of the Titans said. “We haven’t been able to get it done in the final minutes of some close games and that’s definitely been reflected to this point in our record.”

This inconsistent play has come with an underwhelming amount of growth as the team enters the fifth and final portion of their regular season. The stagnant growth can be attributed to the team’s lack of defense in certain performances, as they’ve allowed other teams to shoot at 30.2% from beyond the arc this year, third worst in the WIAC.

When the Titans have been able to shut the other team down, they’ve been nearly unbeatable. The team is a perfect 11-0 when they allow 60 points or less, but that does leave the other 10 games where they have had to play keep up in high scoring affairs. One of these wins came in a crucial match-up against UW-Whitewater, where the Titans snapped the nationally ranked Warhawks’ 14-game winning streak in a 62-51 upset on Jan. 25.

“I do think we’ve improved defensively marginally as the years have gone on, but we haven’t been [able] to get big stops late in the game when we have leads and I think our record reflects that inconsistency,” Fischer said.

On the opposite end of the floor, UWO has had some electric outings. This team leads the



ALLISON ROSSOTTO/ADVANCE-TITAN

Sophomore Katie Ludwig battles her way towards the hoop against UW-LaCrosse in a home game on Feb. 8.

WIAC in three-point shooting percentage, shooting 33% from behind the arc.

This trait carried the Titans to their most recent win against nationally ranked UW-La Crosse, where they shot a season-best 54.5% from behind the three-point line with 12 of 22 shooting.

A large portion of the successful three point shooting efforts from the Titans can be attributed to junior starting guard Leah Porath, who has shot 45.5% from

beyond three point range. Porath also averages a WIAC leading 17.1 points per game, more than one point greater than any other player.

“Offensively, she’s bailed us out of dead possessions where we didn’t have a lot going,” said Fischer. “We’ve got to continue to try and find ways to get her open and be able to get her some easier baskets, so she’s not always having to create on her own.”

Oshkosh has four regular season games remaining, all against conference teams. Depending on how the bouts against UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Whitewater and UW-River Falls go, the Titans could mathematically rise all the way up to the No. 2 spot in the WIAC standings. For this to happen, Oshkosh would need to run the table and get some help along the side for their hypothetical 9-5 record to earn them such a high

ranking.

As for how possible that feat is, this team has shown through upsets against UWW and UWL that they can hang with just anybody. However, whether they can consistently show up and take over a game is what remains to be seen as the team approaches the home stretch of regular season competition.

Gymnastics edged out by UW-Whitewater

By Greg Sense
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The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team had a strong showing at the Harley-Davidson Women’s Gymnastics Invitational in Milwaukee on Friday scoring 187.825 points, finishing second to UW-Whitewater’s 188.925 points.

Despite finishing second, the meet was full of highlights for many UWO gymnasts.

Freshman Trinity Sawyer won the vault competition, achieving a season best score of 9.75, contributing to UWO having the highest team score in the vault competition.

Sawyer was confident going into her stellar vault performance, in spite of a rough showing in her previous event.

“Going into the vault competition I just thought about how I could contribute to the team to the best of my ability,” Sawyer said. “My last event I didn’t perform how I would have liked



COURTESY OF UW OSHKOSH PHOTOSHELTER

JUNIOR PAIGE MAYHEW PERFORMS AN AERIAL ON THE BALANCE BEAM AT A HOME MEET ON JAN. 17, 2020.

so I knew I had to brush that off and go into the vault competition with a clear head. Warmups were going well so when the time came to compete I was

ready.”

The UWO gymnastics team was dominant at the vault as four of the top six scorers in the competition were UWO gymnasts.

nasts.

In addition to Sawyer, sophomore Emily Gilot finished second with a score of 9.70, sophomore Rahdea Jarvis finished fifth with a score of 9.575 and sophomore Haley Minor finished sixth with a score of 9.50.

The UWO gymnastics team also had a solid performance on balance beam as four of the competition’s top eight scoring athletes were UWO gymnasts.

Senior Baylee Tkaczuk finished third in the balance beam with a score of 9.70, sophomore Kaira Hammond and sophomore Olivia Keller tied for fifth both scoring 9.675, and junior Paige Mayhew finished eighth with a score of 9.525

According to Tkaczuk, the team’s morale is high after consistent performances at the balance beam and vault.

“The team is very confident,” Tkaczuk said. “Our last two meets on beam have been stellar and we are looking to keep the momentum forward on this event. The same thing could be

said about vault.”

