

# The Advance-Titan

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH CAMPUSES

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ADVANCETITAN.COM

**Positive Tests:** UW Oshkosh  
82 (3.5%)



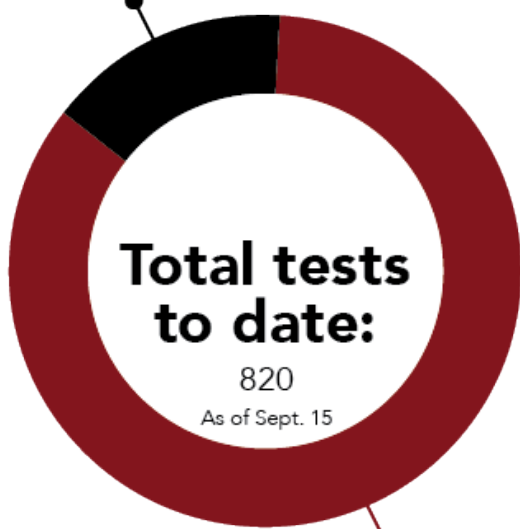
**Negative Tests:**  
2,284 (96.5%)

**Positive Tests:** UW Madison  
1,516 (5.4%)



**Negative Tests**  
26,835 (94.7%)

**Positive Tests:** UW La Crosse  
151 (18%)



**Negative Tests:**  
669 (82%)

**Positive Tests:** Marquette  
39 (5%)



**Negative Tests:**  
757 (95%)

## The new normal

### COVID-19 cases rise in Wisconsin universities

By Carter Uslabar  
uslabe78@uwosh.edu

The staff of two UW Oshkosh campus residence halls were quarantined after a staff member's coronavirus test result came back falsely positive.

The Stewart and Evans Halls' staff received a GroupMe message on Sept. 7 instructing them to quarantine in place until further notice.

The student who falsely tested positive for the coronavirus through the rapid-antigen testing returned to receive an additional PCR test.

Peggy Breister, UWO director of marketing and communications, said the PCR tests are sent out of state for analysis, which creates a delay in the results.

"Before and after completing the PCR test (the same or following day), this individual was instructed to self-isolate for a period of time," Breister said. "If the individual never had symptoms, this isolation time period is at least 10 days after the test date."

According to the UWO coronavirus policy confirmed by the Winnebago County Health Department and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, anyone who contact tracers identify as close contacts to the person tested are notified of their need to quarantine for at least 14 days from the last day of close contact.

The staff of the two freshman dorms were told they would not be leading orientation for their residents. They were later informed they must relocate to on-campus quarantine facilities in South Gruenhagen hall or leave campus and go home.

While the PCR test result came back negative, the staff of the two resident halls were among the first to experience an on-campus quarantine.

The students were assigned to individual rooms in South Gruenhagen, which is one of UWO's two on-campus quarantine facilities. Each student was also assigned a specific toilet stall, shower stall and sink to use for the duration of the quarantine.

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The data above represents antigen testing result reported on each university's COVID dashboard. Actual positive results may vary following PCR tests.

## Online learning 'new ballgame' for many academic instructors

Sophia Voight  
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Over 130 instructors completed the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) Summer 2020 Online Initiative that provided instructors with tools and strategies to teach effective online classes.

"Online learning is a new ballgame for many instructors," Instructional Designer Sarah Bradway said. "I think that having the summer training has really helped to get instructors up to speed."

CETL and Information Technology teamed up over July and August to provide 21 different courses designed to help instructors teach engaging and successful online courses during the pandemic.

demic.

Courses were divided into five categories including planning, selecting materials, building and facilitating online courses as well as implementing inclusive online teaching practices.

Instructors in the training course were able to choose from a variety of classes in each category based on their own needs.

To complete the program, instructors had to submit a two-page action plan detailing how the instructional training would be implemented into their own courses to create a high-quality online experience for students.

CETL Director Jordan Landry said the focus of the program was to make students feel supported and engaged in the online class-

room.

"We developed trainings that focused on how to build community and to be more visible to students in the online space," Landry said.

The spring Remote Instruction survey found that 64% of students reported feeling isolated from their instructors and classmates.

"The spring taught many instructors that one of the most effective things they could do to support students was to be authentic about what was happening," Landry said.

A portion of CETL's online initiative focused on helping instructors be more present and engaging in classes, where they might not get to see and interact with their

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Photo courtesy of UWO Flickr

UW Oshkosh instructors spent the summer preparing for a hybrid of in-person and virtual instruction.

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PIZZA THEFT

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COMIC BOOK GUYS

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COVID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES



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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.

Latest Awards  
First Place Best of Show Newspaper, Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), 2020  
Third Place Best of Show Website, ACP, 2020  
Fifth Place Best of Show Special Edition, ACP, 2020  
First Place Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation (WNAF) Better Newspaper Contest, 2020, in column writing, sports photography, page design and newspaper promotion  
Second Place WNAF Better Newspaper Contest, 2020, in public affairs reporting, editorial writing, column writing, infographic, page design, website and advertisement creation.

# ‘Community Bike’ fills transportation need

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
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Situated in a donated workshop across from Sadoff Recycling at 36 10th Ave., hundreds of bikes of every size and for every age are lined throughout. Helmets are stacked, waiting for their next users at the front door.

Every bike within the workshop has been donated through community members, the Oshkosh Police Department, apartment complexes and other nonprofit organizations in the Fox Valley.

“That’s why we call it ‘Community Bike,’” retired police officer Steve Sagmeister said. “Because it’s not just us, it’s the whole community that donates.”

Sagmeister has been director of the Oshkosh Community Bike Program for 10 years, coming out of the Interfaith Needs Response, where he was repairing bikes as an alternative form of transportation.

He first noticed that there was a need for transportation for those who, for example, could not get a driver’s license or who worked too early to take public transit.

“Transportation is always a need within the community, whether it’s giving out bus passes, whether it’s [getting] vehicles or, what we do, is providing that leg for people who can’t afford those for just doing basic needs of getting groceries and things like that,” Sagmeister said.

Each year, Sagmeister said that they aim to donate over 400 bikes back to the community.

Sagmeister added that the Bike Program can only be accessed by



Kaitlyn Scoville / Advance-Titan

Retired police officer Steve Sagmeister has been director of the Oshkosh Community Bike Program for 10 years where he repairs donated bikes to help fill the transportation gap in the Oshkosh.

referral from places such as the Christine Ann Center, Human Services, churches, the Oshkosh Area School District and the Salvation Army.

The Bike Program is only open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but the group of six retired men is working on expanding their hours.

Sagmeister added that because of the program’s limited hours, those who would like to donate can leave materials by the door outside. He added that the Sadoff employees are nice about bringing anything they see out there inside the workshop when it’s closed.

The thing the program is most

in need of at the moment are bike locks. However, anything is appreciated. No matter what the condition of the bike, they will either make them street-safe again or scrap them for parts in other bikes.

Some of Sagmeister’s coworkers said that repairing a bike can take anywhere from 30 minutes to a few days, but every fix is worth it when they know it will help someone who needs it.

“This is my first volunteer job that I’ve ever done,” Jack Verwiell, a volunteer at the Bike Program, said. “I get a lot of satisfaction out of giving when families come in and you see mothers and fathers

who can give their kid a bicycle to ride with them.

John Hobbins, Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church and Multicultural Outreach Coordinator for the OASD, said that the crew that repairs the bikes and gives them directly back to the community always outweighs profit.

“[They’re] giving things to everyone else – their time, their talents, their, their space, repossessed bikes – everyone’s working together,” Hobbins said. “There’s almost zero exchange of money. There’s a lot of that going on more where it’s not really about profit, it’s about helping one another.”

# Former student: UWM deceives, targets

By Joesph Schulz  
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Since she was 5 years old, life-long Janesville resident Almond Moone has always dreamed of going to college.

However, being wrongfully charged out-of-state tuition by UW-Milwaukee has cast a long shadow over those dreams, even as Moone works to pick up the pieces of her life.

In an interview with The Advance-Titan, Moone said the university still refuses to provide her academic transcripts as she works to return to college to become a pediatrician.

“I haven’t been able to get my grades that I earned back from them, but I was able to get my charges waived,” she said. “Right now, I’m just focused on trying to get my transcripts.”

UWM declined a request for comment regarding Moone’s situation and other allegations of discriminatory behavior.

While Moone is working to return to college, her journey toward achieving a lifelong dream began years ago.

From kindergarten onward, Moone kept her grades up, never turned in late assignments, participated in extracurricular activities and volunteered in her community to improve her chances of



getting accepted by a prestigious university.

