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New Beginnings



April Lee / Advance-Titan

John and Joann Cross look back after 40 years on campus

By Joseph Schulz
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When John and Joann Cross met at a party in 1974, they never imagined that what began as a budding friendship would blossom into a healthy marriage and a four-decade career in academia.

Before they retired from UW Oshkosh on Jan. 31, the couple witnessed a transformation on campus as shrinking budgets reduced the number of faculty and technology became more preva-

lent in the classroom.

When John and Joann met, they were both attending graduate school and living in the same building on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus. John was studying geography and Joann was studying accounting.

After their fateful meeting in January 1974, the duo would regularly meet around the campus for coffee, meals or just to enjoy each other's company.

"When you're in graduate school,

the best you can handle for dating is a 15-cent cup of hot chocolate at Hard-ee's," Joann said. "We'd get together in the evening and we'd talk after 10 p.m. for a half hour or so."

Over the next three years their friendship grew into something more, and the couple married in December, 1977.

John graduated from graduate school in 1979, and shortly after began teaching at UW Oshkosh. At the time, John said geography jobs weren't as high in

demand as accounting jobs, which is why they planned to move to wherever he could find work.

Joann was teaching at the University of Cincinnati at the time, and would routinely fly from Cincinnati to Oshkosh to visit.

"I flew from Cincinnati to Dayton, to Milwaukee to Oshkosh," Joann said, adding that Wittman Regional Airport was a commercial airport at the time.

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Group organizes to get dark money out of politics

By Amber Brockman
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Wisconsin United to Amend, a nonpartisan state network of concerned citizens dedicated to removing "dark money" from politics, is organizing in Oshkosh to collect signatures in order to fulfill its goal of restoring representative democracy.

"Our goal is to get the referendum on the city of Oshkosh's November ballot," WIUTA leader

Cheryl Hansen said. "We know that our state legislature is not interested in pursuing a resolution at this time, so hopefully when a large enough number of communities have passed it, the state will have to consider it."

Hansen said politicians are influenced by the people and entities that support them.

"The more money one group donates toward a politician's campaign to get elected, the more likely that politician will be in favor of

legislation that benefits that group and less likely to vote in favor of legislation his or her constituents favor," Hansen said.

As an example, Hansen said that a majority of Americans would like some form of gun control, but that will not happen as long as the gun lobby influences our federal and state governments.

WIUTA supports a constitutional amendment to overturn the 2010 Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court which gave

corporations, unions, nonprofits and super PACs the same right as individual citizens.

The Citizens United decision struck down restrictions on independent political donations from corporations as a violation of the First Amendment.

This essentially means the act of spending money toward political endeavors is a form of speech and cannot be regulated.

"This decision struck down the bipartisan McCain-Feingold act

known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act," Hansen said. "Prior to this, in 1882 due to erroneous summary of the case Santa Clara County vs. Southern Pacific Railroad, precedent was established giving corporations constitutional rights the same as human beings."

According to opensecrets.org, \$200 million was spent on the 2004 political campaigns and \$300 million was spent on the

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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

Grounds crew struggles with snow removal

By Joseph Schulz
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Budget cuts at UW Oshkosh have taken a toll on the Grounds Maintenance Department as it's currently understaffed and using old equipment to remove snow from campus, according to university officials.

The department only has nine employees to clear 17 miles of sidewalk and 30 acres of plowable space, grounds and auto shop supervisor Lisa Mick said.

Two of those employees also serve as mechanics, who fix equipment when it breaks down. Mick said this winter has been especially bad for breakdowns, causing the mechanics to plow "half as much" as they normally do.

Most of the equipment is about 12 to 15 years old and the budget won't allow the grounds department to purchase updated trucks, she noted.

The plows work best if they take three inches of snow off at a time, Mick said.

She added that the plows have been used on one inch of snow more often this year than in other years, causing additional wear and tear on the vehicles.

"When you're driving a truck and you're banging it around on pavement, there's really no way to avoid it," she said.

Employee retirements have also become a problem because the university doesn't fill open positions when employees retire, Mick said.

The staff reductions force the department to do more with less, causing them to juggle priorities and increasing the time it takes to clear the campus, she added.

"You can say, 'we've got to make these cuts,' but for [the grounds department], the amount of acreage and the amount of miles that we plow doesn't change from year to year," she said.

For each snowfall, Mick starts planning the day before, watching for when the snow is expected to start and for how heavy it's expected to be.



The UW Oshkosh Grounds and Maintenance Department is understaffed due to budget cuts.

Because she lives in Fond du Lac, Mick said she sometimes sleeps at the grounds department auto shop overnight to avoid getting into a traffic accident during major snowstorms.

"My husband works for a golf course; he removes snow too, so he gets it," Mick said. "He's just happy that I'm safe."

On average, she said crews begin working to remove snow at about 2 a.m., but sometimes they start at 11 p.m. or midnight. If she has extra workers pitching in from other departments, the crew sometimes starts at 4 a.m.

Plowing and shoveling the campus takes about five to six hours with a full 12-person crew, but with a nine-person crew it can take eight hours or more, she said.

For example, Mick said that if eight inches of snow are expected, crews will plow at 11 o'clock the night before the snow is expected to end and then come back at 2 a.m. and plow until the snow is cleared, which can sometimes take until 8 a.m.

"At first my guys were really excited about the overtime," she said. "But now they're starting to get burned out."

She added that custodians are responsible for snow removal within 25 feet from buildings.

The university has also developed a priority map that identifies key areas on campus that need to be cleared first based on previously identified problem areas and accessibility needs for students in wheelchairs, according to UWO Environment, Health and Safety Coordinator Lori Welch.

"The accessibility coordinator at student services makes sure that [the grounds department] has that information by the time snow starts falling," Welch said.

In terms of salt use, Mick said the grounds crew uses about five tons of ice melt for each snowfall where it is needed.

Some snowfalls don't require salt because sometimes the temperature rises fast enough that salt isn't necessary, she said.

She added that the university spends roughly \$35,000 on salt each year.

"Budgets might be cut, but it's not like we're holding back on the amount of salt we're buying," she said.

In addition to the grounds department's efforts, UWO's Risk

and Safety Office was recently awarded a grant from the state Department of Administration to reduce slips, trips and falls based on data from previous years.

Welch said the grant was to reduce workers compensation claims and is being used to supply the grounds crew, facility management crews and university police with shoe spikes.

Beyond the grant, the Risk and Safety Office has also developed a "Winter Weather Action Plan" that promotes safe traveling on campus.

The plan recommends students wear slip-resistant footwear in the winter months and watch out for ice when walking across campus.

Beside the action plan, students can also use the UWO Mobile app to report icy areas on campus. Once a problem area is reported, grounds crews are notified to take appropriate action to remove ice.

"Students should report icy areas so we can know if it's a chronic problem area," Mick said. "We can't solve a problem if we don't know about it."

United: Petition to end dark money

From page 1

2008 campaigns.

After the 2010 Citizens United decision, \$1 billion was spent on the 2012 campaigns, not including money spent by the political party committees.

An amendment would allow federal and state legislatures to again regulate campaign spending.

"Likely, this would result in elected politicians paying more attention to their constituents' desires and less to their donors," Hansen said. "Laws could be passed regulating amounts donated and the length of time prior to an election that donations could be collected."

Currently, politicians begin campaigning for their reelection as soon as they've been elected.

"This distraction takes them away from the business at hand," Hansen said.

The first state to pass a resolution

calling for a constitutional amendment clarifying that corporations, unions and like organizations are not people entitled to rights under the Constitution and that spending money for political purposes is not regarded as a form of free speech was Hawaii on April 28, 2010.

Since then, 20 states have passed this resolution, along with 146 Wisconsin communities.

The first Wisconsin community to pass the resolutions was Madison on April 5, 2011.

People signing the petition must be residents of the City of Oshkosh, but volunteers collecting signatures don't need to live in Oshkosh.

WIUTA will begin collecting signatures April 7, with a goal of collecting 5,346 signatures.

"A democracy is run by its citizens," Hansen said. "If we want to continue as a democracy and we want our elected officials to repre-



Courtesy of WIUTA
WIUTA member George Penn leads a training conference.

sent us, we need to get rid of the influence peddling."

Anyone interested in joining the Oshkosh group is encouraged to

email OshkoshWIUTA@gmail.com. For more information visit the WIUTA website at wiuta.org.



Courtesy of U.S. Airforce Senior Airman Destinee Sweeney

According to a spring 2018 UW Oshkosh comprehensive health and wellness assessment done once every three years, 51.3% of students assessed felt tired, dragged out or sleepy during the day three to five days per week.