Tkaczuk also placed first in the uneven parallel bars with a score of 9.60, and Hammond placed third with a score of 9.55.

Unfortunately, some minor mistakes added up and UWW finished first at the invitational, edging out the Titans by just over a point.

However, Tkaczuk stated that the team’s confidence is not shaken and is eager to improve on last Friday’s performance.

“We have performed exceptionally on bars this year, so going into the next meets, our team is going to look at the bar performance as a fluke and move forward,” Tkaczuk said. “Although it is not ideal, sometimes it is good to get the mistakes over with at meets in the regular season so we can learn from them come regionals time.”

The Titans’ next meet is against Hamline University of Saint Paul, MN, and is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Kolf Sports Center.

Opinion

Respect gender-neutral pronouns

By Sophia Voight
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The use of gender-neutral pronouns have risen in popularity in the past few years, as has the backlash towards their use and the people who use them. Pronouns such as they/them/theirs and ze/zir/zirs are often adopted by nonbinary or gender-nonconforming individuals who feel that traditional male and female pronouns don't accurately represent them.

People's chosen pronouns are an extension of their identity and the misuse of them can often make LGBTQ people feel disrespected, invalidated or dysphoric.

Gender dysphoria is the feeling of extreme discomfort someone has when being identified as the gender they were assigned at birth, as opposed to the gender they identify with.

Arguments against gender-neutral pronouns include the idea that there are only two genders, that their usage is grammatically incorrect and that introducing different gender-neutral pronouns into our vocabulary feels awkward or wrong.

But it is far more awkward and hurtful for LGBTQ people to be misgendered than it is for the people introducing new pronouns into their vocabulary.

Referring to someone using the

pronouns they prefer is one of the most basic ways of showing respect for them as a person and acknowledging their gender identity. Respecting the pronouns someone has chosen is such a small change that requires minimal effort for the courtesy and validation it gives to LGBTQ people. Fifth-year student Burgundy Johnson, who uses ve/vir/virs, ze/zir/zirs or they/them/their, said it's painful when people refer to them as he or she and it makes them feel dysphoric.

Intentionally referring to LGBTQ people using the wrong pronouns can be painful and offensive.

"It's like I'm being stabbed," Johnson said. "And when you're stabbed in the same spot repeatedly then it's just obnoxious, but still hurts all the same."

Introducing more inclusive language into our vocabulary is a simple way of being more considerate towards a traditionally oppressed group of people.

Johnson said they understand that there is a learning curve with using neo-pronouns such as ze/zir/zirs and ve/vir/virs.

"With neo-pronouns, all you have to do is just stop and think about what you're saying and eventually it becomes easier," ve said.

Thinking before we talk is a

simple price to pay for the validation that respecting the preferred pronouns of some LGBTQ people gives them.

Admittedly, using new pronouns and referring to "they" as a singular pronoun can feel awkward and difficult to introduce into everyday speech, but language is constantly changing, and new words become easier to say with usage.

Merriam-Webster added a new definition for "they" as a pronoun "used to refer to a single person whose gender identity is nonbinary" in September 2019.

While it may feel awkward to implement different pronouns into our vocabulary, it is far more hurtful and disrespectful to continually use different pronouns than what someone prefers using.

The more these gender-neutral pronouns are correctly used, the more comfortable using them will become and the more comfortable and included LGBTQ people can feel.

Obviously, we can't always guess someone's correct pronouns, but it is far better to ask and then use their preferred pronouns than to guess wrong and make someone feel dysphoric.

Johnson said asking only LGBTQ people what their pronouns are can be a bit nuanced because it can feel like they have to out their gender identity every

time someone asks for their pronouns.

"It can be a little alienating depending on the person," ve said. "That can cause some degree of dysphoria for some people."

Johnson said it would be better if everyone started saying their pronouns along with their name when they introduce themselves.

"Really we should just normalize introducing our pronouns to each other," ve said.

Johnson said if you don't know it's best to ask and to try and not

be rude about it.

"I personally rather just be asked," Johnson said. "Most people mean well and I figure if you're asking at all you mean well."

Using people's preferred pronouns won't solve all issues of LGBTQ equality, but it is one of the simplest ways to show respect for someone's gender identity.

Transgender and non-binary people are here to stay and deserve to be respected, especially in the most basic, easy way.