After graduating high school in 2017, Moone spent her freshman year of college at UW-Rock County, a two-year access campus to UW-Whitewater.

In 2018, Moone transferred to UWM, the second largest university in the UW System, because she said the school had portrayed itself as an inclusive institution that would work to meet the needs of low-income students.

“I went to the orientation and they were talking about how they would help low-income students or [how] they were very inclusive,” she said. “I really believed it was true, so that’s why I went there.”

But her dreams were dashed when she was wrongly charged out-of-state tuition, after being charged in-state tuition at UWRC.

At the time, Moone said she didn’t understand what the problem was because her transcript from UWRC listed her as a Wisconsin resident and when she applied for financial aid she proved she was a state resident.

“It made me feel a little betrayed because, naturally, I trusted the school,” Moone said. “That was very frustrating and I can’t understand why they would do that, other than to target me.”

She tried to resolve the issue with the school directly. For months, Moone went back and forth with the university, providing documents proving her Wisconsin residency only to have the university dismiss her at each turn.

“No matter how much information I gave to them, they wouldn’t accept it,” she said.

The bills piled up; she inevitably left school in late 2019, and by early 2020 she owed UWM nearly \$15,000.

Then, Moone told her story to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, providing documents that backed up her claim. UWM eventually waived her debt — only after the incident was reported on in the media.

She believes the university refusing to acknowledge its error prior to the situation becoming public negatively reflects its

character.

In addition, Moone feels that UWM deceives and targets disadvantaged students because a similar case became public shortly after hers.

Cherakei Griffin, a Black female student, sued the Board of Regents and UWM in April 2019 for allegedly charging her out-of-state tuition despite her being a Wisconsin resident.

In a Feb. 27 court filing, Griffin wrote that Moone received “over 90% of the same discriminatory profiling” as she did, which is “indicative of a serious pattern and practice of racist and sexist discrimination against minority female students.”

Moone believes these incidents serve as further examples of systemic racism within the UW System.

“If you treat one student badly, they can go out and tell a bunch of other people how bad the school is, and really it makes it look like you can’t trust them, that they’re targeting you,” she said.

Moone hopes more students will come forward regarding their experiences with racism within the UW System, and that the system takes concrete steps to eliminate discrimination on its campuses.



# Ramping up the accessibility

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
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Ian McDonald, Oshkosh Student Association president, has been working with students and faculty members since early summer to “Ramp Up” UW Oshkosh and make the campus accessible to disabled students and visitors.

McDonald was going through some of his old coursework from 2012-13 and noticed that this renovation project was among some of the things he would like to see the student government accomplish in the future.

The Oviatt House was the initial building in question when McDonald pitched the idea to Patricia Schrader, senior Equal Employment Opportunity specialist and deputy Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, in spring of this year.

“The Oviatt House is the most beautiful and oldest-standing house on campus,” McDonald said in an email to Schrader. “Currently, it’s a part of the Wisconsin Historical Society, but is inaccessible to [people] who are disabled.”

Schrader responded to McDonald’s pitch by identifying that “the building is not required to be brought up to current day standards unless it is going through a more than 50% renovation,” and that it is not on UWO’s top 50 projects list of the campus master plan.

“While we know it is not ideal, our office has been successful in ensuring that staff at the Honors College know they must be offering alternative accessible meeting locations to individuals,” Schrader added.

The project expanded in mid-August to include all three Wisconsin Historical Society federally recognized historic buildings at UWO: Oviatt House, Pollack House and the Multicultural Education Center (MEC).

The MEC needs ramp repairs, whereas both Pollack and Oviatt houses need accessibility ramp and handlebar installations.

McDonald explained that there are some roadblocks that come in the way of renovating UWO’s three oldest buildings on campus.

“They each have their own individual challenges when it comes to getting an accessibility ramp,” McDonald said. “Oviatt is extremely difficult, because it’s the oldest building on campus. Pollock will be slightly simpler, because it’s not elevated six feet in the air to get into the building.

“The MEC House would probably be the easier one seeing that there’s a ramp that just needs repairs and needs to be brought up to code.”

Along with the project proposal being submitted to the



The Ramp Up UW Oshkosh project expanded to include all three Wisconsin Historical Society buildings: Oviatt House (right), Pollack House (left) and the Multicultural Education Center (top).

UW System’s Office of Capitol Planning and Budget for review, the project needs approval by the Wisconsin Historical Society as well.

McDonald said that the project proposal will not be submitted to the historical society until more information is gathered.

Laurence Carlin, Dean of the Honors College located in the Oviatt House, said that adding a ramp may not be as easy as it seems.

“If you make a structural change to the building, then you might have to also bring all of it up to code. And suddenly, this is a really big project that might outstrip our resources,” he said.

He added that having a ramp is more important than any changes they might have to do to the building.

The project could cost around \$2 million, and could require fundraising efforts that will be discussed at a later OSA meeting, McDonald stated in an email.

Kev Kollmann, OSA Students with Disabilities Advocacy Senator, said that installing more accessibility options around campus should be something

that the UWO student body knows is in its initial planning stages.

“It’s a big [project],” Kollmann said. “Getting word out and getting the ideas out to campus life is the most important, because a lot of times there’s a lot of projects that go on that students don’t know are happening.”

Kollmann explained that building a cheaper wooden ramp with continuous upkeep over the years would be more expensive than building something more permanent and long-lasting.

“There will be an architect and an engineer that will have to get brought in to get those plans all figured out,” Kollmann said.

McDonald said that he is optimistic with the progress of the initiative thus far while keeping note of the project’s complexity.

“This is bigger than any other project that I’ve taken on before,” McDonald said. “There’s a lot more hoops to jump through in this than there has been in any other project. This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint.”

Additionally, McDonald said that the public’s perception of the project may be aiming high-

er than its reality.

“People will assume that these projects need to be done by the end of the year; that’s not true,” McDonald said. “Hopefully not far, but a couple years down the road after I’m done, we’ll be fully completed to where all three houses are accessible.”

He added that he is hoping that the project will be complete by December 2021.

Carlin said that inclusive excellence is right at the heart of UWO’s values, so he hopes that the project will be implemented soon.

“We’re not perfectly inclusive, so that would certainly benefit the campus,” Carlin noted. “The most important thing is it’s in line with our identity, it’s in line with our mission, it’s in line with our values of who we are at Oshkosh.

“I really hope we can get it done. Oviatt House is a beautiful building that should be accessible to everyone. It’s as simple as that. It doesn’t belong to the Honors College or to the state — it belongs to all of us. All of us should have access to it.”



Michael Van Vonderen

## Sentencing hearing set for alleged IT thief

By Sophia Voight  
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A sentencing hearing for former UW Oshkosh IT Specialist Michael Van Vonderen charged with theft of university equipment has been scheduled for Dec. 16.

The sentencing was scheduled during Van Vonderen’s further proceedings hearing on Aug. 27.

Van Vonderen pled not guilty to charges of theft of movable property from UWO valued between \$10,000 and \$100,000 during an arraignment hearing on June 15.

If convicted, Van Vonderen could be fined up to \$25,000, get a maximum prison sentence of 10 years or both.

Additionally, he may be ordered to pay over \$51,000 in restitution for the stolen items, an audit investigation and security measures implemented because of the charges, according to restitution requests filed by the Winnebago County Circuit Court on June 17.

According to documents filed by the county circuit court in November 2019, Van Vonderen admitted to stealing a classroom projector, two iPads from UWO’s Head Start program, new Dell laptops, two MacBooks, two monitors and an Apple TV in a resignation letter to Chief Technology Officer Victor Alatorre in early September 2019.

According to the documents, Van Vonderen told Alatorre he was resigning due to financial trouble and that he had pawned the equipment off to local pawn shops.

During an investigation in September 2019, University Police detective Mike Bartlein found that Van Vonderen sold 115 items at seven pawn shops, receiving over \$12,000 for cell phones, a computer, and camera and music equipment.

An internal audit documented \$28,788 worth of missing university items that Van Vonderen had access to.

The audit found that 24 unrecovered items were pawned by Van Vonderen with eight pawned items recovered by police. An additional seven items checked out of Polk Library by Van Vonderen were not returned.

Van Vonderen will appear in Winnebago County Court on Dec. 16 at 8:30 a.m.

Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan



# Oshkosh couple opens porch for community

By Kaitlyn Scoville  
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On the porch of a red and green painted house, an old retired couple sits outside on wicker chairs awaiting their next guests. The table between them holds drinks and a container of varied dog treats.

An empty chair by them waits for its next sitter. There used to be two, but because of the pandemic the couple decided to downsize to enforce social distancing.