Sleep insufficiency may cause harm

By Kaitlyn Scoville
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Some college students may take sleeping for granted, but for others, getting the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep per night is difficult to achieve due to sleep insufficiency. Through the darkness, though, lies some bright, healthy and enlightening benefits to getting the proper amount of sleep.

According to a spring 2018 UW Oshkosh comprehensive health and wellness assessment done once every three years, 51.3% of students assessed felt tired, dragged out or sleepy during the day three to five days per week.

A 2020 Wolters Kluwer study finds that students may be struggling with sleep insufficiency, which is when a person does not get enough restful sleep.

“People with sleep insufficiency would be able to sleep if they had the chance,” the study said. “Usually, there are things outside their control keeping them from getting restful sleep.”

Juliana Kahrs, assistant director of health promotion, said that getting the proper amount of sleep most nights can have some major perks.

“Sleep helps to restore energy, fight off illness and repair your nerves,” Kahrs said. “This is the time when memory and consolidation happens, so especially for students who are trying to learn and retain information for their classes, sleep is very important.”

She adds that sleeping helps maintain a strong and healthy body.

“Sleep isn’t just a passive activity; it is a very active process when our body is recharging and repairing nerves, muscles, all the systems that keep us running on a daily basis.”

Kahrs referenced a large research study focused on the risk factors that may contribute to

poor sleep among college students.

“What students reported as being their top barriers to sufficient sleep were technology, inconsistent daily schedules and substance use — including alcohol, which disrupts deep sleep, caffeine and other drugs.”

The study also states that smoking or not eating enough during the evening hours can contribute to a night without much sleep.

Not getting enough sleep as a college student can also trigger mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression.

“It can exacerbate those issues when people already have them,” Kahrs said. “Getting enough sleep improves emotional regulation, mood, your ability to remember or recall information and concentrate. These are all really important things for college students.”

Kahrs said that getting the proper, high-quality amount of sleep most nights lies in three fixable standards: light, noise and temperature.

“Your circadian rhythm begins in the morning hours and you want to expose yourself to as much natural light as possible,” Kahrs said. “Toward the end of the day, or within several hours of resting or sleep, you want to try to mitigate a lot of that light. So it might be having blue light filters on your screens, your phone or your glasses.”

When it comes to temperature, a good number to keep the thermostat at is between 65 and 67 degrees.

Kahrs also said that drowning out distracting noises can significantly improve students’ sleep.

“If you can’t control that kind of noise, you can create white noise or other types of restful noises that are constant so that it drowns out whatever those disruptive noises are.”

She explained the importance

of one’s circadian rhythm, especially as a college student.

“It’s your body’s clock,” Kahrs said. “You get a lot of adrenaline and cortisol pumping [in the morning]. About five to six or seven hours after you wake up, there is typically a dip in the cortisol and an increase in melatonin in your body, so you’re naturally more tired. For a lot of people, that’s the afternoon slump feeling. That’s totally natural. If you’re going to take a nap in a day, that’s a good time to do it.”

The study lists numerous additional treatments that can help with sleep insufficiency, such as going to bed and waking up at the same time every day, having caffeinated beverages only in the morning and solving any stressful or worrisome problems before going to bed.

Avoiding alcoholic beverages in the afternoon and evening is also mentioned in the study.

The study also refers to relaxation therapy, which is the process of “relaxing all the muscles in your body one by one.”

Another 2020 study done by Dr. Michael Bonnet and Dr. Donna Arand of Wright State University explains more in-depth the process of relaxation therapy.

“Beginning with the muscles in your face, squeeze (contract)

your muscles gently for one to two seconds and then relax. Repeat several times,” the study states. “Use the same technique for other muscle groups: jaw and neck, shoulders, upper arms, lower arms, fingers, chest, abdomen, buttocks, thighs, calves and feet.”

“This relaxation program can promote restfulness and sleep,” the study says.

Other behavioral therapy treatments for sleep insecurity include sleep hygiene education, biofeedback, stimulus control, sleep restriction, cognitive therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, phototherapy and chronotherapy.

Kahrs is actively working on an individualized sleep education program that will be available through Health Promotion Services starting in the fall semester.

The sleep education program is a four to six week individualized plan for students, which will include weekly progress meetings with a health educator.

“If you can’t get more than six hours of sleep in a night, you want to make sure you’re making the most of those six hours,” Kahrs said.

You can find more articles about sleep wellness at uwosh.campuswell.com.

Event sheds light on Sundown Oshkosh

By Megan Behnke
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On Feb. 20, the UW Oshkosh History Department held a presentation for Black History Month, given by history professor Michelle Kuhl.

For the past few years, Kuhl has been giving her students the Sundown Town project, which includes having each student trace the history of a black resident of Oshkosh in 1900.

Kuhl said it’s important for students to learn the surprising and shocking history of racial discrimination of your current home.

“Many people assume that racism was only located in the south with slavery and segregation,” Kuhl said. “As a region, the Midwest is often overlooked when it comes to recognizing white supremacy. It is not an accident that the population of Wisconsin has just a few cities with a high percentage of black residents and then dozens of small towns that are nearly all-white. This situation came about from human choices.”

UWO senior and anthropology major Ayak Deng, who worked on the project, said you have to try to put yourself in the context of the period you’re trying to research for the project.

“We had to try to use words and phrases people from that time were using as well as names and places,” Deng said. “This project is tedious and takes a lot of time and patience.”

UWO African American Studies Club President Eskedar Robinson said the information in the presentation is important to share with other students and faculty so they can learn about the African American diaspora.

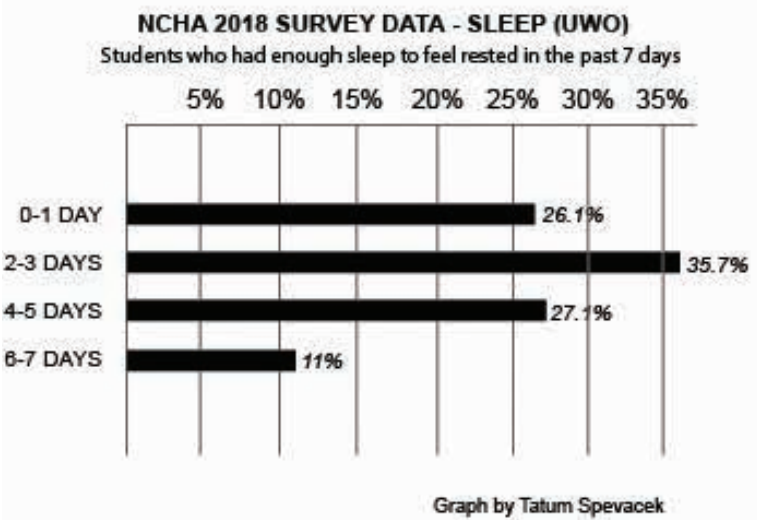
“This will have a positive impact as it will install pride of self in the African American community as well as help to confront the problems of racial discrimination,” Robinson said.

Kuhl said she hopes students take away two conclusions after the presentation.

“One is that Oshkosh, Wisconsin is part of a larger pattern in the Midwest of white residents forcing out black residents,” Kuhl said. “Two, student research is powerful and can uncover hidden parts of our past.”

Kuhl said her class, History 385 “African American History,” is offered every spring if students are ever interested, as well as checking out what the African American Studies Program offers.

“We are having a ‘Shopping Party’ on March 16 at 12:30-4 [p.m.] in Reeve 227 AB,” Kuhl said. “Any student interested in taking a class in African American Studies can come and find out more about Fall 2020 courses.”



McNair Scholar alumna combats food insecurity

By Amber Brockman
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From outward appearances, Joy Evans, a senior at UW Oshkosh, seems to have it made.

She's a McNair Scholar alumna who is on her way to graduate school, has been recognized as student of the month by the Black Student Union and has repeatedly made the school's honor roll.

But getting to this point has not been a smooth ride. She said there were times when "I was not sure when I was going to eat next, and it made me very anxious."

Some days, Evans considered herself lucky to be able to eat just one meal.

Evans would often have to turn down going out with friends because she didn't want people to know she couldn't afford the food, despite working two jobs.

"I had a tendency to distance myself from others, and I couldn't concentrate in class as much as I wanted to," Evans said.

Approximately 32% of all UW Oshkosh students and 50% of all students of color reported experiencing food insecurity in the past 12 months.

Food insecurity can impact students' ability to focus and succeed in school and can influence many other health factors that contribute to acute and chronic preventable diseases.

In addition, current research indicates a link between experiences of food insecurity and the incidence and severity of depression and anxiety among many populations, including college students.