Graphic by Tatum Spevacek

‘Comedy of Canvas errors’

By Owen Peterson
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The fall 2019 semester at UW Oshkosh saw a major change as the university switched from D2L to Canvas.

While this switch no doubt had an impact on UWO students, it was actually the professors that seemed to have the hardest time adjusting to the new platform. Now, it would be ridiculous of me to assume that all the professors would instantly be able to master canvas in a single semester, but that's not going to stop me from complaining.

So now that we are in the spring 2020 semester, the grace period is over — it is time for professors to step up their Canvas game.

Amidst my (admittedly small) sample size of classes from last semester, I encountered a wide range of experiences with professors and how they used Canvas.

These experiences ranged from professors who had every single assignment in Canvas with the correct grade weights to professors who simply gave up and never put a single grade in Canvas.

On one end of the spectrum you find the professors who actually understand how to use the website.

The best class Canvas that I had the pleasure of seeing had the semester's worth of assignments laid out week by week, all the readings and additional

material neatly organized, and had all of the grades weighted in accordance with the syllabus.

Personally, having the correct grade weighting is so important because it allows you to actually take advantage of the "What-If Scores" tool on Canvas, or, as it probably should be called, the "How-Bad-Can-I-Do-On-The-Rest-Of-My-Assignments-And-Still-Pass-The-Class Tool."

On the utterly inept side of the spectrum you will find the professors who cannot accomplish the evidently insurmountable task of placing the syllabus in the syllabus folder.

Among the comedy of Canvas errors that I experienced last semester, some of my favorites had to be professors who didn't weigh the grades correctly so that one random quiz had as much bearing as your midterm, the professor who messed up while making the quiz so it was just the same six questions repeated over and over, and, my favorite, the professor who apparently couldn't find a way to upload the file of the syllabus, so they just copy-and-pasted it right onto the page.

The absolute worst of the lot, however, had to be the professor(s) who threw in the technological towel early and did not enter a single grade for the entire semester. It truly did add an unexpected sense of danger to the course experience.

Overall, the lack of experience professors had with Canvas had a negative impact on a

lot of my classes because it just created more confusion than was necessary. Instances such as assignments not being posted despite professors thinking that they are just ended up putting the class behind schedule and creating confusion, which made the classes somewhat less enjoyable as a whole.

In terms of suggestions for professors this semester, I would urge them all to take the time and correctly weigh the assignments on Canvas. It created confusion in many of my classes when the average grade presented on canvas did not accurately reflect the students grade in class, and the professor did not clarify this fact until the final three weeks of the semester.

This goal should be more than accomplishable considering that it was done very effectively in one of my six classes, and the one with the most different grading components at that.

I really like Canvas, as it is extremely intuitive to use and features many cool tools, so once that consistency is established, I don't foresee any issue with it.

Now that we are entering the second semester of using Canvas instead of D2L, I fully expect that we will start to see more consistency in Canvas usage as the professors become more used to the new platform.

Letter to the Editor

By Nick Adrian
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As another winter season approaches the great city of Oshkosh and the students at the university of Wisconsin Oshkosh, another mass email is sent out to all current students and staff attending the college. Within this letter are warnings about how slippery and unsafe the sidewalks of campus may be, and tips to the students and staff on how to walk safely and consciously around the school grounds.

The problem in this situation is not what the recurring email contains, but instead, what it symbolizes and means about the university and its priorities.

Although there are not many guarantees in life, it is inevitable for the students and staff of UWO to deal with unsafe and unclear sidewalks and paths while walking on campus during this freezing and snowy season.

The email starts out by saying "No matter how efficient our grounds crew is in removing the ice-covered sidewalks and parking lots that this latest storm has produced, people will invariably encounter slippery surfaces when walking outdoors." This statement alone supports the idea that the university does not provide enough labor to remove the snow from the sidewalks, or even salt them at the very least. More should be done to resolve this problem that never seems to be dealt with.

Putting students and staff

safety should be the university's first priority, and there are many resolutions that would solve this never-ending problem, in which would scarcely affect the university and its budget. One theoretical solution would be to have a few of the employees from the Reeve food court take over some of the duties of salting and snow removal during the winter season. This would not affect Reeve or the university in a negative way since there would be no money spent on extra labor, and there are many employees in Reeve who have little to no duties to take care of during the snow removal hours.