A sign hanging above them reads “Come sit on my porch.”

West Bent Avenue and life-long Oshkosh residents Lindy and Dennis Norkofski have been married 48 years. They sit outside and chat with neighbors and passersby every day — especially the dogs.

The couple sits outside rain or shine. Blinds are installed on either side of their porch to block the wind and light rain when it’s necessary.

Lindy said that her and Dennis can see upwards of 16 dogs and over 20 people visit per day.

“As the neighborhood changes, there’s more people that walk dogs now,” Lindy said. “I will see somebody walking across the street with a dog that I haven’t met yet and I’ll always say, ‘How’s your puppy doing today?’”

Some of the dogs that come by their house already know what to expect.

“They are in such a hurry to get over here,” Dennis said. “There’s one guy that walks up with a Newfoundland, probably about 120 pounds. [The owner] can hardly hold him back; he almost drags him across the street.”

The Norkofskis sit outside as early as 6:30 a.m. and stay out



Kaitlyn Scoville / Advance-Titan

Lifelong Oshkosh residents Lindy and Dennis Norkofsk sit outside and chat with neighbors and passersby every day.

sometimes as late as 8 or 9 p.m.; their interactions with people can range from short small talk in passing to a sitting conversation that lasts over an hour.

Lindy explained that their porch and the conversations they have on it are judgment free. Opinions are respected, and joking is encouraged.

“Come by for the hugs and stay for the sarcasm,” Matt Mikkelsen, a close friend of the Norkofskis,

said. “Dogs just make it easy to bridge to a complete stranger. They’re always asking if they can give treats to somebody’s dog. From there, it’s just getting to know people.”

Lindy and Dennis are open to having any kind of conversation on their porch, whether it be political, personal or anything in between. They understand that not everybody’s living situations are, or were, the same.

“If you’re having issues with whatever in life, come here,” Lindy said. “I will not judge you. Ask me my opinion and I will be honest with you, but I will not judge anybody because we all make choices in life.”

Lindy and Dennis are changing the community through dog treats and caring for others, Mikkelsen said.

“Something that’s really amazing, especially in today’s day and

age, is that they’re that island of bringing the community together,” he said.

And all the Norkofskis want is to make others happy.

“If I make you feel better for you coming to say hi to me, that’s all I want,” Lindy said. “I don’t expect anything. I don’t want anything. Just come and talk to me if you want to and enjoy life.”

# Professors: Adapting to online education

From page 1

students as much.

CETL’s online facilitation classes emphasized consistent communication between instructors and their students through one-on-one discussions and having plenty of available office hours.

Landry said a lot of instructors started using new innovations like the FlipGrid app to allow students to visually interact and connect with their peers in online classes.

“They created ways for students to connect in groups online and connect with peers about group projects,” they said.

Landry said instructors dedicated their summers to learning how to implement interactive technology into their synchronous and asynchronous classes to help students feel involved.

“Many instructors learned how to produce videos and caption them to make them accessible,” they said. “They dedicated themselves to learning how to use features of Collaborate Ultra, like polling and groups, to increase the level of student engagement in the course.”

Bradway said the summer



Courtesy of UWU Flickr

UWO instructors participated in training to help students feel more engaged in the online classroom.

program gave instructors more opportunity to become familiar with Canvas and learn how to use it for online courses.

“It really helped to get those instructors who are novices more up to speed, and those who were intermediate got better,” she said. “Everyone just

got a little bit better over the summer.”

Bradway said one of the biggest challenges the CETL program addressed was how to de-

liver lab classes online.

In CETL’s “Labs Online?? Is that Possible?” course, instructors were taught to combine online resources, like live video demonstrations and virtual experiments with at-home lab kits, to ensure students have a quality lab experience.

Landry said STEM instructors worked together to create their own lab kits and videos of step-by-step processes of completing lab experiments.

Bradway said the summer training session was necessary to prepare instructors for teaching online and combating common issues instructors and students had with spring online classes.

“I think in the spring everything happened so quickly that all we could do was react,” she said. “And over the summer, everyone really had time to think about what they were doing.”

Landry said the online initiative gave instructors the tools to ensure students will have a better online experience this fall.

“Instructors came back ready to teach in ways that would lead to greater success for their students,” they said.



# New norm: CA's experience quarantine

From page 1

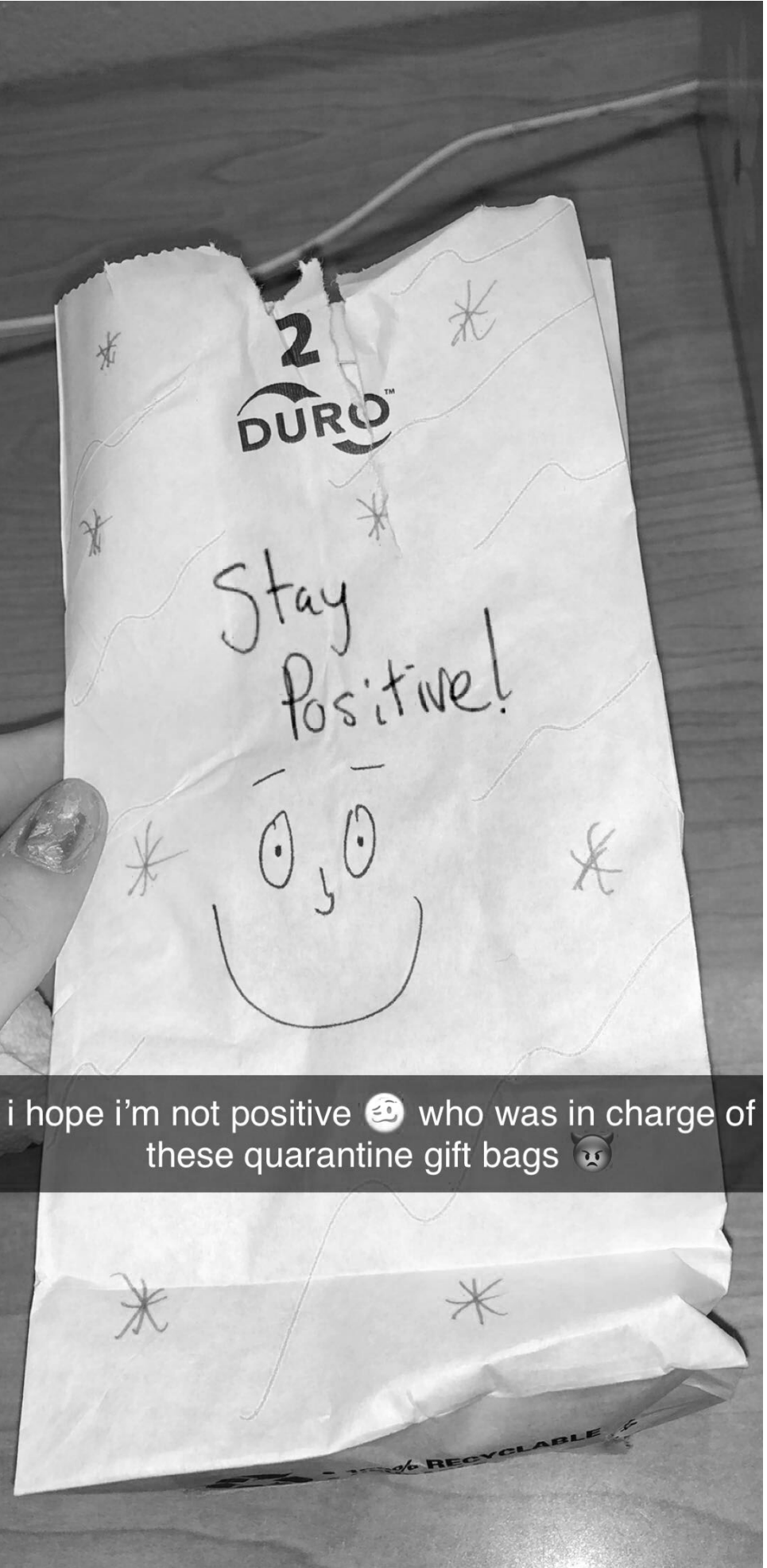
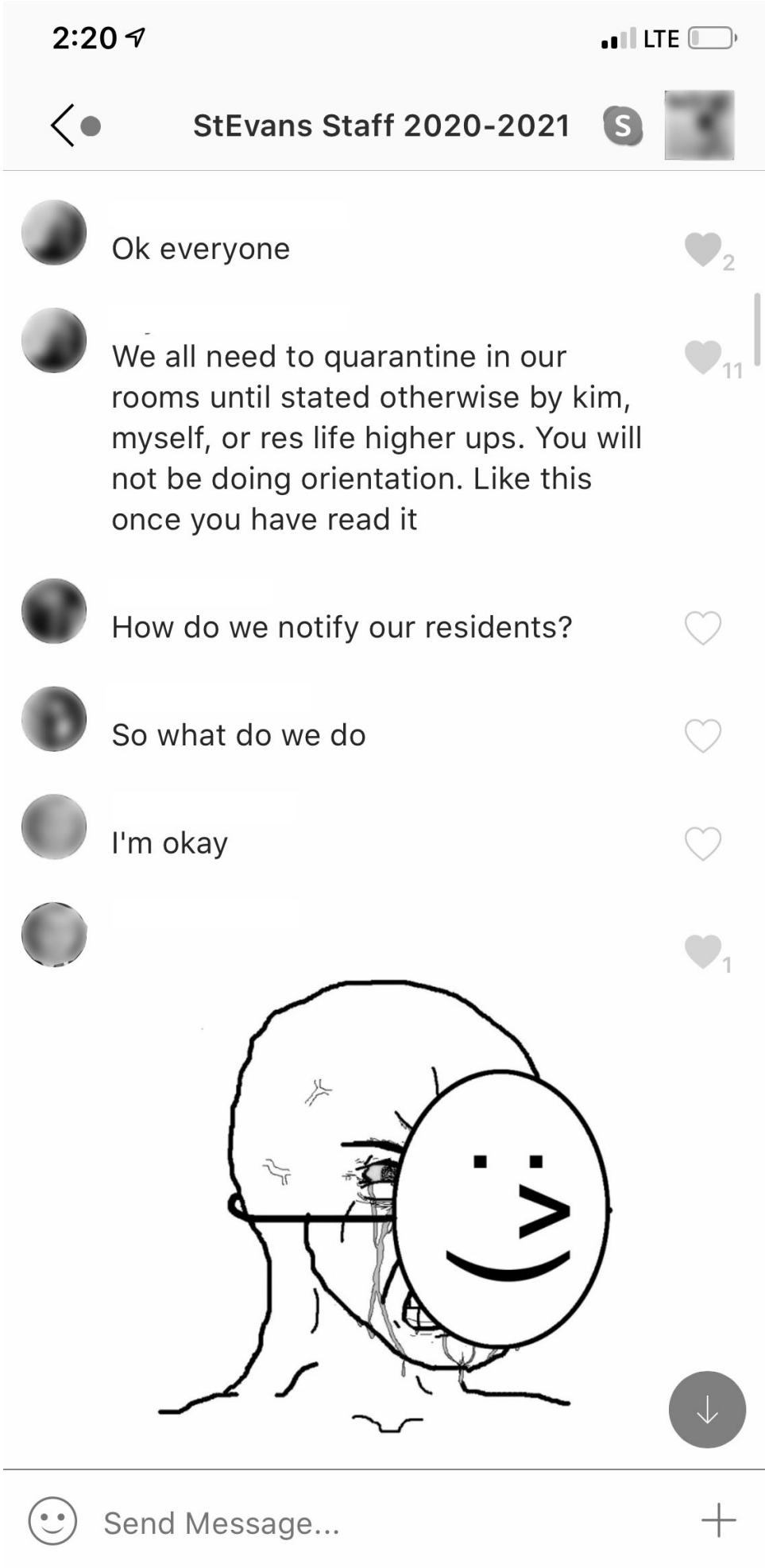
Students in quarantine are provided with prepared meals, which are left in a fridge in the floor lounge at the start of each day. “I was only there for one whole day, but it felt horrible,” Emily Miller, a community adviser in Stewart Hall, said. “It was traumatic.” Rob Babcock, UWO’s director of Residence Life, said their