In order to help combat this issue, Evans used her McNair research on food insecurity among racially minoritized college students to open a food pantry in Reeve Memorial Union.

After completing her research for the McNair Scholars program, Evans was asked to be the director of the food pantry, which



Evans

opened earlier this semester.

"I made a lot of findings regarding food insecurity at this institution and how much it is truly affecting students of color," Evans said. "I also found that the majority of students who were food insecure were first and second year students who lived on campus."

McNair Scholars program director, Cordelia Bowlus, said Evan's research helped identify food insecurity as a major concern among college students, prompting the university to start finding solutions.

"Having the pantry in Reeve, which is frequented by virtually all students, is critical if we are to reach students in need as well as raise awareness among the campus community as a whole that students are not immune to food insecurity," Bowlus said. "Through her research, Joy has become an informed and articulate advocate of the critical need to address food insecurity at the college level, a skill that will serve her well as she prepares to pursue a master's and career in the field of public health."

Evans said students living on campus are more likely to be food insecure.

"These are students that have to have meal plans, per campus policy," Evans said. "This goes against the stigma that students are automatically protected from



Courtesy of University Marketing and Communications

Joy Evans used her McNair research on food insecurity among racially minoritized college students to open a food pantry in Reeve Memorial Union.

stressors such as food insecurity since they live on campus and have access to so many resources."

Besides influencing an on-campus food pantry, Evans was on the honor roll two semesters in a row last school year and was honored as the student of the month in the Black Student Union.

"I remained very disciplined and removed a lot of distractions in my life," Evans said. "I finally found what I was passionate about and I began to learn what I was called to do, which helped motivate me to achieve everything I accomplished."

Evans had to overcome multiple obstacles in making these achievements.

"Juggling McNair and working was very challenging," Evans said. "Starting off this school year with three jobs and being

president of a student organization became stressful very quickly. Being a black woman on this campus trying to make a difference comes with a lot of stress and difficulties."

After graduation, Evans plans to start graduate school in fall 2020.

"I want to expand my research and try to complete it on a much larger scale as a thesis project in grad school," Evans said. "Overall, I want to work in minority health and health promotion in some capacity to improve the overall health of minorities and reduce the risk of chronic illnesses."

UWO health promotion assistant director, Juliana Kahrs, said Evans has served as a Peer Health Advocate in the residence halls for three years, providing residents with consistent health education and resources.

"Joy understands that optimal health is not only a function of genetics, a healthy environment and sufficient medical care, but of knowledge, opportunity and practice," Kahrs said. "She has a passion for public health education and research, and we need people like her serving the next generation."

Kahrs said she is inspired by Evans' ability to advocate for the issue of food insecurity.

"Completing a comprehensive research project is a significant achievement, but Joy has gone a step further," Kahrs said. "She used this research to help OSA support the need for a campus food pantry and now serves as the director of the food pantry that will officially open next semester. Although it won't alleviate all food insecurity, providing this resource for students is an incredible step forward."

Regent family foundation donates to Cabinet

By Lexi Wojcik-Kretchmer
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UW System Regent Karen Walsh's family foundation, BerbeeWalsh Foundation, donated \$2000 to the recently opened food pantry at UW Oshkosh and plans to donate more.

Walsh described the BerbeeWalsh Foundation as "a private family foundation that focuses on human and animal health and welfare."

In the past, the foundation donated roughly \$13 million as a gift to completely remodel the UW Hospital's emergency department.

They have also made major donations to Animals Need Heroes Too campaign for a new Vet School building at the UW-Madison.

They have also made significant donations to the Dane County Humane Society, Madison Cat Project, Oshkosh Area Humane Society, the Humane Society of



Jefferson County and is a significant contributor to Access Community Health Centers in Madison.

Walsh said she made the decision to donate to the UWO food pantry "simply because [she] was impressed that the food pantry project was undertaken by students. It's incredibly generous of UWO students to recognize the problem and work together to create the solution."

Among the students that undertook the making of The Cabinet is Joy Evans, student director of the pantry, with the help of her McNair Scholar research.



Courtesy of University Marketing and Communications

UW System Regent Karen Walsh's family foundation, BerbeeWalsh Foundation, donated \$2000 to the recently opened food pantry at UW Oshkosh.

She said she "never would have thought that when [she] started here [she'd] be part of something so grand and so impactful to this campus" because food insecurity is an "underestimated issue that is a big deal."

Evans said that "food insecurity affects health and development honestly at all stages in life. When you're at college it can really affect your ability to learn."

When Evans found out about the donation, she said "It was

definitely a surprise to receive the donation. I really wasn't expecting it at all. However, I was very grateful that Regent Walsh was willing to support this initiative. It was a great honor. It made me very excited for the future of the food pantry."

The BerbeeWalsh Foundation also plans on combating this issue further by pledging to match any funds students raise from the community up to \$5,000. This is in effect until Dec. 31, 2020.

The Cabinet, located next to Titan Underground, is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for all UWO students to utilize.

You can also donate to The Cabinet and drop food off there or at the OSA Office, Reeve 208C. Some items The Cabinet is looking for include whole grain cereal, Nature Valley products, canned veggies, peanut butter, noodles, ramen, popcorn, body wash, shampoo, lotion, laundry detergent and more.

Catch-a-Ride seeks volunteer drivers

By Joseph Schulz
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After helping workers get to their jobs more than 1,000 times in 2019, the Winnebago County Catch-a-Ride Program is seeking more drivers to help fill gaps in transportation and reduce employment barriers.

Currently the program only has seven active drivers, causing new rider applicants to be placed on a waitlist, according to Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. President and CEO Jason White.

In early January, GO-EDC received a grant from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, a collaboration between the U.S. Venture Fund and other organizations aimed at eliminating poverty. White said the grant funds will extend the program for another three years and fund a workforce facilitator position to recruit drivers.

He added the new position will support the program by recruiting drivers, employers and riders, as well as by coordinating between GO-EDC and its partners in the program.

“We’re really excited about this,” White said. “This could be a real success story about how a midsized metropolitan city can create partnerships to boost workforce development and enhance the quality of life and income prospects of people that want to work.”

Currently, riders pay 25 cents a mile for car service, while drivers are reimbursed at the rate of 58 cents a mile.

The need to fill transportation gaps became apparent to White shortly after GO-EDC’s inception, when human resource managers began telling him they had open positions that couldn’t be filled be-



Joseph Schulz / Advance-Titan
Deb Martin, a volunteer for the Catch-a-Ride program, says the program needs more volunteer drivers to be effective.

cause qualified candidates lacked reliable transportation to and from work.

In Winnebago County, 81% of job seekers report transportation as a significant challenge, according to Feonix Mobility Rising, a non-profit that aims to enhance transportation options for underserved communities.

“If an individual relies on the bus and they work second or third shift and that bus ends, they don’t have transportation home,” outreach specialist Allison Knautz said in a video on Feonix Mobility’s website. “Transportation can be very tricky if you don’t have your own car.”

White said some people don’t have a vehicle or have an unreliable vehicle, some get off work after city buses stop running and others don’t live or work near a bus stop.

Companies like Uber, Lyft and

taxi operators are often too expensive and can cause financial stress for entry-level workers without reliable transportation, he added.

In 2018, GO-EDC was approached by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to address gaps in transportation. Shortly after, White realized that GO-EDC needed help organizing drivers and riders, so it partnered with Make the Ride Happen, a program of Lutheran Social Services, and Feonix Mobility Rising.

GO-EDC then applied for, and received, the Department of Workforce Development’s Commute to Careers grant, which White said covers part of the 58 cents per mile reimbursement drivers receive, and reduces fees for riders to 25 cents per mile.

He added that Commute to Ca-

reers grant funds are also being used to increase the capacity of the program beyond volunteer drivers by subsidizing the cost of cab fares and partnering with Lyft to decrease ride costs.

The program officially launched and began recording rides in 2019, providing a total of 1,048 rides for employment purposes from Jan. 14 to Nov. 17, according to GO-EDC.

Deb Martin has been a volunteer driver for the program since March and gives rides for about two hours a week. She said the program is flexible, allowing drivers to provide rides around their schedules.

“I can go in and pick out rides that fit,” Martin said. “You can really build it based on your schedule.”

Beyond the flexible schedule, Martin said driving for Catch-a-Ride has been rewarding because she’s helped disadvantaged people

improve their situation.

While volunteering has been rewarding, she added that if the program had more drivers, it could provide more rides and help more people struggling to find reliable transportation.