Another theoretical solution to the problem would be to hire four or five people to take care of salting and snow removal duties in the morning during the winter. This would not only be in the best interest of the university, who would only have to pay these workers \$15 to \$20 an hour, but it would also help a few unemployed people find jobs as well. There are countless ways to resolve this problem, but it is ultimately up to the university to decide.

For the university the opportunity cost of fulfilling these ideas to satisfy the people of Oshkosh seems to easily outweigh the opportunity cost of not doing anything about the situation. There really are no negative outcomes if they do ultimately decide to do something about it. At this point, the students and staff of the school and wait and hope a solution will occur.

“Whatcha Think?”
feelings about Valentine’s Day?



Anthony Siebers, senior
“I’m pretty indifferent, it’s just another day. I have a girlfriend and everything, I just don’t really care to celebrate it. It’s not really for me.”



Olivia Lemke, sophomore
“I would say I like it. It’s a good chance to remind you of how much you should love somebody and remember you should do it every day. I think Valentine’s Day should be every day.”



Maria Rivera-West, sophomore
“I guess it’s different for everybody. I’ve been married for five years so it’s basically another day.”



Brittne Westphal, freshman
“It’s nice because I spend time with my family more because I don’t really have a boyfriend or anything to do things with. But it’s a nice day.”



Shabbar Hassan Kazmi, freshman
“I hate it. It’s just a marketing tactic to sell things to people.”

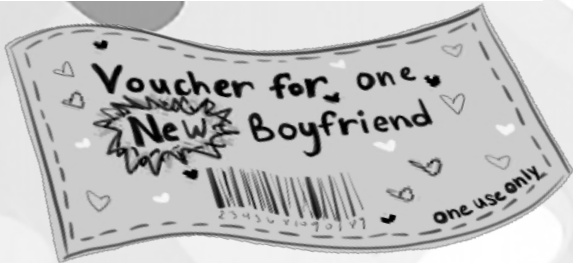
Last Minute Valentine’s Day Gifts

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

The most romantic day of the year is finally upon us: Valentine’s Day. The sweet smell of roses and carnations now fill the air while hearts seemingly adorn every inch of available wall space. It’s the day to celebrate love and romance, and to show your loved ones how much you care and appreciate them. But above all else, Valentine’s Day is about giving and receiving presents. There is no better way to showcase your love for someone than by giving them a romantic gift. Now, whether you’ve been stumped on what to get your significant other this year, or you simply forgot about the holiday altogether these romantic gift ideas will ensure that your Valentine’s Day is a success.

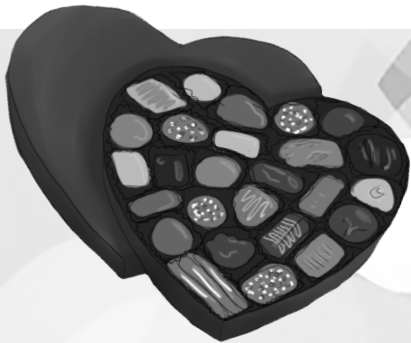
Romantic Coupons

Nothing says “I forgot to get you a gift” like crudely stapled together swatches of paper with generic good deeds that you should probably already be doing for your significant other. So, break out the construction paper and markers and jot down some thoughtful favors you’re willing to give out to your significant other at a moment’s notice. Go ahead and write whatever ridiculously profound favors you can think of because no one has ever actually cashed these in. Your heartfelt message will be received with “thank you” and “how generous” only to be immediately lost in a pile of bills and old homework assignments never to be used or seen again.



Chocolate

This sweet, delectable treat is so unique that your loved one will never expect it. Chocolate is a one-of-a-kind gift that your girlfriend or boyfriend will cherish for years to come. The look on their face when you hand them a super-thoughtful box of chocolates will be priceless. It will be such a special moment that the story of you giving it to them will be shared with your children and grandchildren and passed on for generations. Extra points if the box or the chocolates are shaped like hearts.



Bottle of Wine

Drink away the stress of coming up with a thoughtful last-minute Valentine’s Day gift by popping open a bottle of wine (or two) with your loved one. Head over to your nearest liquor department and pick out the cheapest bottle you can get your hands on. Being a little inebriated will hopefully help ease the guilt of not getting your significant other an actual gift after they spent hundreds of dollars on a super romantic and thoughtful present. Now pour out two glasses and cheers to the love you two share. Tell them the real gift is some quality time with you and that your love transcends gifts and hopefully they’ll buy it enough to keep you around until next Valentine’s Day. Maybe by then, you will have thought of an actual gift to buy them.