quick response demonstrates how seriously they are taking COVID-19. Students say this early wake-up call draws attention to weak points and leaves lingering questions in the minds of students living in campus housing. With a weekly testing capacity of about a fifth of the student body, how certain can UWO administrators be that the virus won’t spread through residence

halls densely packed with students? How will UWO react to a campus-housing situation similar to what other institutions in Wisconsin have experienced already? On Monday, Marquette University was forced to send an entire residence hall into a two-week quarantine after 56 Marquette students tested positive for coronavirus. UW La Crosse ordered a shel-

ter-in-place quarantine for all students in residence halls until Sept. 28. “The number of confirmed and anticipated positive cases have risen quickly and we do not anticipate the number of quarantine and isolation bed spaces we have will accommodate the number of cases.” UW-Eau Claire Vice Chancellor Vitaliano Figueroa said in an email on Sept. 13. The school has recorded over 150 positive antigen test re-

sults. UW-Madison has suspended all in-person classes until Sept. 25 after the university’s COVID dashboard reported “a concerning and rapid increase in COVID-19 cases among our on- and off-campus students.” UW-Madison has recorded over 1,500 positive antigen tests on campus, and over 2,100 in total at the time of writing.



LEFT: Residence hall staff send memes in a staff group chat after being told they will have to quarantine and will no longer be leading orientation for their residence. RIGHT: A residence hall staff member shares a Snapchat showing the gift bags Stewart and Evans Hall staff were given after being forced to quarantine.

# That’s amore: Pizza theft reported over the weekend

By Carter Uslabar  
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A pair of thieves are on the loose after stealing a pizza and an e-cigarette box early Saturday morning. According to a Titan Alert sent Saturday afternoon, a UW

Oshkosh student and his friend were walking near High Avenue and Osceola Street when they were approached by a pair of unidentified men. The thieves asked the UWO student and his friend if they could have the pizza. The thieves then received and

promptly disregarded an answer of “no” by striking the non-UWO student before taking off with the pizza. The suspects were described as a tall, thin male, and a heavy-set male. Just over 20 minutes after the first incident, a different male

UWO student was walking behind Reeve Union on Elmwood Avenue when a group of three men approached him, asking if he had tobacco. The student produced and showed the men a vape box, which the group of three men then stole. The suspects were described

as two tall, thin males, and one heavy-set male. Anyone with information on these incidents should contact the UWO Police Department at 920-424-1212 or uwopolice@uwosh.edu.



# Multicultural mural complete after over three years

Carter Uslabar  
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A multicultural mural affixed to the east side of Albee Hall and Pool has finally been completed and unveiled after over three years of hard work by a group of UW Oshkosh Students.

The mural is a visual representation of UWO’s cultural and ethnic diversity. The mural itself is a stylized depiction of two different hands playing one guitar — or the “Same Song,” as the mural’s name suggests.

The mural was painted by artist Jason Anhorn. He said music is a universal language, conveying emotions understandable outside the context of culture.

The mural is the first piece of public art to be installed on UWO’s campus.

“Public art humanizes and invigorates public spaces,” UWO Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said at the mural’s unveiling ceremony. “This piece, ‘Same Song,’ provides a visible representation of the values this institution is striving to achieve. All are supported and valued.”

Flor Hernandez-Lara, a member of the Multicultural Mural Task Force, said that when they began planning for the mural, nobody knew how long it would take to complete.

“We knew, and agreed, this mural is what our campus needed,” Hernandez-Lara said. “The task force was composed of students of all backgrounds that shared the same



Students walk into Albee Hall and Pool to receive COVID-19 tests. Above them is a mural displaying UW Oshkosh’s commitment to diversity.

obstacles — not feeling at home at this predominantly white institution.”

Over three years later, thanks to help from UWO’s director of facilities and construction, JoAnn Rife, the mural has been completed.

“You know art is one of those ex-

ternal expressions of who we are,” UW Regent Karen Walsh said at the unveiling ceremony. “It’s with us no matter what the time period is, no matter what’s going on, and in 20 or 30 years, it’s still there expressing what we felt and knew at the time.”

The MMTF intended for the mu-

ral to be complete by fall 2019, but with unforeseen circumstances, and then disruptions caused by the coronavirus, its completion date had to be pushed back.

But despite all the policies and red tape in place making such a project difficult, the students of the

MMTF completed the project.

“You didn’t take no for an answer,” UW Regent Corey Saffold said. “You kept pushing, you made a way, created your own path and developed a project plan to make it happen, and you did a phenomenal job at that.”

# House of Heroes turns 25, continues to evolve

By Joseph Schulz  
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Scott Dercks has loved comic books most of his life and has spent the last 25 years sharing that passion with the Oshkosh community.

He owns House of Heroes Comics and Games on Main Street, which has become a hub for geek culture in the middle of downtown.

Before becoming a business owner, Dercks grew up in Kaukauna, which is where he discovered comic books.