“I’m not meeting the whole need, but I’m meeting a tiny piece,” Martin said. “If we could get more drivers, we could meet more of the need and then a bigger chunk of the population without cars could get to work.”

Make the Ride Happen mobility manager Holly Keenan said drivers must be 18 years old or older, have a valid driver’s license, operate a reliable vehicle, pass a background check and have a desire to help others.

Make the Ride Happen was recently approved for a grant from the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program, which Keenan noted will be used to hire a staff member to help coordinate rides.

Overall, she said, volunteering for Catch-a-Ride is a “great way to give back and impact someone’s life on a personal level.”

On the business side, local manufacturer Lakeside Plastics experienced a lack of workers due to transportation barriers, Lakeside Plastics Human Resources Manager Kelly Leith said in GO-EDC’s year in review video.

Leith said the business is a 24-hour operation, which means workers are getting off outside of regular bus hours. She added that the Catch-a-Ride Program provides her employees with safe, reliable and affordable transportation.

“We feel more confident knowing that our employees have reliable and affordable transportation,” Leith said.

County aims to expand access to high-speed internet

By Joseph Schulz
schulj78@uwosh.edu

The Winnebago County Industrial Development Board voted last month to enter a public-private partnership that aims to expand broadband access in rural communities.

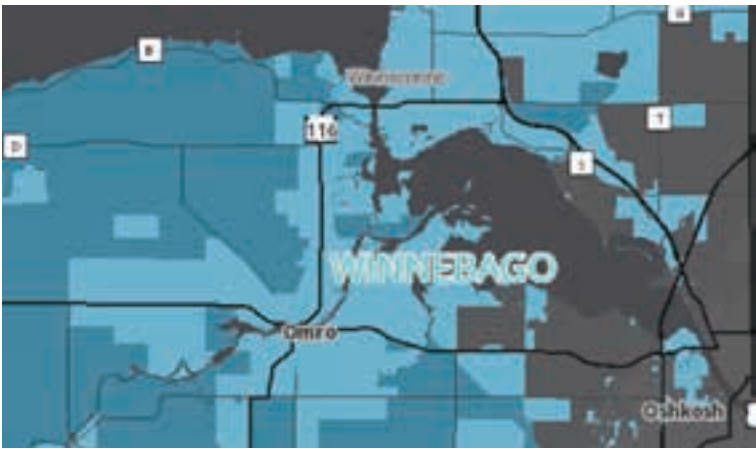
The partnership with US Internet, a Minnesota-based telecommunications company, has the potential to benefit the dairy and tourism industries and is contingent upon the company being awarded a broadband extension grant from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

In September 2019, the PSC announced that it would provide \$24 million in grant funding to increase high-speed internet access to areas deemed unserved or underserved.

US Internet applied for an approximately \$3.7 million broadband extension grant in December 2019 to deploy an active fiber network to Omro, Poygan, Winneconne and Butte des Morts.

The grant funds will account for 36.75% of the project costs, as the total cost of the project is about \$10.16 million, according to the grant application.

The application says US Internet will fund roughly \$6.4 million, Winnebago County will fund \$25,000, the town of Omro will fund \$2,680, the town of Poygan will fund \$1,480, the village of Winneconne will fund \$1,000 and



Courtesy of Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
The light blue areas above are underserved with broadband access and the dark blue areas are unserved.

the town of Winneconne will fund \$1,000.

The funds would be used for the first phase of US Internet’s “Light the Lake” project, which the application states will deploy 140 miles of new fiber optic cable to 806 unserved homes and businesses and 3,078 underserved homes and businesses.

If the grant is approved, the application says the company will commit to building phase two, which will provide another mile of infrastructure to an additional 1,456 underserved homes and businesses.

In total, the project would serve 5,418 unserved or underserved locations, according to US Internet.

Phase one of the project will begin when the grant is approved and is expected to be completed after 24 months, the application stated.

The first two months will consist of engineering and environmental work. Months two through four will be spent on permitting and material ordering, while months five through 23 will focus on mainline construction, customer acquisition and activation.

US Internet’s Wisconsin Operations Manager Dan Kesselmayer said there were about 140 applications for broadband expansion grants submitted around the state, and of those applications, only about 40 meet all the criteria to receive money.

Of the applications meeting the criteria, Kesselmayer said US Internet has one of the strongest because its project would serve “five to 10 times more people” than other applicants.

The company will feed fiber

optic strands through pipes underground, which Kesselmayer said will limit reconstruction and create lasting infrastructure.

The grant application says the fiber optic infrastructure will far exceed the demands of customers, building a network set up for future generations.

“We’re putting infrastructure in the ground to be able to turn these towns into 5G networks,” Kesselmayer said.

County Executive Mark Harris said reduced access to high-speed internet hampers business in rural areas. For example, he said dairy farms have to file payroll taxes online, and many have a difficult time because they don’t have access to high-speed internet.

Some farmers even have to drive to a location with Wi-Fi to submit payroll because they don’t have access to the internet on their farms, he added.

“It would help business all over the county if we could extend Wi-Fi further,” Harris said.

Beyond helping farmers, the grant application says current internet speeds hurt tourism in the lakeshore towns of Poygan, Winneconne and Omro, as visitors cut their stays short because they can’t work remotely.

Aside from boosting tourism, the application added that US Internet would hire and train 15-20 new staff members for fiber optic technician positions in Wisconsin.

“We want to hire local people because we want to be able to train those local people for high paying future-proof jobs,” Kesselmayer said. “We want to be able to pay a good wage to anybody in the area who’s willing to learn.”

The company would send local employees to fiber optic technician training, where they could learn a trade that will “be around for a long time and offer a lot of flexibility,” Kesselmayer added.

Art Rathjen, Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp. director of strategic initiatives, attended meetings between US Internet and the townships that would benefit from the grant’s approval, finding that “everybody agrees they could use better internet services.”

While Oshkosh is one of the communities with faster internet speeds in the state, Rathjen said there’s a void in nearby rural communities. He added that rural communities are home to businesses and professional services that have the same internet needs as those in cities.

“Internet is your fourth utility, and 20 years from now, no one will see it as any different than water, electric or sewage,” he said.

Kesselmayer said the Public Service Commission will livestream their discussion about how broadband expansion funds will be dispersed on March 5. By March 6, he hopes to know whether or not US Internet received a grant.

Retirement: Two professors reflect

From page 1

In 1980, Joann began teaching accounting at UWO. At the time, Sage Hall did not exist, and the geography department was in the section of Halsey Science Center that was not air conditioned.

During the summer, John said the offices facing the sun were not habitable, and most of the faculty checked their mail late at night to avoid the heat.

“I left thermometers occasionally on the desk and mid-90s were common temperatures inside that building,” he said.

Faculty members were much closer in the 1980s. John said the geography department, in particular, was a “very harmonious, very supportive department.”

In fact, when John and Joann had their son in the mid 80s, all of their baby furniture was handed down from faculty members in the geography department.

“We all supported each other in multiple ways,” John said. “We supported each other with advice, and discussion of what would be best approaches to scholarship.”

Experiencing budget cuts

Over the last 10 to 15 years, John said the geography department has been “whittled down” by a consistently shrinking budget and early retirements.

Joann said the university had more faculty members when the couple began teaching, and that budget cuts have systematically reduced faculty numbers.

“When you’ve got a budget that’s 90% people and you’ve got to cut 10% each year, you’re going to cut the people,” she said. “There’s no more supplies to cut; I’ve been buying my own paper and my own printer cartridges for my printer for the last three years.”

Even with staff reductions, John added that research expectations have increased in recent years.

“We’ve had an increase in teaching over the last several

years,” he said. “For those individuals who are newcomers, they’re faced with higher research expectations than we did 40 years ago.”

Technology in the classroom

Beside budget constraints and increased research expectations, the duo has also witnessed technology becoming more prevalent in the classroom.

When they began teaching, there were no PowerPoints with notes, nor laptops or smartphones in class.

John showed geography classes maps that he would pull down from above the whiteboard, or he would display transparencies with a classroom projector.

Rather than use a laser pointer to point things out on a map, he would use a long pole.

Joann said chalkboards were more widely used when she began teaching. She described her clothes as being littered with white spots from chalk dust at the end of a day of teaching.

“I always liked to wear dark clothing at that time and I would end up with white spots all over,” she said.

The rewards of teaching

Beyond technological advancements, the couple said seeing their students grow into professionals has been the most rewarding aspect of their four decades at UWO.

John has seen some of his students go on to become geography professors at other universities, while Joann has seen students go on to become chief financial officers at large companies.

“That always gives you a huge amount of satisfaction, to see somebody who you saw as an undergraduate who has gone on to graduate school and done great things,” John said.