Flowers

A classic. Flowers represent love, romance, passion and impermanence. Everything you want your relationship to represent. Signify how strong your commitment to your relationship is by giving your Valentine a beautiful bouquet of roses. Because nothing says eternal love like withering flowers that you’ll have to throw away in a week after all the petals have turned brown and fallen off. You could opt for fake flowers instead, but cheap plastic roses that you probably bought for a dollar doesn’t necessarily scream romance.



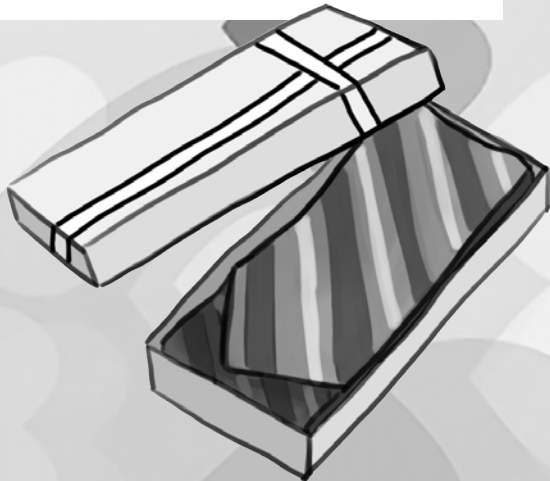
Spa Kit

Pamper your loved one this Valentine’s Day with some pleasantly scented toiletries. A nice gift basket full of soap and perfumes is the perfect way to spoil your boyfriend or girlfriend. This is a great gift for the special one in your life in need of some relaxation and sweet fragrances to brighten up their days, or for the ones that smell really bad but you just can’t figure out a way to break it to them without hurting their feelings. Whichever one your Valentine is, you can assure this gift will be appreciated by your loved one. Not to mention everyone around you will probably thank you for helping to get rid of that terrible smell.



A Tie

Sleek, lavish, stylish. Whether worn to a fancy occasion or to an office, a fashionable tie is a perfect gift for the (soon-to-be) man in your life. Apart from its practicality, a tie will be a wonderful reminder of you and your Valentine’s fleeting youth and inevitable entry into the soul-sucking workforce. All those job interviews and late-night paperwork sessions to look forward to. Soon your fun college life will be over, meaning less parties and no more staying up all night playing video games only to slug over to class after downing two espresso shots and an energy drink. Soon it’ll be mortgages, 401(k)s and credit card debt. And one day the guy you gave this tie to will come home from a stressful day at work and reminisce on his early 20’s when his college girlfriend gave him this cheap, ugly tie for Valentine’s Day.





Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan
Michael Stensland (left) and Ben Baker (right) demo their new track, “Please Don’t,” in their dorm.

‘Please Don’t’ expected to please online audience

By Carter Uslabar
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The UW Oshkosh pop duo, ‘The Astronomers,’ comprised of Ben Baker and Michael Stensland, is releasing their latest and most highly anticipated single, “Please Don’t,” on Friday.

Baker and Stensland collaborated with another musician hailing from Wisconsin, Bronwyn Silk, is featured as a vocalist on this new track.

The track will continue a storyline which left off in their most recent track, “Area 51,” where the end of the song features a sample of an answering machine saying “You’ve reached the Astronomers, leave a message.” “Please Don’t” begins with a message being left for the duo.

“It’s been a fun process,” Stensland said. “It’s a little different from what we’ve put out, but it keeps that same energy and vibe.”

The song initially came together very quickly. Baker and Stensland were able to crank out the whole song’s general structure within two nights in a burst of inspiration after a month-long creative slump.

“Ben got a rough draft of the guitar and the drums and everything, and I just started singing over it, and it didn’t take too long,” Stensland said. “I think it was one of our fastest rough drafts of a song.”

“We had so many kind of just

not-great ones lined up, and then when we finally had this song we were like ‘Okay, this is definitely going to be our next one,’” Baker said.

Earlier in the fall, Baker and Stensland were searching for a female vocalist to collaborate with, when they both separately received suggestions to work with Bronwyn Silk.

“It’s always hard working with artists in different states, but she’s been great, she has a great voice” Stensland said. “We wrote the lyrics, Bronwyn and I, together over FaceTime, and then she had a guy over there that she would record with in LA, and then they’d send the files over to us.”