“When I was a kid, there was The Electric Company show on TV and they had ‘Spider-Man’ on, so that might’ve been where it started,” he said. “As long as I can remember, I was reading comic books. I don’t know a life without it.”

At that time, there were very few comic book stores in the area as comics were mostly sold on news racks in convenience and grocery stores, which now carry magazines and other impulse items.

Dercks recalled one time when he was about 10 years old, he went to the Valley Fair Shopping Center in Appleton and explored an early comic bookstore. When he returned to the mall the next year, however, the store had closed.

He collected comics until he was about 12, deciding comics were for kids and that he was “too old for that.”

So, Dercks put the hobby aside for a few years. After graduating from high school, he went to college for about a year before deciding to leave.

Around that time, Dercks met Bob Larson, who owned Pow-



Celebrating 25 years of House of Heroes Comics and Games are, from left, Kevin Kimmes, Tripper Pech and Scott Dercks.

er House Comics in Appleton. A friend took him to the store once, and afterward Dercks was “addicted to comics” once again.

But the medium had changed. The stories being told now featured more adult themes and subject matter.

Titles such as Alan Moore’s “Watchmen,” “V for Vendetta” and “The Killing Joke,” as well as Frank Miller’s “Dark Knight Returns” or Neil Gaiman’s “Sandman,” pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable to print in comic books.

“All of those things weren’t kid’s books; they were more geared toward adults, and that’s what I was into at the time and what got me

back into comics,” Dercks said.

After spending a few months shopping at Power House Comics, Dercks eventually got a job there in 1991.

Four years later, Dercks and Larson saw a void in Oshkosh as a previous comic bookstore had closed in ‘93.

On Sept. 11, 1995, House of Heroes Comics and Games opened in downtown Oshkosh, offering comic books and Magic: The Gathering cards.

Over the years, Dercks says the store has become different things to different people. For some, it’s where they found Pokémon cards as a kid; for others it’s where they find the latest Funko collectables.

“The cool thing about the shop is that it’s always changing and it’s always evolving — it’s not just a comic book shop,” Dercks said.

During his time at the shop, Dercks has seen geek culture transform from something on the fringes of society to a predominant part of the public psyche.

He attributes the massive rise in popularity of comic book properties to successful adaptations into other media, including “The Dark Knight,” “The Walking Dead” and the smorgasbord of Marvel movies.

Even so, he says adaptations don’t always directly translate into comic book sales. For example, the “Iron Man” movies didn’t create

an uptick in sales of its comics.

However, for properties that are more self-contained, such as “The Walking Dead” and “Umbrella Academy,” Dercks says adaptations have translated into sales.

Eight years ago, Larson retired and Dercks purchased House of Heroes. In fact, Dercks and Lee Marohn are the only employees that have stayed since opening 25 years ago.

In that time, the store has overcome adversity, weathering economic downturns spurred by 9/11, the Great Recession and, most recently, the coronavirus pandemic.

To service customers during the statewide stay-at-home order, House of Heroes stayed afloat by selling comic collections via auctions on Facebook and eBay.

Dercks had initially planned on hosting a 25th anniversary celebration at the shop, but he says those plans are on hold until COVID-19 is more under control.

Even so, he added that it’s been rewarding to build relationships with customers through pop culture.

“It’s always fun when I’m out at a bar or something, and a kid who used to buy Pokémon cards at the shop says hi and he’s 30 now,” Dercks said.

In terms of the future of House of Heroes, Dercks is looking forward to seeing the store continue to evolve as demand shifts.

“I really don’t know what to expect and that’s the thing that makes it fun — it’s always changing,” Dercks said. “As a small business owner, you’re rolling with the punches; that’s part of the deal.”





Carter Uslabar / Advance-Titan

# Current Exhibits

A University of Luxembourg study in 2017 found that works by female artists sell for 47.6% less than works by their male counterparts. The current exhibition at the Annex Gallery in the Arts and Communications Center, “Nevertheless She Persisted,” hints at the struggle women face in the male-dominated art world. The exhibition is on display Sept. 10 - Oct. 30, 2020.

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Reeve 19 on Thursdays to get  
involved!

# Sarah’s Selected Songs

Hi, I’m Sarah, a junior music student at UWO.

“Danny’s Song” is a feel-good song gives me driving-during-golden-hour vibes. The chorus provokes love and simplicity which I think is a feeling everyone chases for, just like a sunset.

In “Happy & Sad,” Kacey Musgraves puts so much emotion into the song. It portrays how good things must come down but also not wanting that good time to end. However, when it does end it’s okay because that feeling of melancholy is comfortable.

“Me & Magdalena” is such a gorgeous song. The Monkees’ ear-

lier work is less well-known but absolutely wonderful. The soothing melody of this song makes you want to listen to it over and over again.

“Crazier Things” is one of the most relatable love songs that will make you daydream about your crush, or could accompany a good cry.

“She” has such a cool vibe with powerful confidence behind it that portrays “She” as someone who doesn’t actually exist outside of his own imaginings.

“Sincerity is Scary” has such powerful lyrics that highlight our aversion to imperfection.

### Danny’s Song

Loggins and Messina  
1971



### Happy & Sad

Kacey Musgrave  
2018

### Me & Magdalena

The Monkees  
2016



### Crazier Things

Chelsea Cutler  
2020

### She

Harry Styles  
2019



### Sincerity is Scary

The 1975  
2018



# The Great ‘Titans Return’ hoax

Joseph Schulz  
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As UW Oshkosh administrators guided members of the media through the socially distanced campus Sept. 1, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt told reporters his “top priority is going to be the safety and welfare of everybody.”

If Leavitt, or anyone in university administration for that matter, really cared about our health and well-being, the dorms would still be empty and courses would be entirely online.

And if your class schedule is anything like mine, then you’re probably taking classes online for the most part anyway, as my two courses that were intended to be delivered in-person have now gone 50% digital.

I, like most UWO students, was sincerely looking forward to returning to in-person instruction. But with 75% of my education online less than a week in, I just can’t see how the benefits of keeping students in residence halls outweighs the risks.

As a campus community, we’re essentially risking a public health catastrophe to receive an education that, no matter what Leavitt says, can’t compare to the education we received before the pandemic.

Yet, students are paying the same amount for tuition that we paid before the coronavirus came to America.

As someone who was deemed an “essential worker,” I never left the labor force during the statewide stay-at-home order.

If I can work in a crowded kitchen for six months where social distancing is not an option, and a cloth mask has been enough to protect me from infection at the workplace, then why

isn’t it enough to protect me in the classroom?

I’m not saying we should throw caution to the wind when it comes to managing the pandemic.

On the contrary, I think the UW System should have bitten the bullet and moved online, especially if our return to in-person instruction is going to be a half-assed attempt.

All of Leavitt’s bluster about trying to give students the highest quality of instruction as safely as possible is nothing but a smokescreen.

Don’t kid yourself; the real reason for the “Titans Return” plan has always been to cover the university’s ass financially. It has never been about delivering an education equivalent to our education before the pandemic.

Back in April, Leavitt described the university’s financial situation as “OK” but “not great,” after sending students home and issuing refunds for campus housing, dining and parking.

If UWO had not brought students back to the dorms, its financial situation would likely be a lot worse than “OK.”

Nobody wants to see the university go bankrupt, especially not me. For the rest of my life, every opportunity that I get will — in large part — be because of my time at UWO.

However, there’s already one resident hall that forced its entire CA staff to quarantine, prior to the start of classes.

So, we should ask ourselves, how sustainable is it to keep students in on-campus housing?

One weekend. That’s all it will take before UWO’s carefully crafted house of cards begins to crumble under the weight of drunk college kids.



Courtesy of UWO Flickr

UW Oshkosh welcomed students back to campus two weeks ago, offering a combination of in-person and online instruction.

If we need a roadmap for the future of this semester, we need look no further than UW-Madison, which welcomed students back several weeks earlier than we did and has seen a recent spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases. On Wednesday, the university announced that all in-person undergraduate, graduate and professional school group instruction will be paused from Sept. 10-25, with classes canceled Sept. 10-12. Classes will resume remotely Sept. 14 for at least two weeks.

Since students moved to campus, UW-Madison has seen nearly 1,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and new daily infections in Dane County are the highest they’ve been since the pandemic began. In the last five days alone, new cases in the county are five times higher than what they were in August.

“Since Sept. 1, at least 74% of Dane County’s new COVID positive cases were from the UW,” Dane County Executive Joe Parisi said in a letter to university officials, urging them to send undergrads home.

How long until Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris pens a similar letter to Leavitt?

Will a student have to die before university administration begins to see its vast miscalculation?