Joann has cherished the opportunity to educate and build relationships with students.

“It’s all about people,” she said. “Without relationships with people in a variety of roles, you’re just a talking head.”



Courtesy of Polk Library
Joann and John Cross look back at 40 years at UW Oshkosh.

Embracing retirement

Through all of the changes, Joann and John have been together and supported each other through thick and thin. They’ve reviewed each other’s academic papers, they’ve vented about frustrations and they’ve enjoyed making Oshkosh their home.

“At our retirement party, we had friends from all different parts of the university and the city,” Joann said, reflecting on the many relationships they’ve built since coming to Oshkosh 40 years ago.

Leaving a lasting impact

Their contributions to the university have not gone unnoticed. Barbara Rau, dean of the College of Business, said Joann has been dedicated to continually improving the accounting department at UWO through both teaching and advising.

“Dr. Cross made lasting connections with many students,” Rau said in a written statement. “It is a common occurrence when I run into an accounting alum, to be asked if Dr. Cross is still teaching, followed by a



John Cross



Joann Cross

comment about her positive influence on their lives, her dedication to the profession, and how much she cared about the students.”

Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs John Koker said John mentored him when he was a new department chair, and then offered support and guidance when Koker became dean of the College of Letters and Science.

“I will always remember the times we worked together, and I am thankful for having the chance to be his colleague,” Koker said in a written statement.

A new beginning

In retirement, John said he plans to finish a book about the geography of Wisconsin and Joann is taking an online class, as well as contributing to various nonprofit organizations.

While they may be done teaching at UWO, they have been given emeritus status, meaning they will retain their offices and campus emails.

“I think we’ll keep busy,” Joann said. “After we retired, we took a week off and went to South Carolina and Georgia, but other than that we’ve been here.”

OSA gears up for spring elections

Concerns raised regarding spring break email scams

By Carter Us labar
uslab78@uwosh.edu

Student government elections

Oshkosh Student Assembly office manager Tyler Klaver announced that the deadline for students to run for OSA president and vice president was 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

At the time of writing, no students besides the ticket of Ian McDonald, the current student body vice president, and Sydney Devitt, the current OSA speaker pro-tempore have formally submitted paperwork to run for the student body’s top leadership po-



sitions.

Klaver said the unopposed race isn’t out of the ordinary for UWO but is not a sign of student apathy.

“We’ve gotten a good number of senator applications,” Klaver said. “Last year, only two ran.

This year we’re pushing seven or eight officially.”

There is also a write-in option on the ballot, although a student must receive at least fifty write-in votes to be considered to make up for the fifty signatures that are required when a slate turns in their candidacy paperwork. The OSA election takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10 and 11.

Last spring’s student-body elections were marred by a Snapchat that surfaced March 12, 2019. The Snapchat was of a Banfield-McDonald for OSA campaign poster accompanied by the text “UWO Vote for these guys today unless you want a lesbian or a hmong to win.”

All three 2019 slates condemned the post for its racist and divisive language.

Spring break scams

OSA co-adviser Jean Kwaterski briefed the assembly on emails that UWO students may be receiving promoting spring break trips. Kwaterski said that she does not know of any UWO spring break trips at this time that are not service-based, and that students should be wary of emails claiming to be related to the university.

“Especially if they’re saying ‘Hey, give us money,’ we want to make sure it’s a legitimate group,” Kwaterski said. “If you’re just getting a random email from some place off campus, just realize that they’re not affiliated with the university, and do some investigation into it so you don’t lose money.”

Kwaterski said this issue came

to her attention after she was contacted by a student about the legitimacy of a trip. She went on to say two students have given money to these trips; one providing \$50, another providing \$250.



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Award-winning play debuts at UWO

By Carter Uslabar
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“Beast on the Moon,” known the world over and written by UW Oshkosh professor Richard Kalinoski, is opening for its first performance on the experimental stage of the Frederic March Theatre on Feb. 27

The play has been translated into 19 languages and has been produced across the globe from Montreal to London to Paris, to towns in remote Siberia. This is the first time Kalinoski’s show is being produced at UWO.

“Beast on the Moon” has been awarded for its outstanding merit as a play as well as for its relevance to the Armenian community.

From the first moments of the play, the arrhythmic clacking of footsteps anxiously pacing the stage, the audience is drawn into the narrative surrounding the relationship of Aram, an Armenian refugee, and his child-bride, Seta.

The audience is pulled into the poignant dissonance between Aram and Seta. The two can hardly relate on any level other than that of the trauma of their past, escaping the Armenian genocide and their struggles with infertility. The experimental theatre places the audience intimately close to the stage.

“When you have a story that really tugs on your heartstrings — a story that connects with its audience, really bringing it closer to the people who are witnessing it makes that a lot easier,” Max Benitz, who plays Aram, said of the venue.

“I get to work with a character that has all these intricacies to him and he has this deep sadness,



FROM LEFT: Ali Basham as Seta, Max Benitz as Aram and Dawson Fish as a young Vincent fill the stage as Aram confronts Seta. Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

The language has a beautiful music to it and a lyrical poetry to it.

- Chris Flieller

but at the same time,” Benitz said. “Aram is always masking that and trying to become more than that, and being able to play with that has been really great.”

Aram, who has made his living in America as a photographer, is tortured daily by taking portraits of families. He and Seta are unable to conceive a child — Seta became infertile after starving during the genocide.

This is Kalinoski’s first time directing “Beast on the Moon” in about two decades, giving the actors a unique experience of being directed by the playwright.

“It’s not too often when you

get the privilege of having the playwright in the room — almost never — so to have the man who wrote the play in the room has been wonderful,” Benitz said. “You’re always able to ask questions and really able to build the character.”

Chris Flieller plays the role of a grown version of the child Aram and Seta eventually take in.

“Working with the director who also happens to be the playwright can be a little daunting, but Richard is very generous, and really tries to put you at ease about your role in the show,” Flieller said. “So really, I’ve had a lovely time working on the show. It’s an easy part to do, because it’s written so beautifully. The words just kind of spill out. It was easy to memorize because the language has a beautiful music to it and a lyrical poetry to it.

It was easy to get into me, and it’s easy to give out.”

Ali Basham plays Seta, the child-bride who learns she is infertile during the play.

“It’s hard to convey the emotions when there are so many in the show. You want to make it obvious, when you’re trying to express something as an actor, but you want it to be realistic,” Basham said. “Just finding the character of Seta herself and having the personality, but still trying to deal with her past of the genocide and being an orphan and losing her family and everything.”

The play’s subject and theme is full of sadness, with vignettes of Aram and Seta’s decaying marriage punctuated by fading, dim blue lights.

“It’s still horribly relevant,” Flieller said. “We are at a moment now in history when they

are more refugees — displaced persons — than other time in human history. This story of refugees, finding their way, finding their place in an America that welcomes them hasn’t lost any of its charge over the years.”

For Kalinoski, the experience of directing his own play for the first time in 20 years has been revealing.

“The eye-opening part of it is that I find myself, as a director, questioning some of the choices that the playwright made,” Kalinoski kidded.

Kalinoski said that the UWO production has a few minor changes to it; a word here, a detail there to make the play more concrete, which he said he never expected to do.

“It’s my play,” Kalinoski said. “I can change it if I want.”



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Aram and Seta get in a shouting match, each referencing Bible verses to enhance their claims. The tension between Aram and Seta becomes more palpable after the intermission, coming to a boiling point on several occasions.

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Titan TV premieres 3 new shows

By **Jelissa Burns**
burnsj29@uwosh.edu

It can get pretty boring watching The Office for the eighth time in a row. If you’re looking for some new shows to tune in to, Titan TV has a variety of shows for students and this spring semester they have introduced three new shows to the line up: “Talking Pictures,” “Breaking Sounds” and “The Tea”. Find Titan TV on Spectrum channel 57, channel 77.1 if you’re on campus, or on Roku and Apple TV.

“Talking Pictures”

What started out as a class project has now developed into a full Titan TV show. Andrew Mertins and Gideon Patrick star alongside each other to offer commentary, critiques, reviews and suggestions on films, old and new.

Each episode will follow a theme such as “Friday the 13th,” superhero films, the Oscars and more. The two co-hosts will dis-



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

Breaking Sounds starts filming for its second season on Titan TV

cuss different topics such as newly released movies, old films and events that relate to the theme. The show is casual and unscripted to allow for honest opinions on the topics being mentioned. “Talking Pictures” isn’t just a show for film buffs; it connects with a variety of audiences.

Executive producer Alex Johnson says that the show provides entertainment for anyone.