While the first draft of the song came to Baker and Stensland quickly, the process of mastering the track and producing the final product was much slower. They collaborated once more with Zach Paradis, who features in the vocals in “Area 51,” for the vocal production of “Please Don’t.”

“It was a long process,” Stensland said. “I think it’s harder when everyone’s doing their own thing, especially around this time, because we finished the song by November, and it was just a matter of Bronwyn doing her verse, Zach doing the mixing, and then just getting it all together. I think we submitted the song to our manager on January 15, but I think people are going to be like ‘This was

worth the wait.”

As the duo was producing the new song, they constantly compared it to their previous work.

“Whenever I’m making something, I’m always comparing it,” Baker said. “Like ‘Is this going to be as good? Not as good?’ We always do that. Maybe it’s helpful, maybe it’s not.”

“I think we’re always trying to find new inspiration to put into the songs,” Stensland said. “Ben’s getting better everyday with mixing and vocal production and everything, and my lyric writing is getting better everyday; it’s because we’re doing it everyday, and I think comparing is just something we naturally do because we’re like ‘Oh, this one was great,’ but we’re getting better every day. I don’t think we’re worried of this one not being as good; it’s just got different things in it.”

The song is Baker and Stensland’s most highly anticipated release to date.

“Our pre-saves for this one are like six times what we’ve had for “Area 51,” so people are ready for it.” Baker said.

“It’s just been crazy, the amount of people who are clicking the follow and pre-save button and taking the time to do that so it just goes right to their page when the song comes out.” Stensland said.

“Please Don’t” is available for pre-save on Spotify and will be released on Friday.



James Kies’ Key Picks

Hello! My name is James, resident music composition student and music lover! This week’s picks are some of my most recent favorites. They are just some song I’ve been listening to more than once recently. BROCKHAMPTON’s “TAPE” is a melancholic ode to things that could’ve been, plus the drum programming is out of this world. “Honest” by San Holo is a song about someone you really want to be with but

they don’t feel the same way. The lyrics speak to feelings felt by all of us at some point. D Smoke’s “Gaspar Yanga” off his new album “Black Habits” is just an absolute banger. Actually, shoutout to that whole album; it’s gift from God. And last but not least, Puma Blue’s lo-fi crooning in “Midnight Blue” is possibly the sexiest thing I’ve heard in my entire life. Happy listening!

Tape
Brockhampton
Iridescence
2018



Honest
San Holo, Broods
Honest
2019

Gaspar Yanga
D Smoke, Snoop Dogg
Black Habits
2020



Midnight Blue
Puma Blue
Midnight Blue
2018



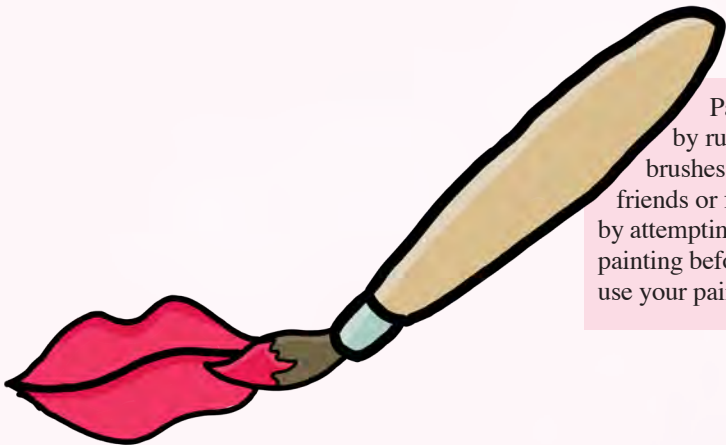
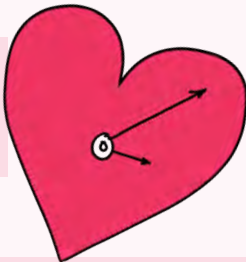
Make some magic and join the Advance-Titan

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Procrastinator’s guide to Valentine’s Day

By Jelissa Burns
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If you’re like most college students, procrastination is one thing that you’ve become an expert at, and making plans for Valentine’s Day proved to be no exception. Whether you’re coupled up, hanging with friends or kicking it solo, here’s a few last minute ideas to add a creative twist to your Valentine’s Day this year.