Compared to pre-pandemic times, and despite the best efforts of professors, the education students are receiving this semester is a joke, unworthy of its steep price tag and the risk to students living in the dorms.

I understand that administrators were dealt a bad hand from the start. Year after year, the Republican-controlled state legisla-

ture makes their jobs more difficult and the situation has only worsened amid the pandemic.

But for the love of God, please stop trying to con your students and the public into believing that the Titans Return plan will ensure safety, while delivering the high quality education that’s expected from a UW System institution.

Let’s admit it, the Titans Return plan is a sham, designed to convince naive first-year students to live in the residence halls and convince returning students that their education is worthy of the same monetary value that it had pre-pandemic.

**Editor’s Note:** The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of The Advance-Titan. This story originally ran on the A-T website Sept. 9.

## Letters to the Editor

### Online classes are not a joke

Tony Palmeri  
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In a recent editorial, A-T Managing Editor Joseph Schulz wrote, “Compared to pre-pandemic times and despite the best efforts of professors, the education students are receiving this semester is a joke, unworthy of its steep price tag and the risk to students living in the dorms.”



Palmeri

departments on campus (and probably all of them), started planning for the fall semester last spring. Instructors with little to no background in online education participated in workshops and other instructional activities to get “up to speed.”

In my Department of Communication Studies, instructors had frequent virtual meetings over the summer to discuss ways that we could provide the best possible education during the pandemic. I know for a fact that many other departments did the same. Many faculty put their academic research agenda on hold so they could dedicate more time to learning new teaching techniques. We did these things without receiving any extra compensation, and in fact, most are taking substantial pay cuts this year.

Students and their families should know that the overwhelming majority of instructors on campus take their teach-

ing responsibilities seriously, and are doing everything in our power possible to ensure that the education students receive is worthy of the steep price tag.

I’ve had the opportunity to learn about how my Comm Studies colleagues and others across campus are teaching their classes this semester. While everything is still a work in progress, the last term that I would use to describe it is a “joke.” In fact in many cases, the hybrid face-to-face, online model is probably more engaging and educational than what was the norm pre-pandemic. I would not at all be surprised if many instructors and students come to prefer that model even after the health crisis fades and we are no longer forced into it.

At various times, the pandemic has made all of us frustrated, scared and angry. That’s no joke, but neither is the education occurring right now on our campus.

### Wear a mask outside

Brittney Harrison  
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Mask mandates are a huge topic of discussion that can lead to debates about freedom of speech, government policies and personal beliefs. The governor of Wisconsin made it mandatory to wear a mask in public places.

Specifically, on the campus of UW Oshkosh, the mask mandate is enforced at all times in academic buildings, residence halls and outside whenever social distancing is not possible, as stated in the “Titan Safety Promise.”

A major challenge facing the community of the UWO is the mask restriction while being outdoors.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, masks should be worn in public places when it is difficult to practice social distancing, no matter if it is inside a building or outdoors.

An issue at the university along with other cities in Wisconsin, is that students are not fully complying with the outdoor mask mandate,

and will refuse to wear a mask outdoors, even when social distancing cannot be kept.

Sidewalks on campus and in other parts of the city do not give enough space for proper social distancing standards.

The university is providing resources and keeping the rules and regulations very clear for COVID-19. To help resolve this issue, students can help enforce the rules to their peers.

If students report issues, the Oshkosh Student Association has an opportunity to voice those opinions while enforcing the rules.

While these issues are being reported, The Advance-Titan can continue to inform students about the problems associated with broken rules. Having students enforce the rules can truly help prevent the spread of COVID-19 so that classes can continue in person, while also allowing students to experience the college lifestyle and have the opportunity to get the help or resources they need throughout the semester and the rest of the year.



“Whatcha Think?”

How do you feel about the transition to online classes?



Cassidy, freshman

“I’m a visual learner, so it’s kind of hard, but the teachers have been really good with giving us resources when we need help.”



Seriena, freshman

“It’s been kind of hard, but I think I’ll adapt to it. The teachers are being really understanding.”



Mackenzie, freshman

“I think it’s honestly pretty good, but in retrospect there’s a little bit more of a workload.”



Jason, sophomore

“I’m not the biggest fan because I like face-to-face classes because it’s easier to ask questions.”



Cade, freshman

“I wouldn’t say that they’re too bad. The teachers are doing the best that they can.”

It’s time to put an end to racial violence

Sophia Voight  
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A firestorm has erupted across the nation as protesters have taken to the streets to demand justice for racialized violence and increased police accountability.

The spark that ignited in May in Minneapolis when George Floyd pleaded for his life while a white officer kneeled onto his neck for nearly nine minutes has spread to millions of people who are expressing their outrage over the continual violence and oppression against African Americans perpetrated by our nation’s culture of white supremacy.

Countless African Americans have died at the hands of police enforcement. It happened to Breonna Taylor at her home in Louisiana, to Jacob Blake in Kenosha, to Michael Brown in Ferguson, to Tamir Rice in Cleveland, to Eric Garner in New York City and to countless others.

Their deaths are tragic and live as a horrifying example of the anti-Black policing in this country.

The hatred and bias towards Black Americans did not end with the emancipation of slaves or with the passage of the Civil Rights Act; it is an institution that is alive and thriving in America today.

“As a nation, we cannot continue to be socially tone deaf and ignore blatant issues that continue to rear their ugly head and plague our black communities,” said UWO Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Support of Inclusive Excellence Byron Adams.

Adams said people need to educate themselves on the cultures, histories and traditions of minorities to help solve the systemic problems they face.

“For white students to show support to their black peers, true education on Black and African American history, politics and culture are essential for real progress, allyship and equity for all,” he said.



Photo by Jack Tierney

Peaceful protests erupted throughout the United States, including Oshkosh, calling for racial justice following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

What happened to George Floyd is not a solitary incident of police misconduct. Instead, it is emblematic of a greater, much deeper issue of systematic racism in our country that oppresses Black people and views them as enemies.

Black Americans are nearly three times more likely to die from police than white Americans, according to data of police killings compiled by Mapping Police Violence.

Death of African Americans by police officers and white vigilantes is an all-too-familiar occurrence in our country.

Time and time again we have heard the pleas of African Americans to end racial violence and make police accountable for their actions, and time and time again we have chosen to ignore them.

Now protesters are out in large crowds risking contracting the coronavirus because they realize that the marginalization of African Americans and racialized terror committed in the United States is a pandemic of its own.

The frustrations expressed by the protesters right now are over-spoken and their demands are long overdue.

This country cannot continue to ignore the racism that is standing in front of us.

While these protests will eventually die down, more like them will continue to emerge until real structural change is implemented in our police forces and throughout our country.

Adams said voting for leaders that promote diversity and holding local and state officials accountable for racial justice is a start toward fostering change in our communities.

Adams also suggested people organize and participate in community events that discuss matters of equity and diversity with their law enforcement and community members.

“These are just the basics of what a community should have to make sure everyone has a voice and that everyone’s needs and rights are being met,” he said.

Adams said the battles we are currently witnessing on TV and social media spread to every inch of the country.

“There is a systemic problem in this country of racism and profiling no matter where you go,” he said.

Adams said these issues are not unique and we are seeing the same thing in Oshkosh.

“I fear until our nation as a whole can fix itself, communities and institutions like Oshkosh will continue to face bigotry, racism and intolerance of and toward African Americans and people of color in general,” Adams said.

We need to put an end to racial violence and increase police accountability, so that we may finally bring justice to the countless murdered Black people at the hands of racist America.

And we must start to recognize and take responsibility for the racism in our country and in ourselves because enough is enough and black lives matter.

Kenosha resident’s take on unrest

Cory Sparks  
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On Aug. 23, I was in the middle of a weekend trip in Door County with my girlfriend’s family. The trip was going great, and the weather was immaculate. But while I was there, I saw a heart-breaking video.

The video showed Jacob Blake being brutally shot in the back seven times on the suspicion that he had a knife.

The incident brought great grief to me, but I was filled with utter horror when I saw that the location of the incident that was now going viral was in Kenosha, the city that borders my hometown of Pleasant Prairie.

Watching the news and seeing that Blake was paralyzed from the waist down by numerous gunshot wounds brought an even heavier sense of grief to my heart. In the following days, two people were killed in riots, death threats began flying out of people’s mouths and buildings were torn to shreds after being burnt up.

And so many were forced to watch it unfold in front of their very eyes — all because it was going on in their own backyard.

In the past, I have routinely made trips to downtown Kenosha to enjoy the lakefront and admire



Photo by Renee Sparks

Kenosha became the center of the social justice movement after Kenosha police shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back.

the beautiful scenery; while residents calmly walk along the beach and pier areas.