“A business major might watch the show and say ‘Some of this I have no idea what you’re talking about, but I do like movies too,’ so you find a commonality,” Johnson

said. “It’s a fun show and we have some big ideas.”

Tune in to “Talking Pictures” every Friday at 4:30 p.m. starting Feb 28. For suggestions and film requests, contact executive producer Alex Johnson at johnsa27@uwosh.edu.

“Breaking Sounds”

Now on its second season, “Breaking Sounds” is a show that features new local bands. The host, Aleksandra Miladinovic, will interview the featured artist or band, and give them the chance to perform their music.

While the first season featured

mostly rock bands, executive producer Franklin Roberts hopes to include more genres in season two. “Breaking Sounds” is the perfect show for people who want to expand their music choice or for people new to the city.

“I don’t know much about music from around here, so it’s really a learning experience for me,” Roberts said. “If you don’t like going out, you can just get the music from watching the show.”

All music lovers should tune in to “Breaking Sounds” every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. starting March 3. This season is expecting more bands and performers, but they are still looking for more. If you know any local artists, contact executive producer Franklin Roberts at roberf55@uwosh.edu.

“The Tea”

Secrets, lies and drama- you can expect all of that and more if you tune in to “The Tea” on Titan TV.

“The Tea” is a scripted reality TV style show that follows four talk show hosts behind the scenes of their talk show, exposing the drama that ensues in the workplace.

The idea came from executive producer Kaitlyn Smith

and friends when they wondered what it would be like to have a reality TV show centered around them. “The Tea” is a drama comedy that appeals to any audience.

“This is a show that not just RTF students are going to want to watch, any student will want to watch this because we anticipate it being that good of quality,” Smith said. “It will surprise you; there’s a lot of drama.”

“The Tea” airs every other Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. starting March 31. If you are interested in joining the crew or volunteering, even for a day, contact Kaitlyn Smith at smithk69@uwosh.edu.



Follow the Titan TV shows on Instagram to stay up to date on new episodes and behind-the-scenes sneak peaks @talkingpictures_ttv, @breakingsoundstv, and @titanteav.



James Kies’ Key Picks

Hello! My name is James, resident music composition student and music lover! This week’s playlist is chock full of trippy electronic music. “Dreamtime” will take you to a dreamstate with washy synths and insane percussion. “Preseudos” combines orchestral writing and gloopy sound design. “Cold World” is a journey through murky sounds and eerie vocal samples. Hope you enjoy.

Dreamtime

Flume
Hi This Is Flume
2019



Preseudos


Alam Mor
Long Awaited Journey
2017

Cold World

SOPHIE
Oil of Every Pearl’s
Un-Insides
2018



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Directed by Richard Kalinoski

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Box Office Hours | Monday, Feb. 24 - Friday, Feb. 28, 2020
Noon - 4 PM | Monday, March 2 - Friday, March 6, 2020
Noon - 4 PM and 1 hour before each performance.

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Opinion

Speaking out about sexual assault



Graphic by Susan Lor

By Sophia Voight
voighs33@uwosh.edu

Allegations of sexual assault are often met with scrutiny when victims come forward with their traumatic experiences. Women who have been sexually assaulted often withhold reporting their attacks for fear of being blamed, ignored or the assailant receiving no repercussions. When women do speak out about sexual assault, they are frequently subjected to more trauma and distress as people tend to scrutinize their experiences. This is especially true for victims who come forward with their stories of sexual assault months and years after it occurred. Women who choose to speak out about their sexual assault long after it took place often are

accused of lying and seeking attention. Each allegation of sexual assault should be treated with the same level of fairness and empathy, regardless of the amount of time it took for the victim to speak about the incident. Earlier this week, the catalyst to the #MeToo movement received a historic update, as Harvey Weinstein was convicted of two sex crimes. Over 80 women came forward during the movement and accused him of sexually abusing them as far back as thirty years ago. A frequent sense of confusion around cases like these where women report their sexual assault long after it took place is why they didn't speak out when it happened and what motivated them to speak out years later. Waiting to speak up about a

sexual assault, whether it's days, weeks or even years later should not diminish the validity of the accusation. Whether in Hollywood or on a college campus, issues of sexual assault are very similar. There are many reasons why people would choose to not report a sexual assault immediately after it occurred and why they would feel the need to speak out about it later in life. Just because a woman may have chosen not to report an assault right after it happened, that shouldn't invalidate the claim if she chooses to talk about it later. Victims of sexual assault often get scrutinized for reporting their experiences. Women are subjected to victim-blaming in which they are made to feel at fault for what happened to them. Women are often told that they

were "asking for it" and questioned about what they were wearing or how much they were drinking as if those factors could indicate whether or not they had an assault coming for them. Being subjected to questioning after an assault can be traumatic for victims. People often try to avoid situations where they are required to relive painful experiences, which may cause victims to not want to report their assault. It can be traumatic for women to talk about sexual assault immediately after it took place. Even when victims do report, police and authorities rarely pursue action and perpetrators get away with no charges. This can keep women from reporting their assault, as they know that even if they did, nothing may be done. Which is why victims often

speak out about their assault after hearing other victims talk about their experiences. It's harder to ignore the voices of multiple people than it is to disregard the accusations of a single person. Safety comes in numbers, and when more people know that they are not alone in a situation, they can feel more secure in talking about traumatic experiences. While claims of sexual abuse and assault should be addressed in a fair manner and all sides should be heard, waiting to speak out should not be an overarching factor on whether to discredit a victim's allegation. Women should feel comfortable coming forward with allegations of rape and sexual assault no matter when they choose to do so.

Grocery Bingo mocks food insecurity

By Sophia Voight
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UW Oshkosh hosted its very own Hunger Games last Sunday with bingo games in which participants could win groceries as prizes. Grocery Bingo offered students an entertaining way to win some free snacks and meals by pandering to the broke and starving college students' desire for nourishment. But is grocery bingo just a fun opportunity for students to win food or is it mocking food insecurity in college students by getting them to play for their supper? The bingo games were open to all students and were free to play, with a wide variety of prizes including boxes of cereal, canned goods, bags of chips, cartons of juice, granola bars, Goldfish, Pop-Tarts and Jell-O cups. Such an event almost jeers at college students' food insecurity by giving it away as a prize in a game, as opposed to providing adequate food support to students in the first place.

It acknowledges that students need and want food assistance but does so by dangling it over their heads as a possible prize in a game. The bingo game was held in Reeve Memorial Union's Titan Underground, the same destination of UWO's new food pantry, The Cabinet, where students can pick



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

Students played for groceries at Titan Underground's bingo night.

up food items for free, rather than having to try and win it, exhibiting somewhat juxtaposing scenes. Grocery bingo can be a fun activity for students who enjoy the regular bingo games that the

university hosts, but who could also use some extra food, free of charge. It's not as if the students who played were all on the brink of starvation, looking for any opportunity to get food. Students who went to play grocery bingo came for the game as well as the prospect of winning food. Freshman Halle Braun said she

went to grocery bingo to have fun and get some free groceries. "It's nice getting free food when you're a broke college kid," Braun said. Sophomore Jaime Sydow said she attended the event because she enjoys playing bingo but was also attracted to the idea of getting free food. "Food is expensive to buy," Sydow said. "If you can come win a few things, that will feed me for a couple of days." But the idea of acknowledging college students' need for food and deciding to make it a prize in a game is a bit satirical. Groceries aren't glamorous prizes; no gourmet food was given out at Grocery Bingo. Yet the students who won seemed thrilled, cheering and eagerly running up to select their prize because when you're a broke college student, winning food can seem like winning the jackpot. Groceries are something we all need, especially college students who typically suffer through ramen noodle diets while paying for enormous college expenses. On a college campus, where many students struggle with finances, paying for food and getting enough to eat, Grocery Bingo can be an exciting way to give food out to students, but on the other hand, it seems somewhat satirical to make students play a game to get essential nourishment.

*“Whatcha Think?”
about cellphone addiction?*



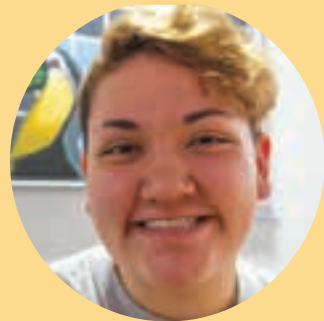
Elizabeth Rodriguez, freshman
“I believe cellphone addiction is very true and it distracts you from studying and just having regular conversations.”