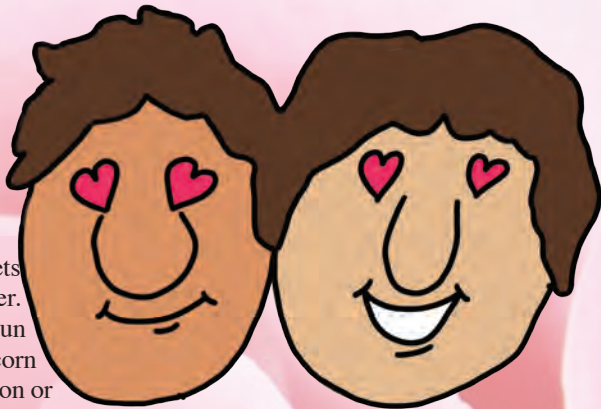
Painting is an amazing creative outlet for almost any occasion. Set the romantic mood this weekend by running to the store to grab a few painting supplies for a creative night. Blank canvases, some paint brushes and any form of paint that you would like to use is all you need. This activity works with couples, friends or for those who just want to enjoy some alone time. Try challenging yourself and those around you by attempting to paint each other or objects nearby. Test your skills by setting a timer and attempting to finish a painting before the clock runs out. Use your imagination to create whatever you’d like, and when you’re done, use your painting as the perfect Valentine’s Day gift.

Instead of wasting money and time trying to fit in a last minute reservation at an overpriced and overrated restaurant, try cooking a homemade meal instead. It’s more intimate to cook a meal at home than to sit in a crowded restaurant and wait for your food to be made. Cooking your own meal gives you the freedom to make and eat whatever you want. Even those who have absolutely no idea what they’re doing in a kitchen can make a non-bake dessert to enjoy. Use the time to bond with your significant other or friends by asking them to help you with the cooking process. The meal will be more enjoyable knowing that everyone contributed to making it. Plus, who doesn’t love a homemade meal?



Take advantage of the weather while it lasts. An ice skating date is a fun activity and a great excuse to get out of the house. Bundle up and check out your local recreational centers or parks to rent some skates and slide on the ice. Reservations are not required and skates are often provided. You don’t have to be an expert to have fun. For the more advanced, try a snowboarding or skiing date. Either way, playing in the snow brings back the nostalgia of childhood which makes it a perfect activity to do with anyone. Plus, staying out in the cold is a great excuse to stop for warm drinks and food afterwards.

Who doesn’t love a good binge watching session? If you waited until the last minute to buy tickets to the movies, chances are you’re gonna have a tough time even finding two seats next to each other. Setting up a movie night at home is easier, more comfortable and you can watch whatever you want. Run to the store and grab everything you’ll need for a snack bar; you can go the traditional route with popcorn and candy, but the best part is that you can choose whatever food you want. Streaming a movie marathon or binge watching a TV series is a great way to spend the evening, even if you’re by yourself. Streaming services are already preparing by loading their apps with romantic comedies and other love-themed movies and TV shows, so there will be no shortage of entertainment.



**For the Romantic Comedy fan
Valentine’s Day (2010)**

This celebrity packed film follows the lives of various Los Angeles residents on Valentine’s Day as they try to navigate the holiday and face the many challenges that come with being in love.

Five movies perfect for Valentine’s Day

**For the Romance fan
The Notebook (2004)**

This classic romance film tells the story of two hometown lovers who become separated when the boyfriend leaves to serve in WWII. When he returns back to town, he finds his ex-lover engaged to another man, but it soon becomes apparent that her feelings for him are still there.

**For the Classic Film fan
An Affair to Remember (1957)**

When two married people fall in love on a cruise from Europe to New York, they agree to meet at the top of the Empire State Building six months later. However, an unfortunate accident stops one of them from following through, and they both begin to worry if they’ve married the wrong person.

**For the Horror fan
My Bloody Valentine 3D (2009)**

A freak coal mining accident kills five men and puts a sixth one in a coma. One year later, on Valentine’s Day, the man wakes up and goes on a killing spree with a pickaxe before dying. When people begin to turn up dead, murdered by a pickaxe, locals begin to suspect that a ghost could be behind the murders.

**For the Anti-Valentine’s Day fan
Heathers (1988)**

A member of their high school’s most popular clique, The Heathers, disapproves of how the girls behave. When she and her new boyfriend try to play it off as a suicide, but soon it becomes clear that his intentions were anything but accidental.