The visit that I made as soon as I arrived back in town from my vacation was nothing like that.

The very same city that I had grown up around and knew for its beautiful combination of nostalgic small shops in the downtown area had rapidly transformed into one with rubble that was recovering from a week of unrest, accompanied by law enforcement as high up as the National Guard.

As a heavy supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, watching local businesses owned by black owners being looted and

torn to shreds broke my heart.

Seeing a movement that has appeared in the form of many peaceful, meaningful protests throughout the Kenosha area being associated with the rioting by those who don’t even reside in the state of Wisconsin had my chest aching beyond explanation.

I am not a person of color, so I cannot sit here and act like I have the ability to fathom the anger and unrest that is traveling through the minds and bodies of those who are people of color.

However, I know that there are so many business owners downtown who tried everything they could to make it clear that they

support racial equality and the Black Lives Matter movement in America, only to turn the news on and see all of their hard, innovative work go up into flames at the hands of rioters.

In a time as critical as this, the divisive behavior of rioting, looting and threatening that I’ve seen go on in a town I’ve grown up in is absolutely tragic to me.

As someone who has seen those in his own town suffer financially and psychologically due to destruction that was directed at anyone in the rioters’ paths, I encourage all of you to educate yourself on any protest you go to.

If something is organized and has a leader who is putting the event under their name, you are likely to be in a safe place.

If you see something fluctuating throughout various social media platforms saying “Mayhem in \*enter your city name here\*” (which I did have the unfortunate luck of seeing), please avoid that activity at all costs.

This type of behavior only adds fuel to the fire and increases the chance of others trying to use the riots as a way to discredit the Black Lives Matter movement that is fighting for systemic reform and overall racial equality in the systems that oversee forces like the police.



# ‘Tenet,’ a satisfying puzzle

By Nolan Fullington  
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“Tenet” is the latest film from Christopher Nolan as he continues his vendetta of blending high concepts with dazzling filmmaking to deliver intelligent blockbusters to a world where the power of cinema seems to be dwindling.

In other words, There’s a Heist to Steal a Thing, But Then There’s Three Other Heists to Steal Other Things, But You Don’t Know How That Connects To That or Why He is Doing What in That Scene Because He Was Already Him Over There an Hour Ago, Because of a Machine in a Room That Was Never Introduced, Then Kenneth Branagh Screams Expository Dialogue You Can’t Hear Over the Sound Mixing: a film by Christopher Nolan.

I wanted to start this review off by saying that I feel as if I give Christopher Nolan a hard time.

However, it’s only because I know he can do better due to films like “Insomnia” and “Inception.” He is now at the point in his career where nobody will object to what he’s doing and pretty much has free reign to do what he wants, hence why this film was released in a theater.

Over the years, his films have become less and less emotionally investing and “Tenet” is the zenith of that bearing.

Whenever I see and write about a film, how I felt while watching the film usually has a much greater impact on my final thoughts than the intricate wirework of the film itself.

That being said, I felt like I was going to have a heart attack while watching this film, because the level of disorientation and anxiety I felt was immeasurable to any other cinematic experience I’ve ever had.

It was to the point where I felt like I needed to leave the theater for medical reasons.

I also had a headache from the utterly overpowering “BWAAAAAAA” score, which Nolan and Hans Zimmer are infamous for making — or ruining classic film scores.

To say the least, I think I hated this film. Reading other reviews for this film, it was shocking how many people were defending Nolan’s black void of humanity in his characters to the point where he literally names his main character “The Protagonist.”

Here’s the absolute bottom line: film is made and broke over characters and story. If your story is confusing, then have interesting characters for the audience to stay attached to, like “Inception.” If you have no characters, make up for that with a solid and interesting story. “Tenet” has absolutely no memorable characters, and the story is possibly the most incoherent thing ever.

Every scene in “Tenet” feels like a non sequitur. The scene starts, and two people you don’t really know are in a random location talking in movie code about something you have no prior knowledge of. Then the scene ends, and a heist scene starts without establishing what that heist is or what their plan is, which leads to little to no stakes.

Here’s the other big problem: if this is a heist movie, then we need to know what is going on so that there are stakes.

Usually in a heist film, the audience is familiar with the plan to the heist prior to so that when something goes wrong in the heist (something usually does), we feel concerned for the characters involved, because we know “that’s not how it’s supposed to go.” The “Mission Impossible” movies have mastered this art.

However, you have no idea what is ever happening in “Tenet” and you don’t care about the characters at all, which leads to such a huge

disconnect from what’s in Nolan’s head and to what we’re seeing.

I believe that Nolan knows exactly what’s happening, but as a storyteller, he failed at efficiently adapting what was in his head to paper, then taking that script and telling a visual story with a coherent throughline.

So I just want to reiterate that for the entire runtime, I felt like I was having a mental breakdown because of how frustrated and anxious I was.

Once the film started, it felt there was no main objective or something that would tighten the series of events through one overarching plot. Things just sort of happened for the first hour, and Nolan leaves you in the dark for so long that you give up on the film before Nolan even begins to reveal answers to your questions.

I think Tarantino said this once, but you never want your audience completely and utterly confused or else they become frustrated and give up.

If I was lost, I can’t imagine how normal movie goers felt after seeing this.

There is also no character to view this story from. It should be “The Protagonist,” but he hardly ever asks dire questions that the audience is begging to know. And these are not questions that can be revealed later, but rather questions that must be answered so that the audience can understand what’s happening for the next hour.

Nolan even understood this with “Inception.” Start the film with a tease of what the film is about, but when things get complicated, introduce an outside character who asks what the audience is also asking. “Tenet” does not have that character.

This just feels like a four-hour film that was cut down to two and a half hours, because every scene feels like its sprinting to the



next just to get to overly loud action scenes with the “BWAAAA” score over it to give the illusion of “grandness.”

But it does feel like a usual heist film, with that utterly confusing “inverse” concept Nolan made up. It’s “Compensating: The Movie,” because there is such a lack of character that Nolan is trying to make up for that with a “grand” concept; it feels like he’s trying so hard.

It’s like a car that has chrome wheels, a cool hood ornament and a sweet paint job to make up for the fact that it doesn’t have a working engine.

I mentioned this a while ago with the western film “The Shooting,” but a film must work on the surface level first before you can dissect the subtextual gobbledygook and technical brilliance, especially when nobody in the movie has clear motivations you can get behind.

I really thought this film would come back around like “The Prestige,” but it doesn’t. It’s just a huge mess that Nolan ends with by saying, “Put the pieces together,” but the pieces are from eight different puzzles and the image, when you put the puzzle together, is a white square.

# What’s it like to be quarantined on campus?

By Jayme Bauman  
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It’s really easy to go from trying to fit everything into your schedule, making sure you can get where you need to go on time and trying to get ready what needs to get ready, to suddenly having to tell everyone that now you can’t do what you said you were doing to do.

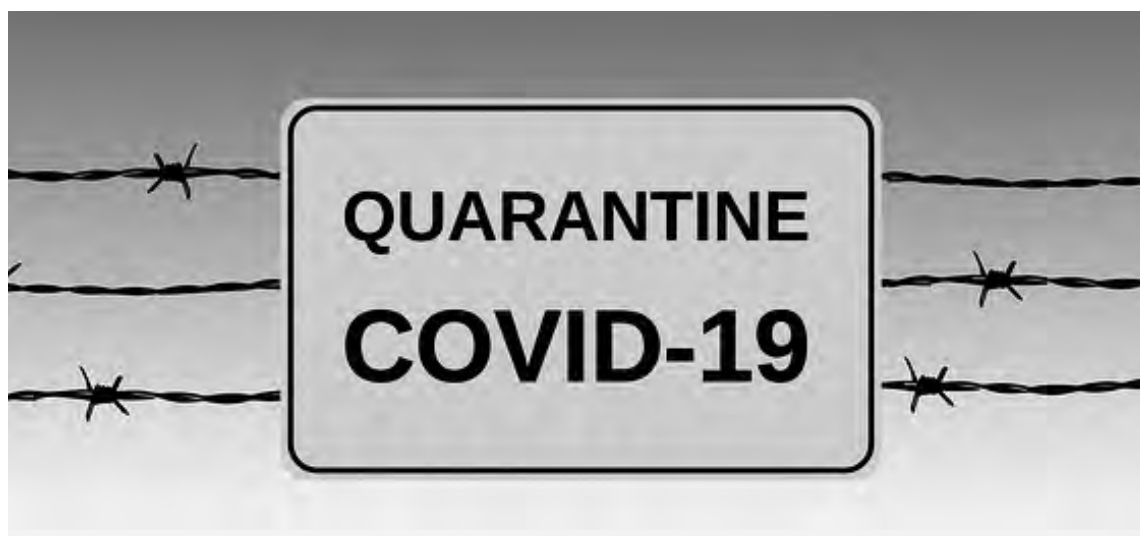
Any previous obligations now mean nothing because it’s time to move out of your dorm room and into quarantine.