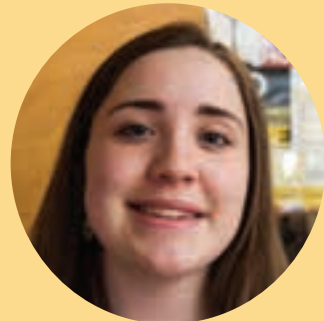
Keyara Berrig, sophomore
“Some days I’m definitely addicted to my phone. You can just look around when people are eating and everyone has their phone.”



Morgan Demrow, freshman
“Obviously it has increased a lot in the past years. Sometimes it might get out of control for some people.”



Mikayla Martin, sophomore
“It sucks that it’s a thing and it shouldn’t be, but nobody can help it.”



Morgan Mulroe, junior
“I think some people do have it. I constantly have my phone with me. I don’t really think of it as an addiction.”

Put your phone away and talk to people

By Daniel McKearn
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I can guarantee that those minutes before class officially starts, you are on your phone. Most are probably getting those quick texts or snaps in, browsing Instagram or scrolling through Facebook.

There always seems to be a reason to use your phone before class starts, but there are far greater reasons to talk to those around you before class starts.

It may be awkward or cumbersome to most, and that is all part of life. Comfort comes to us so easily, and when it’s time for something uncomfortable we often choose the stance of not partaking.

Texting has no delay; it is instant communication that we can do comfortably most anywhere and anyplace in our daily lives. And that’s why we do it before class; it is easy, comfortable, and gets us out of talking to others for a while.

Many of us are avid texters, and we know how to talk through the phone. But face-to-face communication is a whole other world.

There is body language, speed and tone of others’ voices and eye contact. And it is precisely those factors that can be awkward when talking to someone for the first time.

Everyone we meet is a stranger at first — it is only through those first conversations you have that they eventually can turn into a friend. Who knows, maybe another great friend is out there just waiting to talk with you.

Wouldn’t it be better to know who is around you instead of that awkward silence of staring at your phones? And if they don’t turn out to be a great friend, at least you are more comfortable with having a conversation with new people.

Those instances where you are surrounded by people that you don’t know — like getting a new job, moving schools and having new classes — are just a small set

of examples where unknown people will be around you.

Learning how to talk to strangers now is better than dealing with it later. Even a simple greeting can evolve into a greater conversation.

Communication is a powerful and unique aspect in our lives that can allow you to lead better lives, both socially and professionally.

An example of how it helps us in life includes teaching us how to be patient. It cannot be taught, so only through experience can we learn how to master the skill of patience.

Now, more than ever before, we live in a time where we can receive information in an instant, thanks in part to our phones and other technology.

We can figure out what is happening all around the world through social media and order almost anything we desire online with a few clicks. But at what cost?

We find it troublesome and almost problematic to handle certain situations of delay in our life. Waiting in lines, getting stuck in traffic and waiting for

wanting to do something.

Phones are a great device for communication, don’t get me wrong, but they are also a great way to get distracted very easily, which may lead to procrastination, and that doesn’t manage to get us very far.

It is important to emphasize the power of conversation. It teaches us important skills such as patience through listening to others and unique and meaningful interper-

sonal communication skills that allow us to handle potentially awkward situations.

It may be that your neighbor in class is too shy to strike up a conversation. You need to be the one to break the ice and start talking to your new friend.

Start talking before class starts. It may be a burden at first, but it is worth it.



Graphic by Tatum Spevacek

Tips and tricks: living off campus

By Jessica Rosga
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While deciding whether to live off campus, some of the most pertinent things that come to mind are how much freedom awaits and the possibility of cheaper living costs compared to campus. Before you get ahead of yourself and take the leap into more independence, there are a few things that need to be considered.

Walking or driving to campus

Do you plan on walking or driving to campus every day for class? If you plan on walking, I highly recommend you consider staying a half mile or less off of campus.

During September and October, the weather will seem like a cake walk, but once that first snow happens, your motivation to make that walk will decrease. The farthest walk is from the apartments off of Pearl Avenue. Here is where places such as Morgan Crossing and the Radfords are located. This walk takes about 12 minutes to the

nearest academic building, Sage Hall. If you live in the homes on the east side of campus, it would take 12 minutes to walk to Sage as well, but this would be your longest walk to any of the academic buildings.

Price

Price plays just as big of a role in where you live. Besides considering the walk to campus, also consider the idea of how much you would like to spend.

Rent can cost \$500 a month per person, while some places can cost as low as \$300 a month per person. The biggest difference is usually the quality of the home or building and what is included in rent.

A helpful tip is to look at what is all included in your rent, especially water and electricity. These are the two main utilities that vary the most month to month.

If you can find a price that you want to stick to and also find most, if not all, utilities included — you hit the jackpot.

Overall Location

Of course, the distance to campus is a high priority, but there may be more to think about than just campus when it comes to location. In Oshkosh, there are a lot of things to do but one of the main ones, especially once you turn 21, are the bars. While the apartments on Pearl Avenue, as mentioned before, are a longer walk to campus than the homes located off of the east side of campus, they are a shorter walk to the campus bars. Depending on how often you plan to engage in these activities, it may change your mind when thinking of the prices of Ubers. This side is also closer to places such as Ma-

honey’s, Jimmy John’s, Big Apple Bagels and the Fox River. If these are places that you work at or often go to, maybe the south side of campus by Wisconsin Street is more appealing to you than a location like Scott Avenue or Cherry Street.

Overall, Oshkosh has a wide variety of places that students can live in that are still near the central campus. Most of the off-campus housing is cheaper than the prices of the dorms, which makes this transfer more appealing. As long as you keep in mind the items above, you should be able to prioritize what is most important to you before deciding where to rent.



GROCERIES*
Don't forget - living off campus usually means no more food plan! Remember to budget how much and often you plan on purchasing groceries.

Sports

Dome opens with doubleheader dominance

By Greg Sense
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The UW Oshkosh softball team opened the UWO Rec Plex dome to intercollegiate competition on Feb. 21, with two wins against Marian University of Fond du Lac by scores of 10-9 and 10-1.

The Rec Plex, according to the university’s website, is a 4.35 acre complex, consisting of synthetic turf, a 3,000+ foot support building, LED lighting and a seasonal dome.

Although the Rec Plex was opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 11, 2018, the Feb. 21 doubleheader was the first time the facility saw intercollegiate action.

As reported in a Dec. 14, 2018 article of the Oshkosh Northwestern, UWO athletic director Nathan Scott said the motivation to build the Rec Plex came from the desire to have athletic fields for intramural and club sports in a more centralized location on campus.

According to the same Northwestern article, the Rec Plex project cost \$7.2 million.

Although the Rec Plex was built primarily for intramural sports and as a fitness resource for students, Scott said UWO softball playing intercollegiate games in the Rec Plex was always seen as a possibility.

“We knew it would be a possibility for athletics to host NCAA



The Rec Plex opened on May 11, 2018 and hosted the UWO softball team’s first games of the 2020 season on Feb. 21.

softball games.” Scott said. “There were some slight field modifications required to meet NCAA requirements, but the softball coach was able to make these changes with temporary fencing.”

UWO softball’s inaugural game in “The Titan Dome” was one to remember, as the Titans rallied back from a late-inning deficit to win the first game of its doubleheader against Marian

University.

The early innings of the first game were high-scoring for both teams.

By the end of the third inning the Titans and the Sabres were tied at seven runs apiece.

Marian was able to score another run to pull to an 8-7 lead in the fourth inning, and the lead held going into the sixth inning.

The UWO softball team dialed in a clutch performance in the

Courtesy of UW Oshkosh Flickr

sixth inning as sophomore Sidney Budzinski sparked the Titan offense with a one-out single.

Budzinski advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt from freshman Emily Cliver, sophomore Gabby Buikema hit a two-out single and senior Amanda McIlhany walked loading the bases.

Sophomore Ana Iliopoulos broke the game open for the Titans, hitting a line drive just in-

side the third base line, scoring three runs putting UWO ahead 10-8.

Marian University came close to extending the game, but sophomore Madelyn Fink was able to successfully defend the lead, recording her first save as a Titan in the 10-9 victory.

Head coach Scott Beyer said that the team’s ability to stay cool under pressure was essential to the team’s comeback victory on Friday.

“I was very proud of the resilience of our team Friday night.” Beyer said. “There are a lot of emotions that go into the first games of the season, and to have a game that was a back and forth battle like the first game was, only compounds those emotions. I couldn’t be happier with how we kept our emotions in check which allowed us to continue to keep competing and fighting, and ultimately pull out the late inning win.”

Fink delivered again for the Titans in the second game of the doubleheader, only giving up one hit in a stellar five-inning performance that saw the Titans come away with a 10-1 victory.

The UWO softball team will continue their season Friday, March 6, in Rosemont, Illinois and compete against Lake Forest College of Lake Forest, Illinois and Buena Vista University of Storm Lake, Iowa in a doubleheader.

Track dusts competition at Titan Challenge

By Josh Woolwine
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The UW Oshkosh men’s and women’s track and field teams finished first and second in their divisions respectively at the Titan Challenge at the Kolf Sports Center on Saturday. The Titan men finished with a whopping 157.5 points, 59 points ahead of second place UW-Eau Claire, while the Titan women finished with 92 points, 19 points behind UWEC.

The men were paced by finishing in the top four places in the 60-meter dash led by freshman Jaylen Grant, with Robert Ogbuli, Denzel Thomas, and Benjamin Jung finishing in second, third and fourth respectively. The Titan men also got a boost from Jamyle Brantley in the long jump and Steven Potter, set a personal record in the mile run. Despite this, Potter is shooting for an 800m title.

“Even though I am very pleased with my new mile PR I’ll be going after the 800 meter race this year at Nationals because I am currently ranked third in the nation in D-III,” Potter said.

Potter also says that getting out of his heat at the upcoming Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Indoor Championships on Friday and Saturday will be crucial.

“This Friday at conference I plan on getting out with my heat because a few of those guys have

PRs [personal records] that are faster than my own which will carry me to a faster time,” he said. “If I could cut two to three seconds off my mile that would secure a place in the mile at the National meet.”

Meanwhile, on the women’s side, the Titans were led by freshman Libby Geisness in the 800m run, alongside Amanda Van Den Plas in the mile run. Geisness finished first among a field of 45 runners.

“I knew the race was going to be competitive from the start,” Geisness said. “As we had another girl in our heat that was taking us out to pace the first half of the race. I felt really well the whole race and once I crossed the finish line and looked at the scoreboard, my jaw actually dropped because I was in shock that I had just run the time that I did.”

Geisness also mentions that there were several factors that helped give her the boost she needed.

“The last lap of the 800 is when I realized that I had more left in me and that I needed to give everything I had in order to see the time I was going for,” she said. “The energy in the room was really exciting and helped me push all the way through. Once I got to the last stretch of the race, my coach, Eamon, was on the corner yelling to keep pushing all the way through the line. I could see my teammates cheering me on



Freshman Jaylen Grant runs a 6.81 60-meter dash, a time that’s good enough for second fastest in Division-III track and a new school record for the event. Grant also won WAC Track and Field Athlete of the Week honors for his performance.

ahead at the finish line, and that is all that was going through my head—to keep pushing and to finish as strong as I could all the way through the finish line.

Geisness, who is ranked 11th in the nation in the 800m run, is doing whatever she can to maintain her current form down the home-stretch of the indoor season.

“It is really cool to currently be ranked 11th and I’m really thankful to be able to compete at this

level,” she said. “Throughout the season I have been really focused on getting good sleep, eating good, hydrating, having really solid workouts on workout days and overall just taking good care of myself. I’m excited to keep testing my limits and push myself out of my comfort zone. These next couple weeks are going to be very exciting and a whole different atmosphere and I’m glad I get to be apart of all of it.”

The WIAC Indoor Championship on Friday and Saturday is the last meet the team has before the national meets, and then it will be time to prepare for the outdoor season.

“There is no mile race in the outdoor season,” Potter said. “but I will be looking to go after my 1500 meter PR in hopes of double qualifying in both the 800 and 1500 meter race for outdoor nats.”



Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

The UW Oshkosh baseball team looks to rebound from a lackluster 2019 season with an energetic young roster.

Young roster looks to make an impact in 2020

By Greg Sense
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The UW Oshkosh baseball team ranks third in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference preseason poll, and will begin their season against North Park University of Chicago, Illinois on Feb. 29. UWO hopes to rebound from a disappointing 2019 where the Titans finished fifth in the WIAC and had an in-conference record of 11-13. The Titans have a core of 11 letter-winning players returning from the 2019 season, led by standout junior infielder Hunter Staniske.

Staniske received all-WIAC Honorable Mention recognition for his performance in the 2019 season, where he ended the season with a .333 batting average. Despite the returning core, the Titans are largely made up of underclassmen that lack experience but, according to Staniske, are eager to prove themselves at the college level. “Our biggest weakness is definitely experience,” Staniske said. “Our biggest strength is we have a lot of confidence and we have a lot of new people that want to step in and play baseball at this level.” Although the underclassmen

on the team may lack experience, Staniske said the upperclassmen on the team are making sure to bring the younger members of the team up to speed. “We have a lot of incoming freshman,” Staniske said. “So, a lot of them ask us upperclassmen what to look for because we have experience in that situation. Definitely, as a team, we are doing pretty good at helping our younger guys.” Junior Will Michalski will be the top returning pitcher for the Titans, starting six games for the team last season. Outfielder sophomore Sean

Cummins led the Titans in home runs last season with five, but despite having the numbers of a power hitter, Cummins doesn’t consider himself one. “I just swing the bat hard every time,” Cummins said. “A lot of times if you make contact it will go. So I wouldn’t say I’m necessarily going for power.” The WIAC preseason poll, which is conducted by the league’s head coaches as well as information directors, ranked the conference’s baseball teams from first to seventh as follows: UW-Whitewater, UW-La Crosse, UW Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-Stout, UW

Stevens Point, Finlandia University. The Titans have a long stretch ahead of them as they will not play their first home game until March 25. Although it could be a struggle to begin the season with a long stretch of road games, Cummins is undaunted. “I don’t really think it’s that big of a deal,” Cummins said. “If you look back at my freshman year we were pretty much on the road the whole month [of March.] I think a lot of us have experience with it, but we have a lot of freshmen so we will see how it goes.”

Titans push past Blue Devils, onto Warhawks



By Cory Sparks
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UW Oshkosh women’s basketball pulled away late in the fourth quarter to defeat UW-Stout, allowing them to advance to the second round of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship. Before the Tuesday night game tipped off, the Titans split their last two games of the regular season with a close 75-71 loss at UW-Whitewater on Feb. 19 and a 88-49 blowout win against UW-River Falls last Saturday. When all was said and done with regular season play, the team finished with an overall record of 15-10 and the four-seed in the six-team WIAC tournament. Junior guard Leah Porath led the WIAC in points with 17.7 per game, but got some help down the stretch from Nikki Arneson with 33 points against UW-La Crosse on Feb. 8 and Katie Ludwig with 23 points against UWRF on Saturday. “Through the ups and downs this season, this team has always stuck together and have tried to fix things together as a team,” sophomore guard Katie Ludwig said following the home win against UWRF. “I feel like this has led to the success that we are having right now at the end of the regular season.” The 15-10 Titans showed that

they can hold their own against nationally-ranked competition on numerous occasions, splitting the two game season series against No. 4 UWW and losing by close margins to No. 3 DePaul University (60-55) and No. 10 Loras College (88-83 in overtime). Oshkosh has also split the season series against UWL, a team that is just on the outside of the Division III Women’s Basketball rankings according to D3hoops.com. “We just didn’t have that A-game as much as we would’ve liked,” Fischer said. “We can go punch for punch with better teams in the country. At our best, we are as good as most teams in the nation.” However, that A-game showed up when the Titans needed it most against UWS in their crucial win-or-go-home showdown. The Titans and Blue Devils played a close game for the first two quarters, going into halftime with a score of 26-22. Oshkosh had a total of three shot-clock violations in the first half, keeping Stout in the game. “Our offense was flowing pret-

ty well, but those shot clock violations really impacted us,” junior forward Nikki Arneson said. “In the second half, we knew that we had to drive the lane.” Arneson put on a show by leading all scorers with 29 points on a 9-for-11 shooting effort. After being limited to zero points in the Feb. 19 game against UWW, Arneson has averaged 31 points in her last two games. “We have two seniors that mean so much to this program, and feel that having to extend our season is something that we all want. We’re working well together right now,” Arneson said. With this victory, Oshkosh has now won five of their last six matchups. Their next game will be against UWW in the WIAC semi-final, and UW-Eau Claire will travel to UW-La Crosse to play the other half of the two competitions. Both games will take place on Thursday, Feb. 27 with a tip-off time of 7 p.m. and a spot in the WIAC final.

“At our best, we’re as good as most teams in the nation.”

- Bradley Fischer

April Lee / Advance-Titan
Olivia Campbell drives to the lane and finishes with a right-hand layup to in UW Oshkosh’s 68-60 win over UW-Stout. Campbell had seven points, five rebounds, one assist and one steal.