At least that was my experience. I went from getting ready for orientation and preparing myself for the first week of classes, to being told that I was exposed to COVID-19 and I had to go into quarantine for 14 days.

I could go home, of course, but then I’d risk giving COVID-19 to my family. I live in a basement, sure, but I also live with my grandparents; it would be easy to pass it on to them.

So, I, along with others exposed, got sent off to Gruenhagen Conference Center.

In a really simple way, it sucks. It sucks worse than most things unless you’ve experienced death



or maybe you were really unlucky and got an STI.

Quarantine in GCC means frozen food heated up in a microwave, being assigned where to go to the bathroom and experiencing the unsureness of UW Oshkosh administration regarding what to do with those students exposed to COVID-19.

On one hand, UWO is doing the best it can. We’re open; we have to deal with it. Campus must deal with the costs, financial and otherwise.

On the other hand, it’s strange how it’s being handled. You’re

not allowed to have food delivered to you, so no UberEats or DoorDash. Having food delivered is considered risky, but the contact tracer will tell you that it’s okay to go out and get groceries.

Quarantine is about as messed up as 2020 has been itself. It’s easy to tell that even the administration doesn’t know how we’re supposed to be doing things, how we’re supposed to stay safe in quarantine, how we’re supposed to keep other people safe or what to do when your exposure turns out to be fake.

With the “quick” COVID-19 test popping out false positives, there’s concern. We have to do what we have to do: Be cautious and make sure we curb the spread.

Imagine packing up as much as you can, rushing across campus to GCC — where you’re not even getting all the information you wish you could — all at once.

You send out emails, questioning the reasons for the things you can and cannot do, while also seeing how other schools are doing it because we live in a very connected world.

Then, you’re told you experienced a false positive, but you might not be allowed to leave anyway until your 14 days are over.

I experienced three days of quarantine before being released because the person was exposed to had gotten a false positive. However, there was the threat of being forced to remain in quarantine anyway. The school had to wait to decide because they had to ask first.

You’d think they would’ve prepared for this situation beforehand, considering the danger of a global pandemic and opening a school in the middle of it. They were as prepared as we were when trying to pack what we’d need for 14 days as quickly as possible.

Why? Because the scenario was incredibly unlikely.

It raises questions about other “unlikely” scenarios that are probably going to occur as school goes on. As kids party and spread COVID-19, the administration needs to figure things out and hopefully make GCC quarantine less terrible.



# UWO wrestlers adapt to COVID restrictions

By Cory Sparks  
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With the rise of coronavirus cases throughout the country, it's no secret that sports must have restrictions. At UW Oshkosh, the fall sports seasons have already been canceled in terms of competitive games against opposing schools.

The Titans' wrestling season has not been canceled, but training in preparation for tournament play has a different look this year.

"We split our team up into groups of about seven guys each and in each group, there is a captain leading the practice," 149-pound sophomore Brandon Lenczner said. "It's hard to get even a group of seven guys in the [Recreation and Wellness Center] right now to work out; so what we have been doing is a lot of running and a lot of body weight exercises."

The wrestling group size isn't the only portion of the training procedures that have been altered to ensure the protection from spreading COVID-19. The actual training techniques in preparation for tournament season have also been altered.

"We do bodyweight exercises

and running instead of wrestling," 125-pound sophomore Luc Valdez said. "This difference has affected me the most. I personally get better faster when I get to wrestle."

Despite the drastic changes that wrestlers have to adapt to in hopes that their performance stays up to par at the Division III level, most agree that the precautions being put in place are more than appropriate considering the challenges that COVID-19 has presented.

"With the current fear of COVID in the USA, I agree with the precautions put in place. I believe the precautions taken right now are the most effective way to get us back and stay in the wrestling room," Valdez said.

Some wrestlers wish that there was a more convenient way to train while still implementing COVID-19 prevention procedures.

"The training methods that we're using are really safe and are set up to protect everyone, but I feel that [they are] not the most effective way to train for our sport. [However], I do understand them," 285 pound sophomore Guyon Cyprian said.

The wrestlers are taking the current situation as it is, and



Joseph Schulz / Advance-Titan

(Left to right) Freshmen Cody Welker, Cade Schmitz, Jake Stritesky, and Nate Stokhaug lift weights at the UW Oshkosh Recreation and Wellness Center in preparation for their upcoming season.

they're adapting to the best of their abilities while having confidence in the team's chances to perform at a high level this year.

"It's hard to accommodate all the different rules into our train-

ing schedule, but we have been making it work, and I think we're going to do some real damage this year," Lenczner said.

As for the team's key to success if COVID-19 cases stay low

enough for wrestling competitions to commence, the blueprint is rather simple.

"I see the team doing great," Cyprian said. "All we [have to] do is stay healthy."

# UWO students find alternative ways to stay active

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As UW Oshkosh students acclimate to the new style of campus life, many find themselves in their rooms while they attend classes remotely. While studying and prioritizing classwork is of crucial importance to a student's success, there is also another aspect of campus life that has been changed tremendously: the options to stay active.

On top of the fact that the UWO Student Recreation and Wellness Center is enforcing mask requirements, a one-hour workout limit and social distancing, the university is only allowing 100 students inside of the facility at a time.

This presents many with the blaring issue of not being able to get a full workout done when machines are taken. Although the restrictions being employed due to COVID-19 seem to be rather large barriers, there are other ways that students are able to stay active while following the procedures put in place.

## Golf

Golf is a sport that has almost always followed social distancing procedures, because if someone stands near someone else during their pre-shot routine, that person's play could be negatively impacted. Oshkosh students took notice of this core and endurance activity, and some began playing golf as a new hobby.

"I started playing golf after online classes ended last semester and the [golf] courses opened up," sophomore Gavin Baldwin said. "It was something I wanted to try because it got me up off [of] the couch, and it was one of the only sports allowed during the pandemic for a while."

Another component of golf that makes it a pandemic-friendly activity is that it isn't a team-reliant sport. One can go out on the course — or to the range — to improve their game all on their own.

"It's easy during a pandemic because you don't have to be around a whole group of people, and it's a sport you can do by yourself," Baldwin said.

## Jogging

Jogging is a form of cardio that can be done almost anywhere. If the weather is bearable enough, a

quick run in between lectures can be an effective way to clear the mind. If the late fall and winter months go the way that they usually do, the SRWC still has treadmills, ellipticals and an indoor track.

"Jogging has been very beneficial both physically and mentally during the pandemic. Taking a distanced jog outside is wise so you can keep yourself and others safe," sophomore Sophia Marquez said.

Jogging can be done with specific distance, time, heart rate or calories. It isn't a team sport, and unlike with most other activities, you can literally see your progress in numerical form if you're running for distance.

"I really like the challenge running provides," Marquez said. "It's also great for clearing your mind, especially during these unpredictable times."

Golfing, horse riding and jogging are just a few ways to stay safe and active during this pandemic, and these activities aren't even including the rentals for bikes and other equipment that anyone can access from the Rec and SRWC.

## Horse Riding

Horse riding is another physical activity that can be both fun and safe during times like these. Riding doesn't require any human-to-human contact, which is why it falls perfectly under the category of smart yet beneficial practices that one can participate in this fall.

"There really aren't a lot of people around except for maybe two or three on a daily basis," sophomore Emma Shodis said. "There is so much space, you can social distance, and barn owners and managers are taking all proper precautions to sanitize equipment."

Along with the fact that this is a rather isolated practice, horse riding comes with both physical and psychological benefits.

"[Horse] riding requires you to use your mind and your body simultaneously, so it truly is a full body workout," Shodis said. "It started when I was little because what kid doesn't love horses? Then it stuck because it became an outlet for me and a way to cope with my mental health and just life in general."

There are farms in the Winnebago County area that one can go to for horse rides, including Lucky Stables, Glen Valley Farm, and Stoney Bridge Riding Club.



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Three golf courses near the Oshkosh campus are: Westhaven Golf Club, Far Vu Golf Course and the Oshkosh Country Club.



Courtesy of Emma Shodis

Emma Shodis embraces her horse at a competition at Kenosha County Fairgrounds.



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